

SKATING

FALL 2025



**ALL PATHS
LEAD TO
MILANO
CORTINA**

**CHOCK AND BATES
AMPED UP FOR
PIVOTAL SEASON**



Buy One, Get One
20% OFF

Visit prevagen.com/usfs
Use Code: **SAVE-USFS**

**Prevagen
is uniquely
made for
your brain***

Offer valid on Prevacen.com only through 9-30-25. Cannot be combined with other offers.
Valid on products of equal or lesser value. One-time purchase only. Not valid on subscription purchases.

*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration.
This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

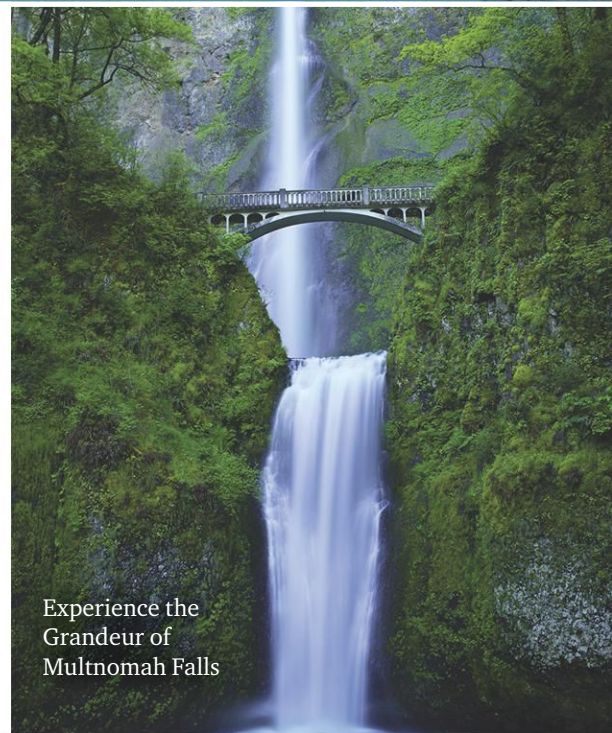


On The Trail Of LEWIS & CLARK

COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS

Follow Lewis and Clark's epic 19th-century expedition along the Columbia and Snake Rivers aboard the newest riverboat in the region. Enjoy unique shore excursions, scenic landscapes, and talented onboard experts who bring history to life.

Cruise Close To Home®



Experience the Grandeur of Multnomah Falls



Call
888-458-5981
 to request a
 ★ **FREE** ★
 Cruise Guide

AmericanCruiseLines.com

nulo® | **fuel** incredible®



High-Performance Fuel Runs in the Family

Follow us on Instagram to find out who chooses Nulo
for their pets. Announcement coming soon!



Instagram
@NuloPetFood

SKATING

- Message from editor | 4
- Icebreakers | 5
- Grand Prix preview | 12
- Membership gains | 14
- Chock family grateful | 17
- Ice Denettes program flourishing | 18
- Nathan Chen leaving his mark | 33
- Lolly on the Ice | 35

- Junior Grand Prix photos | 38
- Mental preparation tips | 40
- Athlete Corner | 42
- Rinkside | 44

- Skate Talk with Patti | 46
- Kids Zone | 48
- Kids Spotlight | 49
- Beep | 51
- Adult Corner | 52
- College/High school championships | 53
- The Other 'Miracle on Ice' | 55



8 Paying tribute to Lynn Benson



28 Koko Hirano repeats as overall Parade of Champions titlist.



30 Ilia Malinin taking season one month at a time.



36 Elite coach mentoring program offered.



ON THE COVER

PHOTO BY MARK REIS/U.S. FIGURE SKATING

The six-time and reigning U.S. ice dance champions Madison Chock and Evan Bates have accomplished virtually everything possible in their figure skating careers together. An individual Olympic medal is the only thing left to seize. The three-time and reigning World champions sat down with veteran writer Lynn Rutherford to talk about this important Olympic season. ***Their cover story begins on page 22.***

U.S. FIGURE SKATING PARTNERS

SPONSORS        

SUPPLIERS          

LICENSEES  

SHARE YOUR STORY: LEAVE YOUR MARK

Summer has turned to fall and the countdown to the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina, Italy, is fast approaching 100 days out.

Our U.S. National Figure Skating Team athletes have commenced their stretch run for the chance to glide over the revered Olympic rings, in front of millions worldwide. In the next four months, they'll put it all on the line in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series and at the 2026 Prevagen U.S. Figure Skating Championships in St. Louis for the opportunity to be nominated to the Olympic team.

Their journeys to reach the pinnacle of the sport, some more than two decades in the making, have been filled with the highest of highs and lowest of lows.

Along the way, each has given testimony to the moral and financial support received from family, friends, fans and U.S. Figure Skating. As the Olympic anticipation reaches a fever pitch, the time is now for fans of the sport to "Leave Your Mark."

U.S. Figure Skating's Leave Your Mark rallying cry is the chance for everyone to share why they love to skate and the impact they can have on their community, both on and off the ice. It's a chance to introduce people of all ages to this lifelong sport by showing them where clubs and ice rinks are located near their homes. It's also an opportunity to get behind the most formidable U.S. National Team in recent memory, in their quest for medals at the Olympics.

So how do you get involved? Go to leaveyourmark2026.com. Click on the top right menu button, then on "Member Spotlight" and share your skating journey. Whether you're a passionate fan, a member of the skating community or simply someone who believes in the power of dreams, you can leave your mark.

Need inspiration or guidance to begin your storytelling? Check out the submissions already posted.

Social media is another great way to share your experience. Go to the website and click on "Social Media" (in the top right menu button). Using templates for Instagram and Facebook, tell everyone about your skating journey and/or share your support for members of the U.S. National Team.

Also on the social channels is a pathway to purchase tickets to Skate America in the fall and the U.S. Championships in January. Both will be pivotal in determining the U.S. Olympic Team.

If you have a family member or friend who lives in a nearby town or a different state, who is interested in learning how to skate, guide them to the website and have them click on "Skate." They'll find a list of every one of U.S. Figure Skating's clubs and Learn to Skate USA programs, as well as rinks associated with them. Leave Your Mark has a goal of getting 10,000 new people on the ice.

For clubs who want to spread the word, U.S. Figure Skating Leave Your Mark toolkits are available. Contact Community Engagement and Impact Director Kadari Taylor-Watson at ktaylorw@usfigure skating.org for some ideas and help.

Another way to show your support for U.S. Figure Skating and the National Team is through the purchase of apparel and accessories from the Leave Your Mark online store. From hoodies and caps to drinkware and backpacks, fans can proudly wear and carry U.S. Figure Skating and U.S. National Team gear.

The time is now to join the conversation and Leave Your Mark!



Scan the QR code below to view these member stories and submit your own story to be featured on the Leave Your Mark Members Spotlight!



Julia Gibson



Holly Kubicek



Jennifer Cox



Avery Lyons



Diana D'Amari



Mark Getman



Gabriella Anderson



Cadence Floyd

SKATING

EDITOR

Troy Schwindt

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kristen Henneman

CREATIVE

Andrea Morrison
Sara Arnold

PRINTING

Quad/West Allis, Wisconsin

SKATING is the official publication of U.S. Figure Skating.

SKATING and U.S. Figure Skating neither endorse nor take responsibility for products or services advertised herein. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertising at any time.

The mission of SKATING magazine is to communicate information about the sport to the U.S. Figure Skating membership and fans of figure skating, promoting U.S. Figure Skating programs, personalities, events and trends that affect the sport.

SKATING (USPS 497-800) (ISSN: 0037-6132) (Issue: Vol. 102 No. 4) is published 4 times per year, in January, April, July and October by U.S. Figure Skating, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Subscription rates: United States, one year \$20 (U.S.); Canada, one year \$30 (U.S.); Foreign, one year \$40 (U.S.). Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of the first issue. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs and at additional mailing offices. Copyright ©2025 by United States Figure Skating, Colorado Springs, Colo. Phone: 719.635.5200. SKATING magazine assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Postmaster: Send address corrections to SKATING, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697. Canadian return address: Station A, P.O. Box 54, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J5. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission from the editor.

To submit a news item or offer a feature story idea to SKATING, email tchwindt@usfigureskating.org.

To be featured in the KIDS Spotlight, email your information to afarrell@usfigureskating.org and include action and nonskating photographs of yourself. Include in your submission your name, address, home phone number (not for publication) and U.S. Figure Skating member number. Answer as many of the questions that you see printed in the KIDS Spotlight as you want, and we might feature you.

To advertise in SKATING or to receive an advertising kit, email tchwindt@usfigureskating.org.

NAUMOV EARNS SKATING READERS' CHOICE AWARD

PHOTO BY JANET LIU

Three-time and reigning U.S. pewter medalist Maxim Naumov is the 2024-25 SKATING magazine Readers' Choice Award (Michelle Kwan Trophy) winner.

Skating fans from coast to coast voted for the Boston-based skater for his solid campaign, which included a podium finish at the 2025 Prevagen U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Wichita, Kansas.

Following that competition, Naumov displayed remarkable courage in the wake of losing his parents and fellow skaters in a plane crash on Jan. 29 near Washington, D.C.

Naumov participated in two events following the tragedy. The first was a benefit ice show in Washington, D.C. titled "Legacy on Ice," with proceeds going to the victims' families and first responders. In front of 15,000 people, Naumov and his friends from Team USA delivered heart-felt performances.

A few weeks later at the World Championships gala in Boston, Naumov skated an emotional program that received a standing ovation.

"I'm truly honored to be named Readers' Choice Skater of the Year," Naumov said. "Thank you to everyone who voted and supported me — your belief in me keeps me striving to inspire others both on and off the ice."

Voting for the Readers' Choice Award took place on the U.S. Figure Skating website between July 7-13. Nearly 4,000 votes were cast. Fans voted for the eligible skater or team they believed was most deserving of the honor based on the accomplishments from the last season.

Naumov collected more than 15 percent of the total vote. The pairs team of Audrey Shin and Balazs Nagy placed second, with Ilia Malinin third, Alysya Liu fourth and Teams Elite junior fifth.

Naumov competed at the Nebelhorn Trophy, Skate America and Warsaw Cup prior to his strong finish at the U.S. Championships.

At the U.S. Championships, he sat seventh after the short program before coming on strong with the event's third-best free skate to place fourth overall.

Naumov will receive the Michelle Kwan Trophy at the 2026 Prevagen U.S. Figure Skating Championships in St. Louis. The award was launched in 1989, with Kristi Yamaguchi being the first honoree.



Maxim Naumov

PRINTED RULEBOOKS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Printed copies of the 2025-26 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook are available for purchase online.

To order a copy, go to usfigureskating.org and then to Members Only. Click on the menu button in the top left corner. Scroll down to "Merchandise" and select "Manuals."

Also available for purchase are the 2025-26 Skating Skills book, the 2025-26 Rules and Bylaws book, the 2025-26 Dance Diagrams book and the Michelle Kwan Cover Collection.





PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DODGERS

World champion Ilia Malinin threw out the ceremonial first pitch on Aug. 6 at Dodger Stadium. Malinin performed a corkscrew twist for the fans before throwing a perfect strike to Dodgers pitcher Emmet Sheehan. He got to meet several of the Dodgers players and coaches. The Dodgers lost the game, 5-3, to the St. Louis Cardinals.



Olympic pairs skaters Alexa Knierim and Chris Knierim welcomed a baby boy, Braxton Jeffery Knierim, on July 10. Braxton was born at 4:09 a.m. and weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce. The new parents reside in the Chicago area and are coaches at the Oakton Edge Skating Academy, where Chris is the skating director.



Olympic champion ice dancer Meryl Davis graduated from Harvard Extension School late last spring with a master's of liberal arts in literature and creative writing. The 38-year-old posted her latest accomplishment via Instagram: "Grateful for the memories, the late nights, the assignments I wasn't quite sure I was going to be able to do, the professors who pushed me, for a safe place to embrace all the challenges and discomfort, the camaraderie, a fearlessly supportive and encouraging community of classmates and friends, the endless inspiration, and an adventure I'll never forget." Davis, who won the 2014 Olympic title and two World crowns with Charlie White, earned her bachelor's degree in 2020 from the University of Michigan in cultural anthropology.



U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS SINGLE-SESSION TICKETS ON SALE

Single-session tickets for the championship events at the 2026 Prevacen U.S. Figure Skating Championships in St. Louis are on sale.

Tickets can be purchased at skatestlouis2026.com. The championship events run from Jan. 7-10 at the Enterprise Center.

The U.S. Championships will serve as the final qualifying event prior to the selection of the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team that will represent Team USA at the Olympic Winter Games Milano-Cortina 2026.



BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME?

We asked U.S. National Team members which Halloween costume will be most popular this season. Here are their answers:

Jason Brown: With part 2 of *Wicked* coming out, I'll guess either Glinda or Elphaba.

Camden Pulkinen: The most popular costume will definitely be Labubus!

Bradie Tennell: Superman, or maybe something related to *Minecraft*, since both those movies came out this summer.

Isabeau Levito: Glinda from *Wicked*.

Alisa Efimova: Formula 1 suits from the new *F1* movie.

Anthony Ponomarenko: I have a feeling Elphaba from *Wicked*.



KOLESNIK BECOMES U.S. CITIZEN

Ice dancer Vadym Kolesnik announced via Instagram in late August that he had received official U.S. citizenship.

Today I was sworn in as a U.S. citizen after nine years of living in and representing America. This journey has been amazing and I am so grateful for everyone who has helped me get here. Thank you to my wonderful partner @emileazingas and @usfigureskating for making this happen; it is both of our dream to represent the U.S. at the Olympics and now we are one step closer.

Kolesnik and Emilea Zingas come into the season with momentum, having finished fourth at the U.S. Championships and fifth at both their Grand Prix events and at the Four Continents Championships.

The couple trains in Novi, Michigan, under Igor Shpilband's coaching team. They'll compete this fall at Cup of China and Finlandia Trophy.

US Country Manager & Exclusive N. America Distributor
 Matej Silecky, Silecky Sports LLC | matej.silecky@grafskates.ch
social.grafigure.com

REMEMBERING LYNN BENSON

Synchronized skating pioneer led with elegance and grace

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Thousands of people posted their heartfelt condolences on social media following the passing of synchronized skating pioneer and coaching icon Lynn Benson.

Benson, founder of the renowned Haydenettes and a leader of the synchronized skating movement in the U.S. and abroad, passed away on Aug. 7, 2025, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was 76.

The common thread in all the online posts was one of admiration and reverence for all the things Benson accomplished in her life well lived.

Dede Wilson, who skated for Benson and was one of her many coaching proteges, said Benson exhibited a remarkable blend of professionalism, passion, ambition and dedication, qualities that inspired each skater who trained under her.

"Driven, exacting and steadfast, Lynn pushed her skaters to achieve not

only their athletic goals but also personal growth," Wilson said. "Each practice was a testament to her commitment to excellence, where every detail was meticulously attended to, and every skater was expected to aim for their best."

After a singles career at The Skating Club of Boston, Benson embarked on a coaching career that spanned 32 years, all in Lexington, Massachusetts. She founded Haydenettes Synchronized Skating in 1979 to encourage young skaters to continue competing in the sport of figure skating.

For 26 of those years, Benson focused on the development of synchronized skating and the Haydenettes. Benson's senior teams won 15 of the 22 U.S. Synchronized Championships in which they competed and earned a top-five finish at the first five consecutive ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships.

In 2003, Benson became the first synchronized skating coach to be named

COMPETITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

(First contested in 1984):

Gold — 1988–89, 1991–94, 1996–98, 2000–05

Silver — 1986–87, 1990, 1995, 1999

INTERNATIONAL (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS)

(First contested in 2000):

2000 French Cup — Gold
2000 World Synchronized Championships — 5th

2001 Spring Cup — Silver

2001 World Synchronized Championships — 5th

2002 Spring Cup — Bronze

2002 World Synchronized Championships — 4th

2003 French Cup — Gold

2003 World Synchronized Championships — 5th

2004 Neuchâtel Trophy — Silver

2004 World Synchronized Championships — 4th

2005 Prague Cup — Bronze

2005 World Synchronized Championships — 4th

Coach of the Year by both U.S. Figure Skating and the Professional Skaters Association. Upon her retirement in 2005, Benson helped select Saga Krantz to coach the Haydenettes; Krantz continues Benson's commitment to excellence.

Benson's carefully crafted programs not only showcased her exceptional talent but also highlighted her creativity and innovative spirit. As a pioneer in the sport, she pushed boundaries and inspired others with her unique approach, setting new standards for what was possible in the field.

"Beyond her role as a coach, Lynn was a true mentor," Wilson said. "She played a pivotal role in my development before I transitioned into a position as her assistant coach. Her willingness to impart knowledge and share experiences shaped not only my coaching philosophy but also my understanding of leadership within the sport. Lynn took the time to nurture the skills and potential of her athletes, ensuring that they were well-prepared for future challenges, whether in skating or life. ... "Many of her former athletes have gone on to become notable coaches, officials and judges."

After her retirement, Benson served as a U.S. National Team leader at many international events. In 2010, she helped present the Haydenettes with their first World medals. In 2014, Benson was the first synchronized skating coach or athlete to be named to the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. And in 2015, she

Lynn Benson joins her Haydenettes before competition.



stepped in to coach for a pregnant Krantz at the Grand Prix Final. It was the first time synchronized skating had been included in a Grand Prix event.

Benson's husband of almost 47 years, Chuck Benson, said that while the public had the correct perception of Lynn being refined and kind of quiet in her demeanor, there was another side of her.

"What people probably don't realize is she was a daredevil," he jokingly said.

Lynn was fearless, bungee-jumping off mountaintops, riding the tallest and fastest roller coasters, skydiving, skiing, and taking hot-air balloon rides.

"She was never afraid of speed or heights," Chuck said.

Lynn was also passionate about her career as a coach, which sometimes could drive the family nuts, he said. Lynn did all the choreography and costuming for her teams. In creating the choreography, Lynn would cut up pieces of paper and put an X on each one to represent each skater. Those pieces of paper would clutter up the kitchen floor.

"We were flabbergasted, like, 'How do you do this?'" Chuck said.

What really hit a nerve for him and the couple's two children was when they would drive to their ski house in New Hampshire. Lynn would have those pieces of paper laid out and she'd be listening to different cuts of music.

"She would play maybe 10 or 15 second segments and she would play the same segment over and over and over," Chuck said. "Counting the beats and matching the beats with the program. I would sit in the car for 2 hours and 15 minutes, not really having a conversation



Benson presents the Haydenettes with their first World medals.

and just listening to the same cuts of music."

Lynn, he said, was never about wins and losses, although she was competitive; she just wanted the skaters to perform their best.

"She wanted them to be successful not only as skaters but as people," Chuck said. That same philosophy applied to the Benson children, Courtney and Andrew. Both steered away from figure skating and ended up in ski racing; and Courtney also in hockey.

Consider donating to U.S. Figure Skating (www.usfigureskating.org/support/donate) or the Cure Alzheimer's Fund (give.curealz.org).

A FRIEND TO BENSON

"Lynn (aka Allyn Jean (AJ) Reynolds) was my close friend for the past 65 years. We skated together in the Boston area and summers in Rochester, New York, and Lynn, Massachusetts. In the late 1960s, we both joined ice shows: Lynn went with the Ice Capades and I with Holiday on Ice. I began my coaching career five years later and shortly thereafter convinced Lynn to also start coaching. The rest is history!

"Lynn and I were better friends off the ice. I introduced her to skiing where she eventually met her future husband, Chuck. I was her maid of honor in their wedding.

"Coaching different disciplines, we did not see each other at competitions, but we always kept in touch. We spent time together at lunches with skating friends and skiing with our families in New Hampshire, Vermont, France and Switzerland, as well as golf lessons together and lots of double dates in recent years.

"Lynn was extremely dedicated to her Haydenettes — always thinking of ways to take them to the highest possible level.

"Earlier in Lynn's battle with Alzheimer's, she lost her words. But this didn't stop our ability to communicate. Showing her pictures and skating videos always made her smile, and we were able to share again all our happy memories."

— LIFELONG FRIEND
ALLYSON BROOKS CARLING

Benson and fellow U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame inductees Al Beard and Terry Kubicka celebrate their special night.



“Lynn Benson wasn’t just a coach; she was a beacon of creativity, inspiration and leadership in the world of synchronized skating, leaving an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of training under her guidance. Her unwavering belief in her athletes and her ability to cultivate their talents made her a transformative figure in the lives of many, shaping not only skilled skaters but also confident individuals ready to take on the world.”

— FORMER STUDENT/ASSISTANT COACH
DEDE WILSON

“A quiet leader whose creativity shaped the sport, Lynn led with grace, integrity and vision. She was beyond reproach, deeply respected and truly loved by all who had the privilege of knowing her. As young coaches, my sister Shannon and I were in awe of her reverence for the sport and the way she carried herself. Her impact on generations of skaters and coaches will never be forgotten.”

— COACH EMERY LEGER

“I remember the first time I saw the Haydenettes entering the ice in a line of 24 skaters. It was a magical moment. From then on, I was hooked on synchronized skating. Little did I know that I was so fortunate to live in the town where Lynn Benson was the coach, where I had the opportunity to observe her creative genius.

“She had an amazing sense of musi-

Benson is recognized by the Professional Skaters Association leadership and friends, including (l-r) Carol Rossignol and Angie Riviello with Benson.



city, which she combined with her innovative, unique choreography to produce winning programs. Memorable programs like ‘The Marionette,’ ‘The Hawaiian,’ ‘The Ballet’ brought together a theme with her memorable choreography, which hit you right from the opening pose. The choice of costumes defined her music, which served to accentuate the skating.

“Lynn was a coach who set high expectations for her athletes. She set a standard of excellence that carries through today with the Haydenettes. Lynn will be remembered not only as the founder of the Haydenettes but as the individual who led the way for the development of the synchronized skating discipline. She was devoted to her family, friends and her sport.”

— HAYDENETTES TEAM MANAGER
GAIL HANSON-MAYER

“Lynn set the role model for the coaching of synchronized skating. As we pioneered through those earlier years of this discipline, Lynn helped us set the standard of excellence for coaching. Her outward ladylike demeanor covered her inward competitive fire, a fire that kept our country and program in the highest regard.”

— HALL OF FAME OFFICIAL GALE TANGER

“As the founder of Hayden Synchronized Skating, Lynn was one of the greatest pioneers for synchro — a true legend and inspiration to all of us. No doubt,

those who met her would all agree that she knew exactly how to create magic on the ice and push us to be better both on and off the ice. Her smile and leadership will always be remembered and admired. Once, Always.”

— HAYDENETTES COACH SAGA KRANTZ

“Lynn was an icon/legend in the world of skating. When I skated in Lexington, she was starting the synchronized skating program. I remember all the hard work she had gone through, working with so many skaters and parents and doing it all on her own; there were no choreographers or specialists with edges helping her. She was a one-man show; her class, her elegance, her kindness were what made her so special and unique. I feel lucky to have known her from the beginning.”

— OLYMPIAN SHERYL FRANKS

“Lynn and I met on the ice at The Skating Club of Boston when we were 8 years old. We shared practice sessions, Friday night suppers at the Club with our parents and the annual Ice Chips galas. After our formative years Lynn had a different skating path, joining Ice Capades East Company while I joined Ice Capades West Company.

“I didn’t meet up again with Lynn until I joined the coaching staff at the Hayden Recreation Centre in Lexington in 1975.

“Lynn began developing a team of skaters, coaching them on drills, footwork and line skills. I watched in awe seeing this development happening. Lynn scheduled practices for the girls, she educated parents, choreographed creative programs and had many of the parents assigned with titles. Lynn was creating. She was a maestro of this team skating called Precision. I watched, like many coaches, the skill levels being nurtured, the formation of artistry in each program and the demands placed on each skater.

“Lynn developed the Haydenettes into a world class team. Year after year, program after program, the Haydenettes were the team that fostered excellence, because of Lynn’s quiet and firm determination. I watched with honor when my friend Lynn received her Hall of Fame award during nationals in Boston. I cried happy tears for Lynn. Once a champion, always a champion.

— OLYMPIAN TINA NOYES



DON'T DREAM OF GOLD TRAIN FOR IT

We understand what it takes to get to the top.

Our comprehensive training program removes the guesswork and provides everything you need to succeed.

From the moment you step on the ice to the moment you leave, every aspect of your day is focused on one goal: reaching your full potential.

Our All-Inclusive Program

- **Maximum Ice Time**

Over 30 hours of ice time per week, allowing for optimal practice and skill refinement.

- **Daily Group Classes**

On and off ice technique classes foster a healthy competitive spirit and build a strong sense of team camaraderie.

- **Collaborative Coaching Model**

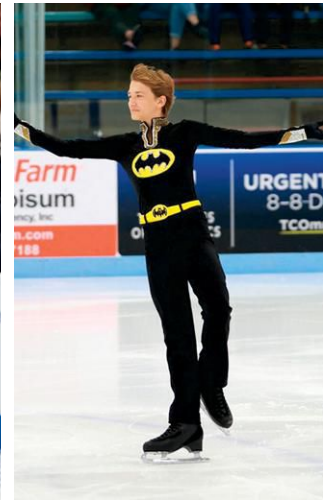
Our expert team works together to create a unified strategy for each athlete. This ensures consistent feedback and a holistic training plan tailored to your needs.

- **Comprehensive Training**

We combine rigorous on ice coaching with specialized off ice training, including an electric spinner and harness system, strength and conditioning, ballet and pilates to build powerful and well-rounded athletes.

- **Integrated Academic Support**

We provide a dedicated study space and offer academic tutoring to ensure you excel both on the ice and in the classroom.



Are you a serious figure skater with dreams of competing at the highest levels?

Go4Gold Skating Academy is not just a rink. We are a launchpad for champions. Our full-time, all-inclusive program is designed for dedicated athletes who are ready to commit to their competitive journey and strive for national and international success.



Ready to Go4Gold?

Our integrated program and supportive community will provide you with the tools and environment you need to turn your aspirations into achievements.

Take the next step in your competitive career. Visit our website to learn more about our tuition costs, review our admissions process and schedule a tour.



Go4GoldSkatingAcademy.com



Ilia Malinin heads into the Grand Prix Series as the two-time and reigning Grand Prix Final champion.

7 'BURNING' QUESTIONS

HEADING INTO GRAND PRIX SEASON

BY JACKIE WONG

The U.S. Figure Skating National Team commences this Olympic season on a high. For the first time ever at an ISU World Figure Skating Championships, American skaters won three of the four disciplines in 2025 in Boston. Thus, the timing couldn't be better. Here are my seven burning questions for U.S. skaters as we look forward to what promises to be a riveting Olympic campaign.

HOW WILL THE OLYMPIC SEASON AFFECT THE DYNAMICS?

The ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Series is an important piece of the Olympic selection process for U.S. skaters. It is especially significant for the athletes who may be on the fringe of qualification; skaters who make the case for their body of work over the entire season will figure into the qualification procedures. Skaters and their teams are aware of this, and so they will look for strong results in the Grand Prix Series; it'll be a different kind of pressure than usual.

HOW WILL THE REIGNING WORLD CHAMPIONS MAKE A MARK?

For the reigning World champions — Madison Chock and Evan Bates, Alysa Liu and Ilia Malinin — those dynamics will absolutely be different. They'll seek to cement their positions as podium favorites in Milan, and momentum for them will be crucial. Chock and Bates and Malinin have been through this before, as they have spent this Olympic quad at the top of the podium in most of their com-

petitions. Liu, however, is in a somewhat unexpected position, given that she's still less than one year removed from her un-retirement from competition.

WILL THE VETERANS TAKE IT UP ANOTHER NOTCH?

As with every Olympic season, there are a slew of veterans looking at this one as the culmination of years of work. For some, it feels like any other season; for others, it will be one last push. Chock and Bates have served the longest tenure of anyone on the U.S. team, with Bates going for his fifth Olympics and Chock her fourth. Jason Brown, reinvigorated after a late surge last season, will challenge for his third Olympic berth in four cycles. Amber Glenn comes in with a different path. Having debuted as a senior at the U.S. Championships 11 seasons ago, she is looking to make her first Olympic team at the height of her career and her athleticism.

WHO WILL MAKE A SPLASH COMING FROM THE JUNIOR RANKS?

At the other end of the spectrum, there are new challengers making their

senior international debuts. Jacob Sanchez won the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final last season and placed seventh in his senior U.S. Championships debut; a strong Grand Prix Series could place him in the conversation for an Olympic berth. Josephine Lee makes her senior Grand Prix debut as well. She's had a history of strong skates at the U.S. Championships. For her, Grand Prix success is crucial if she is to have a chance at an Olympic berth. The pairs team of Olivia Flores and Luke Wang, the 2024 World Junior silver medalists, also figure to make some noise.

WHO WILL BRING US THE BIGGEST SURPRISE?

Looking at all the disciplines, pairs may be the one with the most uncertainty. New American pair debuts have been commonplace over the years, and the addition of Audrey Shin and Balazs Nagy last season, who were fifth at the U.S. Championships, gives even more depth to the U.S. field. We all saw the roller-coaster pairs event last season at the U.S. Championships. The Grand Prix results

Amber Glenn will attempt to defend her Grand Prix Final title this fall.



MELANIE HEANEY/US FIGURE SKATING



MELANIE HEANEY/US, FIGURE SKATING

Ellie Kam and Danny O'Shea will look to qualify again for the Grand Prix Final.

for this field of pairs will be of even more importance when it comes to the Olympic selection process.

WHO WILL CONTINUE THEIR COMEBACK MOMENTUM?

A number of skaters have been on the road back from injury; some of them made strong impressions at the end of last season. Isabeau Levito and Bradie Tennell both took parts of the past two seasons off. Levito came back and finished fourth at Worlds in March, and

Madison Chock and Evan Bates are considered the favorites to win their third consecutive Grand Prix Final title.



MELANIE HEANEY/US, FIGURE SKATING

Tennell capped off last season with one of the biggest scores of her career. On the men's side, Lucas Broussard showed enormous potential as a junior, but his first two senior seasons were plagued with injuries and bad luck. If there is a time for a career-defining comeback, it is the Olympic season. In pairs, Valentina Plazas and Maximiliano Fernandez return healthy and hopeful after missing last season due to Fernandez's knee injury. They competed at the 2024 World Championships.

AND SPEAKING OF COMEBACKS, WHAT ABOUT THE TWO WHO HAVEN'T COMPETED SINCE 2018?

I've buried the lede, but Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani certainly made headlines with their comeback announcement. Their last event was the 2018 Olympics, where they won two bronze medals. Since then, Maia Shibutani has dealt with a health scare, and both of them have taken time off the ice. Their first Grand Prix event back will be NHK Trophy in November, and it will be intriguing to see how they fit into an ice dance field that looks much different than the one they left seven years ago.

Jackie Wong is a figure skating analyst at Rocker Skating. He has been involved in figure skating for 22 years as a skater, coach, choreographer and judge. You can follow him at rockerskating.com, X and Instagram @rockerskating for comprehensive coverage of figure skating events all season long.

2025 GRAND PRIX SERIES SCHEDULE

- Grand Prix de France (Angers) – Oct. 17-19
- Cup of China (Chongqing) – Oct. 24-26
- Skate Canada International (Saskatoon) – Oct. 31-Nov. 2
- NHK Trophy (Osaka, Japan) – Nov. 7-9
- Skate America (Lake Placid, N.Y.) – Nov. 14-16
- Finlandia Trophy (Helsinki) – Nov. 21-23
- Grand Prix Final (Nagoya, Japan) – Dec. 4-7

U.S. COMPETITORS

(subject to change)

Grand Prix de France — Isabeau Levito, Elyce Lin-Gracey, Ilia Malinin, Maxim Naumov, Andrew Torgashev, Audrey Shin/Balazs Nagy, Emily Bratti/Ian Somerville, Eva Pate/Logan Bye

Cup of China — Amber Glenn, Alysa Liu, Camden Pulkinen, Jacob Sanchez, Katie McBeath/Daniil Parkman, Madison Chock/Evan Bates, Caroline Green/Michael Parsons, Emilea Zingas/Vadym Kolesnik

Skate Canada International — Sarah Everhardt, Isabeau Levito, Bradie Tennell, Lucas Broussard, Ilia Malinin, Ellie Kam/Danny O'Shea, Emily Bratti/Ian Somerville, Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, Leah Neset/Artem Markelov

NHK Trophy — Sarah Everhardt, Elyce Lin-Gracey, Jimmy Ma, Andrew Torgashev, Emily Chan/Spencer Howe, Alisa Efimova/Misha Mitrofanov, Caroline Green/Michael Parsons, Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, Katarina Wolfkostin/Dimitry Tsarevski

Skate America — Starr Andrews, Josephine Lee, Alysa Liu, Jason Brown, Olivia Flores/Luke Wang, Valentina Plazas/Maximiliano Fernandez, Christina Carreira/Anthony Ponomarenko, Madison Chock/Evan Bates

Finlandia Trophy — Amber Glenn, Bradie Tennell, Lucas Broussard, Jason Brown, Jimmy Ma, Alisa Efimova/Misha Mitrofanov, Ellie Kam/Danny O'Shea, Oona Brown/Gage Brown, Maia Shibutani/Alex Shibutani, Emilea Zingas/Vadym Kolesnik

To purchase tickets to Skate America, visit [SkateAmericaLP.com](https://www.skateamericalp.com).

The complete list of athlete selections for the 2025 ISU Grand Prix Series is available on [isu.org](https://www.isu.org).



U.S. OLYMPIC TRAINING SITE



TEAM PROGRAMS DRIVING MEMBERSHIP TO RECORD NUMBERS

The intermediate women at the Excel Final and Festival enjoy a competitors' party.

For the fourth consecutive year, U.S. Figure Skating reported membership totals higher than the previous year.

For the 2024-25 season, full membership grew 3.5 percent, to 62,493. Learn to Skate USA, meanwhile, jumped 1 percent, to 187,449, for total membership of 249,942.

"We are seeing an increase in participation across team-structured disciplines and programs such as synchronized skating, intercollegiate skating and high school skating," Elise Preston, senior director of membership at U.S. Figure Skating, said.

"Participation in competitive skating programs that feature national advancement opportunity, such as the solo dance series, Excel Series and National Showcase, are also drivers of this growth."

The Excel Series included 2,867 participant skaters, and National Showcase featured more than 836 competitors to help fuel this surge.

Aspire programs, she added, are starting to introduce more skaters from Learn to Skate USA to U.S. Figure Skating.



The Harmony Production Ensemble team performs at National Showcase.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

2023-24: 246,213
2024-25: 249,942

LEARN TO SKATE USA INDIVIDUALS

2023-24: 185,581
2024-25: 187,449

LEARN TO SKATE USA PROGRAMS

2023-24: 1,323
2024-25: 1,335

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAMS

2023-24: 669
2024-25: 698

COLLEGIATE MEMBERSHIPS

2023-24: 5,292
2024-25: 5,648

HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

2023-24: 161
2024-25: 180

THEATRE ON ICE CLUBS/INDIVIDUALS

2023-24: 101
2024-25: 106

ASPIRE MEMBERS

2023-24: 1,452
2024-25: 2,154



NEVER MISS A MOMENT

@USFIGURESKATING



OFFICIAL SUPPORTER OF
US FIGURE SKATING



LEARN

MORE

with you every step of the way

LEAVE *Your* MARKSM

 US FIGURE SKATING



Join us today and start the journey to
#LeaveYourMark

Follow us
@USFigureSkating



**LEAVE YOUR MARK
IS ABOUT MORE
THAN CHASING
OLYMPIC GOLD —
IT'S ABOUT
BUILDING
A LEGACY.**

Whether you're a passionate fan, a member of the skating community or simply someone who believes in the power of dreams, you can leave your mark — on and off the ice.

Leave Your Mark aims to shine a spotlight on the athleticism, artistry and community that makes figure skating special through athlete-centric storytelling that celebrates the unique personalities of our U.S. skaters and the diverse communities they represent.

Join the movement to support U.S. Figure Skating's National Team as they journey toward the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. Cheer them on, become a member or make a donation — every action brings our athletes one step closer to achieving their Olympic dreams.

To learn more scan the QR code below or visit,
LeaveYourMark2026.com



EDITOR'S NOTE: Our skaters are leaving their mark on the ice and beyond. You can leave yours on their journey. Join us in backing the most successful team in U.S. Figure Skating history as they chase Olympic glory in Milan. Every dollar supports the 2026 U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team and their families with their preparation, travel and experience in Milan. To learn more about leaving your mark, visit www.leaveyourmark2026.com and make your donation.

'IT WAS SO HELPFUL'

Chocks grateful for financial support to the Olympics

BY TROY SCHWINDT

As if it were yesterday, Barbara and Wes Chock remember sitting inside

the 12,000-seat Iceberg Skating Palace in Sochi, Russia, watching their daughter, Madison, and her ice dance partner, Evan Bates, take the ice at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

"Just being in the stadium when they stepped on the ice, I'll never forget it," Barbara said. "We were way up at the top of the stadium, but we were there. And when they stepped on the ice, it was like, wow. It's indescribable. All those years of hard work and there it was, that very moment."

"It kind of melts your heart," Wes added.

Being able to travel across the world and watch their daughter live out her childhood dream is something the Chocks will always cherish.

They also will never forget the

Madison Chock and Evan Bates enjoy a moment in Sochi, Russia, with Chock's mother, Barbara.



LEAVE
Your
MARK
US FIGURE SKATING



Barbara and Wes Chock support their daughter in Pyeongchang, South Korea, at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

support of U.S. Figure Skating and its Destination Sochi campaign, a fundraiser that helped families of Olympians meet the financial cost of attending this epic event.

With airfare, hotel, tickets and food running in the tens of thousands of dollars, the campaign helped offset the enormous expense parents and family members would have to bear to see their loved ones experience the biggest moment of their lives.

"It was so helpful," Barbara said. "The hotel we stayed at had been lowered from \$700 a night to \$500, and that was a special family rate. It was expensive. So the money we received made it so that we could go. They also gave us tickets to the [ice dance] events, which was wonderful."

The Chocks also were able to attend a hospitality house for Olympic families and sponsors, where they could watch all the other events on big screens in a friendly and festive setting.

"It was amazing that we could go and watch her dreams come true, because when she was a little kid she said, 'I'm going to go skate in the Olympics.'"

In fact, Barbara carries a photo of 5-year-old Madison sitting on her cousin's lap, cuddling her stuffed toy panda, with a social media caption stating that very fact.

Madison and Evan, who are now in their 15th season skating together and are three-time and reigning World champions, went on to compete at the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and in Beijing in 2022.

Each time they've qualified for the Olympics, U.S. Figure Skating has helped their parents and family members with travel and lodging expenses through an Olympic season fundraiser.

In 2022, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, fans were unable to attend the Games in Beijing, so U.S. Figure Skating hosted several watch parties across the country.

The Chocks, who live in Palm Springs, California, drove three hours to the San Diego area to root on Madison and Evan alongside several other Olympic parents and family members. It was an experience, they said, that was extra special.

"The place they put us up was so nice; it was a very cute resort," Barbara said. "You got to meet a lot of people there, too. Some of them flew in from all over. [U.S. Figure Skating] did a beautiful job."

"We could also invite some other family members, too, so they came and watched. Madi's old coach from when she first started teaching skating came. We met so many parents and we had such a good time."

Another highlight from the watch party occurred after the team event.

"They got us on a Zoom call with the kids," Barbara said. "We were all sitting on the couch and then Maddie and Evan came on and they talked to us. A couple of the other athletes' families got to be right there and talk to their skaters, too. It was just wonderful and we appreciated it so much."

The Chocks hope to once again experience their daughter's special moments at the 2026 Olympics in Italy.

STORM IN THE DESERT

Kalnicky, Ice Denettes growing synchronized skating in Arizona

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Jaime Kalnicky doesn't hide from the fact her knowledge and understanding of synchronized skating just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were non-existent.

"I didn't have any synchro experience," Kalnicky said. "When I was 8, I was a member of a precision team, but that was my only experience with team skating. I didn't know the first thing about it. I didn't know it was a discipline. We are in the Pacific Coast [Section], and we are in Arizona, so just nothing synchro related was on our radar."

Fast forward a few years and Kalnicky is heading up a juggernaut of a synchronized skating program that this season has grown to feature 13 teams at levels ranging from Aspire to masters.

The Ice Denettes, based out of Ice Den Chandler and Ice Den Scottsdale in Arizona, tout approximately 150 skaters and more than a dozen dedicated coaches and team managers.

Last season, the Ice Denettes qualified their intermediate and adult teams to the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado; the intermediate team placed fifth.

By anyone's measure, what Kalnicky

has built in a relatively brief amount of time has been nothing short of impressive.

"If it were anybody else trying to head up this program in Arizona, it would not have been as successful," said Kalnicky's team manager, Hyeson Busby, whose daughter has been participating since the program's inception. "The growth is a direct reflection of who we have as the skating director for the synchro program. Jaime is tenacious, she's persistent, she goes after what she wants. Building relationships, making sure the kids enjoy skating, and giving them a great experience is what she is all about."

Kalnicky's path into the community of synchronized skating started by happenstance in 2018 when she took two of her young groups of skaters to an event in California, where they performed their show numbers. It was low-stress, just for fun. There, a coach told her she should consider starting a synchronized skating team.

Being unfamiliar with the discipline, Kalnicky began to educate herself.

"We watched the synchro teams at a competition and thought, 'This is



Ice Denettes coaches Julie Patterson, Tara Patterson and Jaime Kalnicky finish up a day at the 2023 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.

amazing," she said. "I had never watched it on TV or on videos, so I was just in awe; it's so beautiful."

One program, in particular, hooked Kalnicky.

"I had seen the Starlights perform their junior short 'Fix You' program," she said. "It brought me to tears and I thought, 'This is magical.'"

These days, the choreographer of that program, Heather Paige, is supporting Kalnicky's teams as one of the primary choreographers for the Ice Denettes.

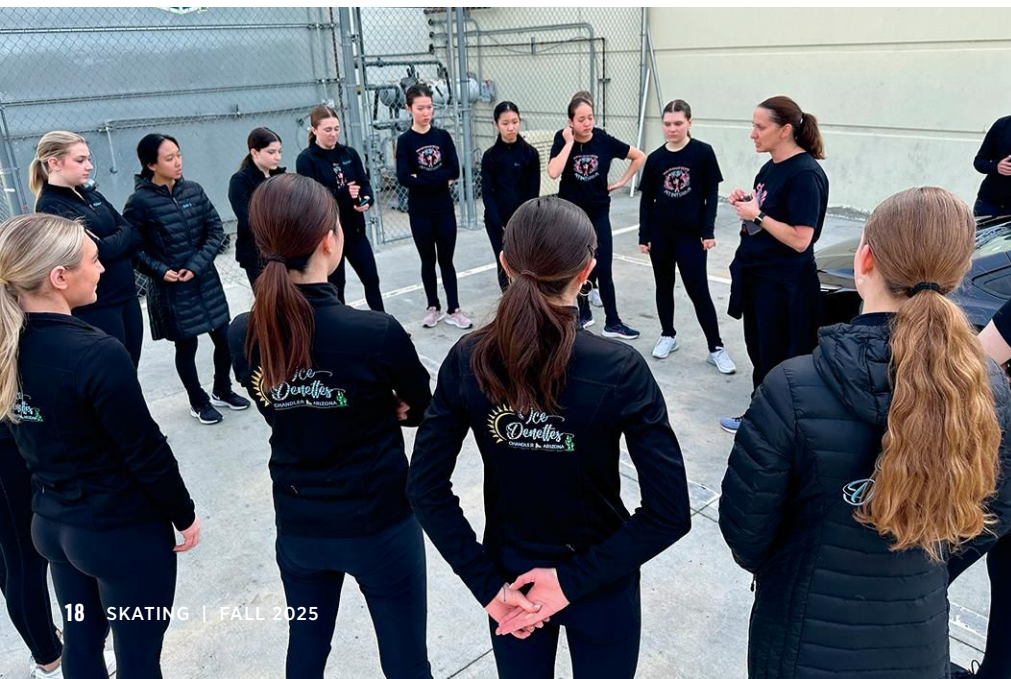
"I had no idea at the time it was her program," Kalnicky said. "It's come full circle."

In 2019, Kalnicky formed an open juvenile team and competed for the first time.

"I was thinking we might get last, and we got fourth. I was like, 'Oh, my gosh. We have a team,'" Kalnicky said.

Kalnicky gained more momentum right before COVID (March 2020) when she was selected to attend the first Coach Connect program at the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships, in Providence, Rhode Island. Sponsored by U.S. Figure Skating, she and other coaches learned the ins and outs of synchronized skating.

Coach Jaime Kalnicky gives pre-practice instructions to intermediate Team Affinity at the 2025 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.



"I learned so much," she said. "It was a great experience."

Unfortunately, COVID stopped Kalnicky's upstart program in its tracks, as it did the rest of the skating world.

"I wasn't able to move forward with my excitement, but we kept the teams together, and once COVID break was over, we continued to build the program. We started rostering competitive teams; I was inspired and felt like I was doing something meaningful and rewarding, and it just grew from there."

The Ice Denettes featured only youth teams initially, but things took off as dozens of older skaters formed adult and masters teams.

Many of the adult and master skaters are parents of the younger Ice Denettes, and about a third of them fill roles as coaches, team managers and facility employees.

"It is so much fun for the kids and good for the families," Kalnicky said. "We have tons of special events. We do a lot of activities and give back to the community. Equally, or more importantly, as their skating, we want them to be good people, so there's a lot of accountability as far as how we treat each other, how inclusive we are and things like that. I think it makes parents and families believe in the mission of the organization. We are not just there to win, although we like to do that, too."

The Ice Denettes, Busby said, provided the perfect landing spot for her daughter's skating career. She started as a singles skater and experienced some of the typical bumps in the road in terms of her education, the cost and competition woes.

"I was interested in giving my daughter a team experience," Busby said.

"I thought, 'Wow, a team experience in a sport she's already doing instead of something else.' She continues to foster her love of skating and make friendships in her sport; synchro seems to fall into a perfect space for that."

Last season, Busby's daughter fell twice in their program at sectionals.

"She was devastated afterward, and she said, 'I probably cost us our sectional championship,'" Busby said. "They came in second. She said, 'If I hadn't fallen it wouldn't have cost us a whole point, and we would have gotten better GOEs on that element.' She was beating herself up, and her teammates were so encouraging and told her just shake it off, no big deal. It moved me to see that the things you expect to happen in a team sport were happening. It was really touching."

Another benefit to competing on the Ice Denettes, Kalnicky said, are the avenues it provides individuals to continue skating after high school.

"If you work on your flexibility, your dances, your skating skills, your testing and some free skate elements, there is a possibility you can skate on a collegiate team that is NCAA or could even compete on Team USA," Kalnicky said she tells her youth teams. "We had a skater last season who graduated high school and moved out of state to compete for Team USA at the Senior Elite 12 level. Competing at a world level is more accessible in this discipline than most, and hard work, diligence and dedication can really pay off."

While Kalnicky has spearheaded this major undertaking, she's the first to say she has had plenty of help. Synchronized skating veterans Paige, Erin Donovan and Amy Smith have been available all along to choreograph programs, answer

questions and provide feedback.

Busby, meanwhile, has given invaluable help with her business experience and focus on the future of the organization.

"One of the things I kept telling Jaime [at the beginning] is that we can't do this by the seat of our pants," Busby, who begins her seventh season as part of the Ice Denettes, said. "We have to put systems in place so that when I'm gone or you're gone, this program stays."

"I hope that the work we've done over the last several years continues, because synchro teams and skater participation kind of ebb and flow. Regardless of whether we have teams that go and win at sectionals or not, I hope that what continues is for people to get an idea of this being a great sport, a great outlet."

The program's multiple coaches and team managers call the Ice Dens in Arizona their home. They receive tremendous support from the skating department, and the rinks provide dedicated synchro ice at both the Ice Den Scottsdale, with three sheets of ice, and Ice Den Chandler, with two.

"I have a great coaching team and team managers," Kalnicky said. "I divvy up the responsibilities. I try and make it so people feel empowered to be a part of our organization and be head coaches of teams and make their own decisions; I trust them to do the right things. We have a lot of different types of coaches of teams, which works well for me. I don't think I know everything, so I'm happy to have other people involved and helping."

Kalnicky also credits the rink leadership for its support of synchronized skating.

"They see the vision of team skating and they believe in it, and they see peo-

The Ice Denettes Affinity team performs at the 2025 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships.





The Ice Denettes held their Inaugural toy drive for the Native American tribes in Arizona in 2022. They have continued the tradition, collecting thousands of pounds of toys, clothing and warm items annually for those in need.

ple continuing to skate and continuing to want to test and find success. ... Like hockey, it's teams; they are similar in that they bring the community together more. Both Julie Patterson and Tara Patterson, who are members of the Ice Den leadership team and synchro coaches and skaters, saw the vision early on and

have been hugely supportive in making this dream a reality.”

Discovering synchronized skating later in her coaching career, Kalnicky said, has been life-changing.

“It has renewed my love of coaching and skating. Because I now compete on our masters team, I understand synchro

better,” she said. “When you are just coaching it and you’ve never skated it, you don’t get to really experience how it feels as an athlete. It’s been a lot of fun. I love skating again. I wear a skating dress, which feels weird. I didn’t think that would ever happen! Synchro has been really fun.”



**USPA IS THE OFFICIAL
ONLINE MIDDLE AND
HIGH SCHOOL OF
US FIGURE SKATING.**

GoUSPA.org



**THE ONLINE SCHOOL
FOR ELITE ATHLETES**



“USPA has been a game changer for our family! Our daughter was in a fantastic private school prior to joining USPA in 6th grade, but she is a competitive figure skater and it was becoming harder and harder for the school to accommodate her training schedule. We decided to make the jump to USPA and the transition has been very smooth.”

EVA BENINSON'S MOM



NARROW



NARROW THROUGH WIDE
get fit into edea!

WIDE

Graphic Design by Flavio Valle



Skates U.S. Exclusively Authorized Importer/Distributor
www.SkatesUS.com 765-935-7477 Info@SkatesUS.com

Official Sponsor of
 US FIGURE SKATING

A LEGACY OF ELEGANT PERSEVERANCE

Chock and Bates primed for Olympic season

BY LYNN RUTHERFORD

In a few sentences, Evan Bates reveals why he and Madison Chock have one of the longest and most decorated careers in U.S. Figure Skating history.

"Our free dance feels like it's our best work yet, and it's something we haven't done before, and we are so excited about it," he says of the couple's contemporary flamenco, created with famed dancer and choreographer Antonio Najarro.

"We don't like repeating ourselves," Bates adds. "The best thing about ice dance is that it has an artistic component to it. You can be so creative."

In their 15th season together, the skaters are still exploring, still breaking new ground, still having fun. The hardware — six U.S. titles, three World crowns and an Olympic team gold — is impressive, but it's not what drives them, at ages 33 and 36, to continue to compete. It's the process.

"It's always about reinventing and reimagining what we can create on the ice, having something that makes it exciting to go to the rink every day," Chock says. "Trying to continue our evolution as people and athletes, to use each season as a way to make that progression."

That's not to say the two dancers, married in June 2024, don't deeply want to cap their career with two Olympic gold medals in Milano Cortina in February. Ice dance kicks off the figure skating team event on Feb. 6, the same day as the opening ceremony; the individual competition starts three days later.

"We put more emphasis on our summer training — not that we don't in other seasons, but this year in particular, we said no to a few other opportunities, just to make sure we would get our choreography done a little bit sooner and have a little more time at home to get the ball rolling," Bates says.

After completing the six-city Stars on Ice tour in late May, their next show was the Summer Sizzler Showcase following Champs Camp in mid-August. Usually, they take vacation around the Fourth of July; this year, they traveled to Crete, the picturesque Greek island, in late August. They aren't slated to compete until Cup of China in late October, followed by Skate America, held in Lake Placid, New York, in mid-November. And if the reaction to their free dance at Champs Camp is any guide, they are well on their way.

"People asked us a few times, 'Do you love this program?' and we said, 'yes, absolutely,'" Chock says. "And they said, 'We can see that when you're skating it.' So I think that core belief that we are doing something that we truly love is coming through."

Madison Chock and Evan Bates have shared a fairytale journey in skating and in life. Married in June 2024, the Montreal-based skaters enter the Olympic season as excited as ever to showcase their new programs.

MARK RES/US FIGURE SKATING

Wearing their U.S. National Team jackets, three-time and reigning World champions Chock and Bates kick off the Grand Prix season later this month at Cup of China.

JANET LUV/US FIGURE SKATING

MADDIE AND EVAN'S CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Olympic Team Event gold medalists (2022)
- Olympians (2022, '18, '14)
- World champions (2025, '24, '23)
- World silver medalists (2015)
- World bronze medalists (2022, '16)
- Four Continents champions (2023, '20, '19)
- Four Continents silver medalists (2025, '16, '15)
- Four Continents bronze medalists (2017, '13)
- Grand Prix Final champions (2024, '23)
- Grand Prix Final silver medalists (2022, '19, '15, '14)
- U.S. champions (2025, '24, '23, '22, '20, '15)
- U.S. silver medalists (2021, '19, '17, '16, '14, '13)
- U.S. bronze medalists (2018)
- World Team Trophy champions (team) (2025, '23, '15, '13)
- World Team Trophy bronze medalists (team) (2017)
- Grand Prix Series medals: 20

**"IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT
REINVENTING AND
REIMAGINING WHAT WE
CAN CREATE ON THE ICE,
HAVING SOMETHING THAT
MAKES IT EXCITING TO GO
TO THE RINK EVERY DAY."**

— MADISON CHOCK



Over 15 seasons, Chock and Bates have always worked to perfect their lines and chemistry.

PERSISTENCE MEETS TALENT

Tally up Chock and Bates' titles, and it may seem they were always marked for greatness. But much of their earlier career was equal measures of triumph and disappointment.

When they teamed up in July 2011, many felt the height disparity — at 6-foot-2, Bates is a foot taller than his partner — would make matching their steps and lines more difficult. But the skaters persisted.

"We were both unsure of how things were going to go, but we both kind of plunged into it," Bates said at the time. "(The naysaying) just kind of gave us more incentive to work hard and stay ex-

tra hours on the ice and put in the extra work."

Making their U.S. Championships debut in 2012, they placed a disappointing fifth. While they were never again off the U.S. podium, rivalries with two-time U.S. champions Maia Shibutani and Alex Shibutani (2016–17) and three-time U.S. champions Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue (2018–19, 2021) meant there would be a five-year gap between their first U.S. title, in 2015, and their second, in 2020.

The low point came at the 2018 PyeongChang Games, when a jarring fall in their free dance left them in ninth place. Chock, who had been suffering a lingering foot injury, underwent surgery in April 2018.

"There was so much uncertainty when we left those Games, feeling let down and disappointed with how they went and the struggles that we had gone through that season," Chock remembers. "I think it would have been hard to leave the sport with that feeling. So that was a big turning point."

The rebirth began with their move in May 2018 to the Ice Academy Montreal, to train under Marie-France Dubreuil, Patrice Lauzon and Romain Haguenauer.

"We knew we had a lot more to give the sport," Chock says. "Fortunately, our coaches here in Montreal were able

to help us create that and give us this wonderful renaissance that we've had in our careers. These last few seasons are the best we've ever had."

Still, nothing came easy. They traded U.S. titles with training partners Hubbell and Donohue, who also edged them for the bronze medal at the 2022 Beijing Games. But the skaters count their more recent free dances — including their famed "Astronaut and Alien" program (2021–22), Pink Floyd tribute (2023–24), and last season's smooth and sultry number set to jazz classic "Take Five" — as their most fulfilling, both competitively and artistically.

"Hopefully, our legacy will inspire people to just keep going, keep working toward their dreams every day," Chock says. "Anything is possible. It doesn't always happen in the timeline you expect or maybe you want, but if you persevere and show up consistently with determination and heart, anything is possible."

"EVERYONE IS CHASING THEM"

Perseverance is just part of Chock and Bates' legacy. They have also made a mark with their stunning lifts — with Chock often in positions that seem to defy gravity — and their polished storytelling and presentation. Many younger teams cite the couple as an inspiration, both technically and creatively.

"Everyone in the world is chasing them and emulating them," Michael Parsons, the U.S. ice dance bronze medalist [with Caroline Green], says. "We were lucky to train with them at (2023) Four Continents in Colorado Springs for a few days. It was such an experience to see their level of professionalism, which extends so far beyond competition, to every moment they are at the rink."

"Being able to witness them in practice was such a gift," Green adds. "We really tried to learn from it."

Reigning U.S. silver medalists Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko have trained alongside Chock and Bates for much of their careers and consider the couple mentors.

"I don't think Christina [Carreira]

and I would be the skaters we are today without the opportunities that they've given us, both by [gaining] three spots at the World Championships and by looking up to them and getting motivated and pushing us to get even better," Ponomarenko says.

"They would always take care of us," Carreira says. "Sometimes, our families couldn't be with us on holidays, but we would go to Maddie's house for Thanksgiving, for Christmas."

And they're still far from done. While neither skater will comment on what may lie ahead after this season, if Milano Cortina is their finale, they plan to go out with their most ambitious programs yet.

"I think we have a good mix of new elements and some new looks," Bates says. "I think the free dance will be fresh, but with some of our signature moves. ... I feel like we've developed a good creativity muscle, and we kind of have faith in that."

"These signature moves Evan is referring to — we put a new twist on them and highlight them in a different way," Chock adds. "It's always about reinventing and reimagining what we can create on the ice."

Never ones to rest on their laurels, Chock and Bates find it invigorating to reinvent and reimagine their craft and programs.

MELANIE HEANEY/US: FIGURE SKATING



Chock and Bates know how to dazzle a crowd with their signature lifts.



MARK REIS/US: FIGURE SKATING

DESIGNING WOMAN

Madison Chock's impact on their sport reaches beyond her superb technical elements and distinctive performance style. She is fast becoming one of the most sought-after costume designers in the figure skating world.

"My client list is growing," Chock says. "I work on our own designs, and I've also been designing for other teams at the Montreal rink."

The list includes Carreira and Ponomarenko; Olivia Smart and Tim Dieck of Spain; and Diana Davis and Gleb Smolkin of Georgia. Chock has even added a pairs team, Canadians Lia Pereira and Trennt Michaud, to the roster.

"That's pretty much the max I can do, until I have more free time," she says.

Inspiration for Chock's creations come from such far-flung sources as surreal artist Salvador Dali's iconic painting "The Persistence of Memory," vividly depicted in the couple's costumes for their 2023-24 Pink Floyd free dance, to New York's Chrysler Building, with its art deco lines replicated in Chock's shimmering



Chock and Bates won the ISU Best Costume Award for their 2021-22 "Alien Meets Astronaut" program, with costumes designed by Chock.

"Take Five" dress, worn last season.

"I'm happy to put the spotlight on another creative facet of figure skating," Chock says. "I think the outfitting is really

where our sport shines with individuality and creativity, especially in the Olympic year. It's one of the things that sets us apart from other winter sports."

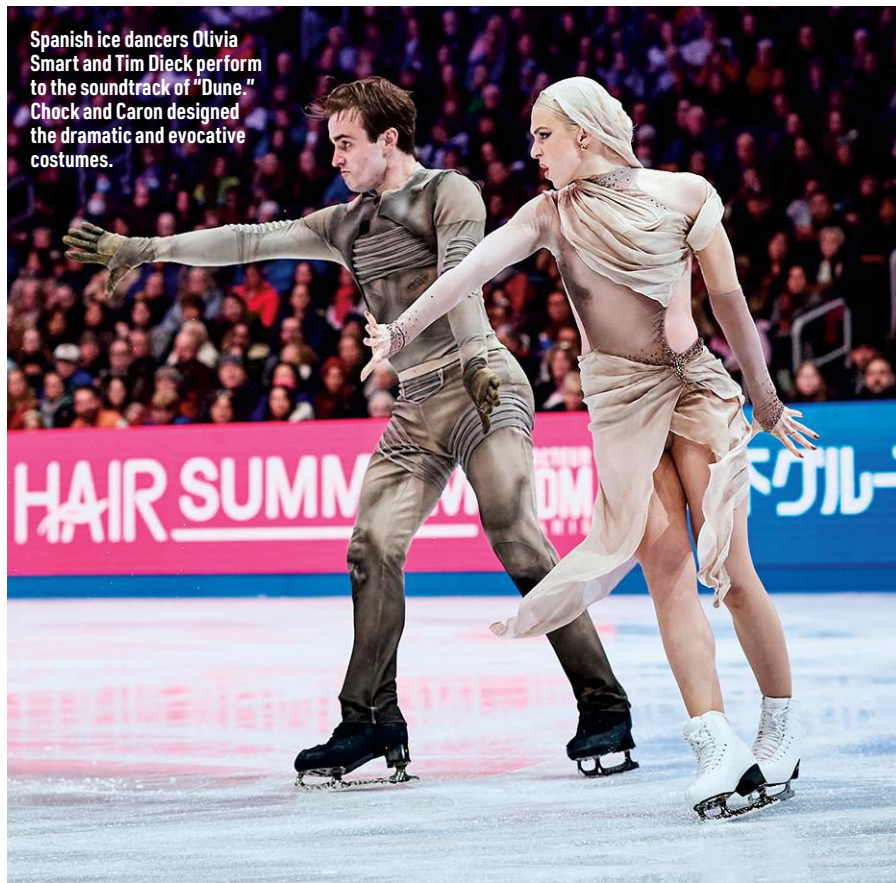
The ISU has taken notice. Not only did Chock and Bates win the Best Costume Award in 2020 and 2023 for their famed "Egyptian Snake Dance" attire and "Astronaut Meets Alien" creation, but Chock and her collaborator, Mathieu Caron, were awarded Best Costume for Smart and Dieck's "Dune" themed free dance outfits last season.

"I had a vision in my mind, but I couldn't get it on paper," Smart said. "Because Maddie is a skater herself, she knows exactly how a costume should move and enhance a program. She was able to draw it out on paper for me and really made it come to life in terms of colors and materials."

Chic, light and flowing, with a delicate headscarf, Smart's costume grabbed the audiences' and judges' attention at the 2025 World Figure Skating Championships in Boston. It helped lift the Spanish couple to third place in the free skate and sixth overall.

"I was inspired by their program, so by the time Olivia approached me, I already had some ideas in mind," Chock says. "I start with a vision and then create something that's really going to mesh with the skaters, their story and how they're moving on the ice."

— Lynn Rutherford



Spanish ice dancers Olivia Smart and Tim Dieck perform to the soundtrack of "Dune." Chock and Caron designed the dramatic and evocative costumes.

JOSEPH MARTINSON -ISU/ VIA GETTY IMAGES

2025 NATIONAL SHOWCASE**EARTH,
WIND
AND FIRE****Hirano takes Mother Nature program to the top**

With nature's sounds serving as her backup singers, 20-year-old Kiko Hirano, skating to the music of the classic "Clair de Lune," was carried to a second consecutive overall Parade of Champions title at 2025 National Showcase.

"I used 'Clair de Lune' and added some sound cues related to nature, such as thunder, rain, birds," Hirano said. ... "The crowd was so supportive to me. It makes me want to skate forever."

She worked with her coach, Crystalrose Sanders, to create movements through every note, beat and sound of the music, she said. Jimmy Morgan and Yebin Mok also helped with the routine's details.

Winning the overall title for a second time, she said, feels surreal.

"I'm still in shock," she said after the event. "Two years in a row, that's difficult to do. I'm just glad I was there to just have fun and skate my heart out."

Hirano loves Showcase, she said, because it allows her to reveal the creative and artistic side that not a lot of people get to witness in freestyle skating.

"When I'm performing my showcase programs, that's when I feel most confident

SENIOR

All Year FSC's Koko Hirano, competing in the senior division, immerses herself in nature en route to the overall Parade of Champions title. Weyna Chen of the Los Angeles FSC placed second, with Ice House Skating Academy's Ashlyn Olson and Mia Rocco of The Skating Club of Boston placing third and fourth, respectively.

**JUNIOR**

All Year FSC's Natallia Anisimava performs a "Puss in Boots" routine to capture her first junior Parade of Champions title. Emily Souza of the Pawtucket & Providence FSC claimed the silver medal. Boise FSC's Roxy LeFerriere earned the bronze medal, while Carson Kandas of the Alaska Association of Figure Skaters placed fourth.



and can artistically express myself the most," she said.

Hirano, who practices two hours a day at the Skating Edge in Torrance, California, posted a perfect score of 60.00, including 10 points each on all three components (artistic appeal, performance and skating skills.)

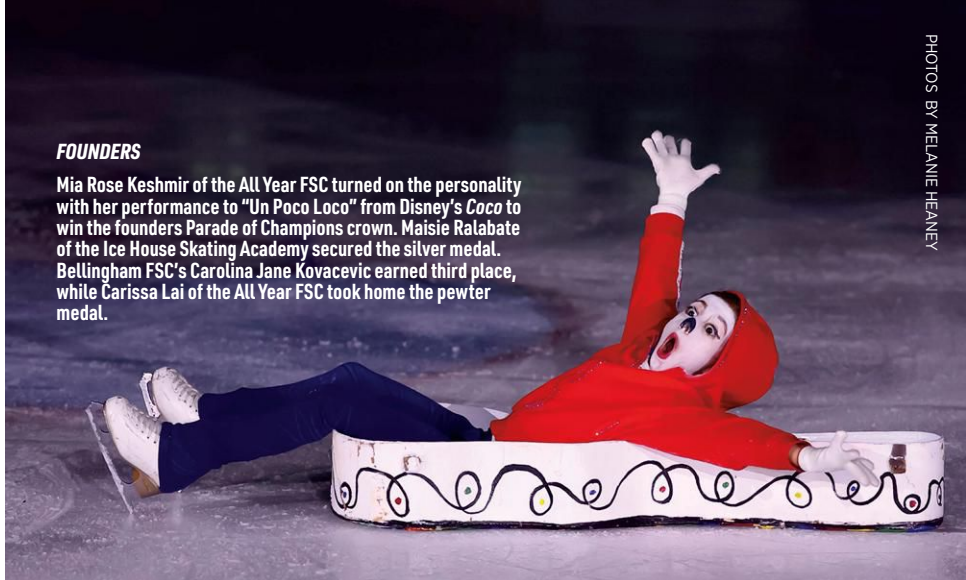
Hirano has been skating for 16 years. She celebrated her victory by visiting Disneyland with her family.

Champions were also crowned in five other categories: junior, adult, founders, theme and duet-trio.

The competition, held at Suburban Ice Arena in Rochester, Michigan, July 28-Aug. 2, featured 673 solos, 198 teams and a record 1,997 starts. Host Ice House Skating Academy earned an event-best seven Parade of Champions medals in the six Parade of Champion categories, while the All Year Figure Skating Club out of California collected six.

FOUNDERS

Mia Rose Keshmir of the All Year FSC turned on the personality with her performance to "Un Poco Loco" from Disney's *Coco* to win the founders Parade of Champions crown. Maisie Ralabate of the Ice House Skating Academy secured the silver medal. Bellingham FSC's Carolina Jane Kovacevic earned third place, while Carissa Lai of the All Year FSC took home the pewter medal.

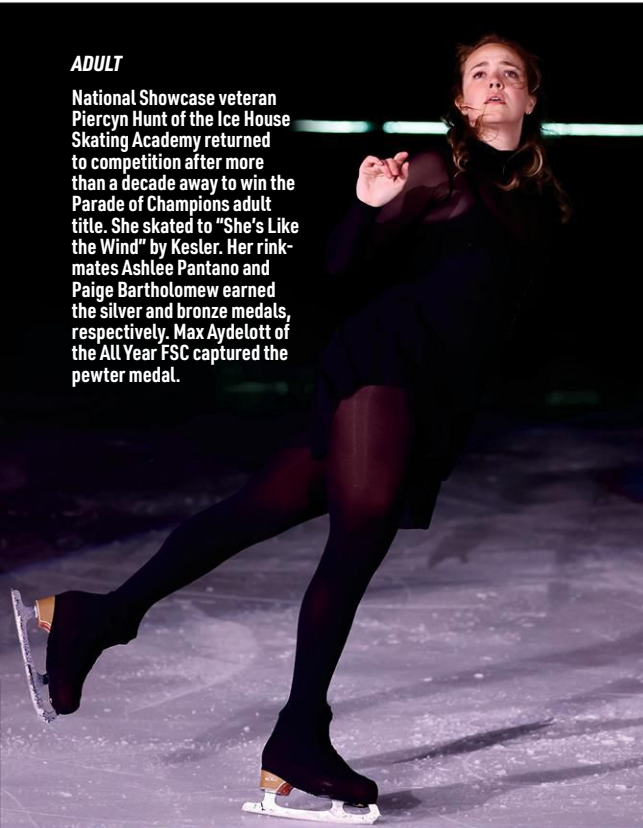


THEME For this year's theme event, skaters performed to the music of Motown in honor of the competition taking place near Detroit. Natalia Anisimava of the All Year FSC took top honors in the theme category with her performance to "Rock Lobster" by the B-52s and music by Michael Jackson. Mia Rocco of The SC of Boston secured the silver medal. Traverse City FSC's Gemma Soles secured the bronze while Lettice Black of the Broadmoor SC claimed pewter.

DUET-TRIO Anna Rossiter and Gemma Soles of the Traverse City FSC took top honors in the duet-trio category with their emotional performance to "Say Something" by A Great Big World. The trio of Anna Blankenship, Paige Bartholomew and Lexie Galuszka of the Ice House Skating Academy earned second place. Their clubmates Mikaela Jewell, Sam Kong and Lilly Palacios claimed the bronze medal, while Cadence Cugno and Madison Rapkine of the FSC of Southern California earned the pewter medal.

ADULT

National Showcase veteran Piercyn Hunt of the Ice House Skating Academy returned to competition after more than a decade away to win the Parade of Champions adult title. She skated to "She's Like the Wind" by Kesler. Her rinkmates Ashlee Pantano and Paige Bartholomew earned the silver and bronze medals, respectively. Max Aydelott of the All Year FSC captured the pewter medal.



PRODUCTION ENSEMBLE Harmony Theatre Company claimed the title in the production ensemble event with its "Scarecrow and Crows" performance to music from "The Wiz."



MINI PRODUCTION Harmony Theatre Company took top billing in the mini-production category with its performance to "I'll Cover You" from *Rent*.



THE OLYMPIC DREAM

Malinin taking it month by month

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Lights, camera, Olympics: two-time and reigning World champion Ilia Malinin knows the spotlight is on him entering this season. The prohibitive favorite for gold in Milano Cortina, Italy, in February, the 20-year-old said he's simply taking things in stride as summer turns to fall.

"I always have a mindset of trying to take things one step at a time," Malinin told reporters at Champs Camp in Boston in mid-August. "I'm just taking it month to month to see where it goes; of course, I am thinking about the Olympics, and yes, I know that pressure will be there, but I think I'm ready to be able to manage it."

The Virginia native, who competed at the Lombardia Trophy in mid-September, didn't lose in 2024-25 en route to his third consecutive U.S. title and second consecutive ISU Grand Prix Final title. He has finished first at every competition dating back to the 2023 Grand Prix de France.

And if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Malinin plans a similar path to the Grand Prix Final to the one he took last season, competing in two of the first three Grand Prix Series events — in France and Canada, respectively. He won't be defending his title at Skate America, because of its later starting date.

"I found that from last year doing the first two Grand Prixes were comfortable for me," Malinin said. "They weren't travel heavy and it was just easy to get those out of the way and then be able to take a little break and prepare myself for the Grand Prix Final."

"It was kind of the same idea going into this season, but since they kind of moved around the Grand Prixes this year, I had to decide if I wanted to go to



World champion Ilia Malinin is embracing the Olympic season.



Malinin performs in the Summer Sizzler at Champs Camp. His first competition took place last month at Lombardia Trophy in Italy.

Skate America or try to do the ones more in the beginning, so I decided to stick with the ones in the beginning to keep that same scheduling.”

Malinin, who embraces his moniker of “quad g0d,” is once again contemplating a seven-quad program, which he calls his “perfect layout.” He tried it three times during the 2024-25 season, each time faltering on at least one jump. Those experiences and his current practices, he said, have him confident about pulling off the historic feat during his Olympic campaign.

“I think it’s possible with how (my new free skate) is laid out,” said Malinin, who released his music choices via social media prior to the Lombardia Trophy. “I’ve already done a few run-throughs and I’ve basically done a clean run-through each time, so it’s set up a lot differently this year, and I think that will help me have a more consistent program. Everything is a lot more complex but also being a lot more comfortable and efficient for me to get the seven-quad layout done.”

Landing six (or seven) quads on the ice is one thing; having the technical panel agree that all are fully rotated is another. At the 2025 World Championships, he landed all six different types of quads, but two sustained minor deductions from the panel. This season, Malinin plans to “make everything so clear and obvious there will be no need (for the panel) to look at this, or review that, and everything will be set.”

Off the ice, Malinin said he plans to do more live streams and post more on a regular schedule. Procrastination, he joked, sometimes gets in the way of his consistency on social media.

“I feel since it’s an Olympic season, I’ll try to post as much as I can, just different kinds of content,” he said.

He also spent time helping fellow skaters with their craft, including Junior Grand Prix Final champion Jacob Sanchez, who will also compete for an Olympic berth.

“I’m really close to Jacob,” Malinin said. “I’m always giving him advice on things he can work on or something that can help him perfect his skating and find his own unique version of himself on the ice.

“I think he already does a good job of trying to stand out. I’m there to support him and help him find his own direction.”

Another of Malinin’s training partners at SkateQuest rink in Reston, Sarah Everhardt, said he has changed little since she first met him ten years ago.

“He’s just like a normal kid,” Everhardt, fourth at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships last season, said. “He doesn’t act like he’s super special. He never acts too

crazy.”

Looking at the upcoming season, Malinin admits he’ll naturally be nervous when he looks up at packed arenas with so much on the line.

“But in the end, it comes down to how you feel and trying to manage all of those nerves,” he said. “For me, what helps is taking advantage of seeing the audience and understanding why they are here. They are here because they want to support you, they are here because you interest them, along with all the other skaters, with your skating. They take a lot of hours, a lot of dedication and time to get here and watch us and support us in person. I think that helps me to say, ‘OK, they came here and they don’t expect you to be a perfect robot. They just want to see figure skating.’”

The choice for your cancer care is clear.



Brian, esophageal
cancer survivor

At The James, you're choosing the experts who understand there is no such thing as routine cancer. Where your care is delivered by a highly specialized, compassionate team dedicated to studying and treating just one type of cancer — yours. And where more than 1,700 scientists are working on new treatments — and new hope — for every form of cancer. All at the region's only comprehensive cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute.

#ChooseTheJames
cancer.osu.edu/ChooseTheJames

The James is proud to be nationally ranked by
U.S. News & World Report for 27 years.

The James



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

CHEN LEAVING HIS MARK ON AND OFF THE ICE

BY TROY SCHWINDT

Since winning the gold medal the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, Nathan Chen has continued to achieve at the highest level.

A graduate of Yale University in 2024 with a degree in statistics and data science, Chen recently took the Medical College Admission Test. The 26-year-old enters this new chapter in his life with an open mind as to where he may go and what field of medicine he may want to pursue.

“There’s so much and so much potential,” he said of his academic and career options. “I’m excited to explore the possibilities. I’ve done research in the cardiovascular space, oncology and in other areas. I’m just going to see where it all takes me.”

In addition to his rigorous academic schedule these past four years, Chen has remained visible in the skating world. He performed in numerous benefit ice shows, including Legacy on Ice last March to benefit the families of victims and first responders of the tragic plane crash near Washington, D.C.

He also helped launch in the summer of 2024, with his good friend and fellow Olympian Jean-Luc Baker, as well as renowned choreographer Sam Chou-

Nathan Chen, Sam Chouinard and Jean-Luc Baker have teamed up to give skaters their best technical and presentation tips, as well as lessons for life.



inard, a traveling camp experience titled “Your True Step.” The camp is designed to inspire the next generation of skaters to explore their creative potential while learning the technical skills required for competitive success.

To date, the trio has conducted seminars in Seattle, Detroit, Baltimore, Boston and at Chen’s Olympic home rink in Irvine, California, last August.

The inspiration for this entrepreneurial enterprise took place at the pre-Olympic Champs Camp in 2021.

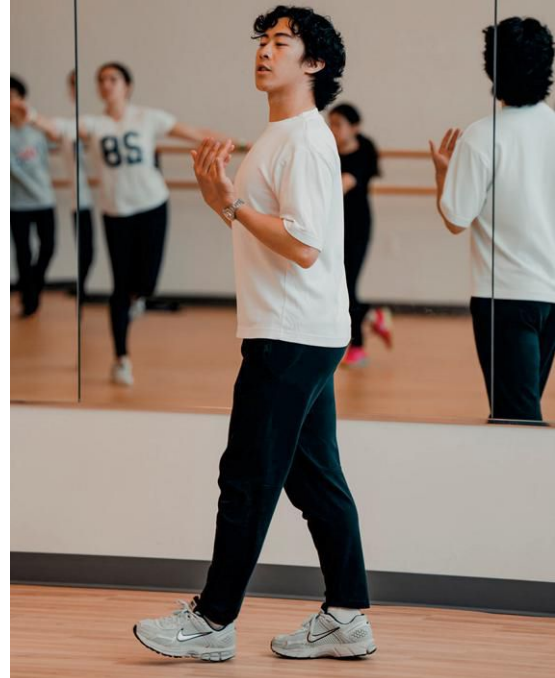
“We [Chen and Baker] were reminiscing on our careers and how long-lasting our friendship has been,” Chen said. “I met him when I was about 12 years old. We’ve been friends since then. We were talking about the ups and downs of skating and how oftentimes how lonely and how isolating this sport can be and not really having the structure or even the knowledge about how to overcome that.”

That conversation sparked an idea to provide skaters the tools and information they need to succeed not only in competition but away from the ice, as well.

“We are not trying to re-invent the wheel,” Chen said. “We cover a great spectrum. We teach basic skill and jump technique and bring an elite-coaching experience. Effectively communicating our skating knowledge and sharing our experiences are important components, as well as helping skaters figure out their priorities and encouraging them to develop friendships.

“We are helping athletes identify who they are on the ice and off the ice.”

Chen, who during his remarkable career was best known for his extraordinary jumping ability and repertoire of quads, offers campers his extensive technical knowledge and insight into program planning, with an emphasis on where to place jumps. Baker brings his superior skating skills, skating quality and programming to the table, while



Nathan Chen teaches movement and transitions at a “Your True Step” camp.

Chouinard, a trained dancer, presents his high energy and choreographic expertise.

“The hope is that the athletes learn something new, they learn technique, they learn a deeper side of skating and have more of an appreciation for the sport itself and performing,” Chen said.

Chen and Baker hope to see Your True Step evolve as they bring in different guest skaters and experts, as well as gain more traction with rinks and clubs throughout the country.

Your True Step, however, isn’t the only skating space that Chen currently occupies. He also serves on the Salt Lake City-Utah 2034 Winter Olympics and Paralympics steering committee. The committee includes eight athletes with Utah ties; Chen was born and raised in Salt Lake City and grew up training there. The committee will serve as an advisory body to the 2034 board of directors.

“The Salt Lake 2002 Games was the reason I really got into skating,” Chen said. “I think the reason they added me was that I was a representation of what an Olympics can do for a community; I hope to continue with that through 2034. Additionally, I hope to be a part of what happens after the Games in terms of the decisions regarding the resources and structures that remain.”

Looking at the more immediate future, Chen is optimistic about Team USA’s chances at the 2026 Games in Milano Cortina, Italy, in February.

“To have three World champions at one event is clearly a testament to the strength and dominance that the U.S. possesses,” Chen said. “I think the U.S. has a lot of confidence going into the next Games.”



ST. LOUIS 2026

JANUARY 5-11, 2026 | ENTERPRISE CENTER | SKATESTLOUIS2026.COM

ALL-SESSION TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

'LOLLY ON THE ICE': FROM THE ICE RINK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

BY SARAH S. BRANNEN

A child skates blissfully across a frozen pond, enjoying the sensation of ice under her blades. She glides, she spins, she laughs for joy. I've been trying to write a book about that feeling for my entire career, and in my new children's picture book, I've finally brought it to the page.

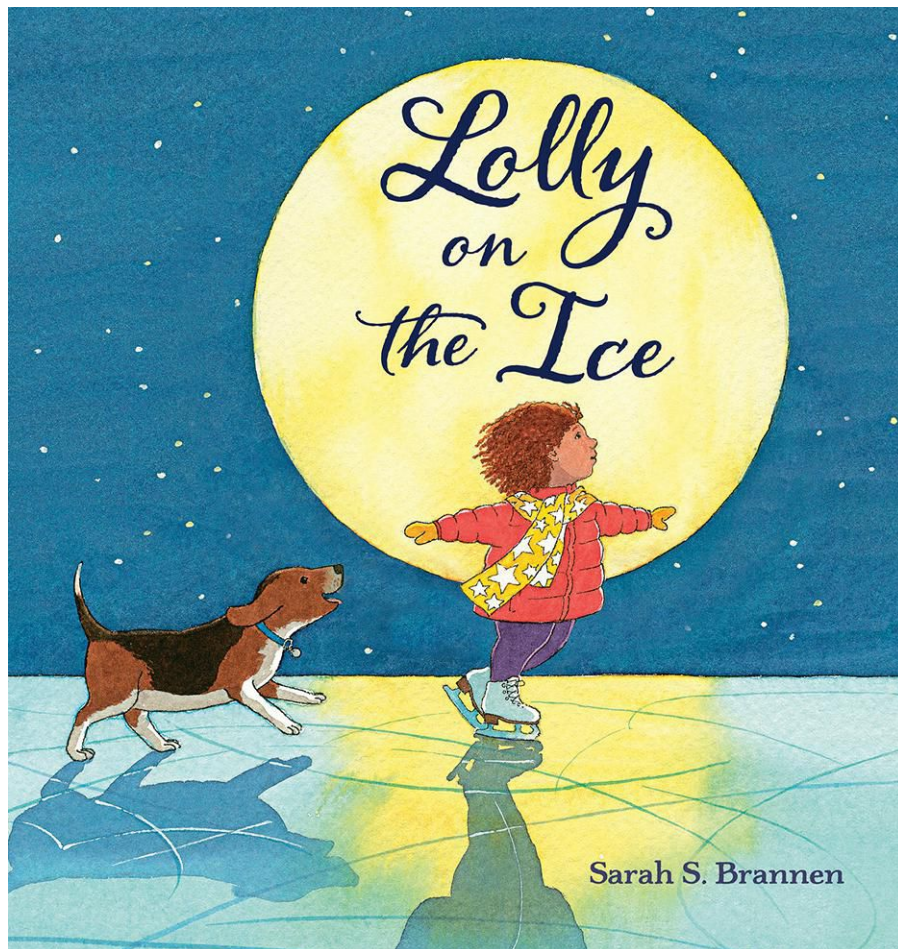
Lolly loves to skate, whether on a pond at home or at a nearby rink. But if she thinks anyone is watching her, she feels like she can't even move. Her dad talks her into auditioning for the winter show at the rink, but she freezes in front of the other skaters and ends up getting the part of a snowman. She has to stand in the dark in her embarrassing costume, out of the spotlights. Then another skater has to drop out of a trio, and the two other kids really need her help. Is she brave enough to try skating in front of an audience?

Lolly on the Ice is my 25th book for young children. I'm both an author and an illustrator, so it's particularly rewarding to tell a story with my own words and pictures.

I started working on a picture book about an unnamed little skater a long time ago. It turned out to be surprisingly difficult. I knew my character was going to be a young child, but young children usually can't skate very well. I wanted Lolly to have a thrilling experience at the end of the story, but it seemed trite to have her win a medal at a competition.

Finally I just based the character on myself. After years of watching the best skaters in the world, I know I'm a barely competent recreational skater at best. But sometimes, when I'm skating, competitive kids come and sit in the bleachers under the heating fans, doing their homework or just hanging out. If I see them looking at me (in total boredom, probably) I feel so self-conscious I can barely move.

So I made Lolly love to skate, like I do, but too shy to skate in front of people, like I am. At the end of the story, something happens that makes her decide she can be brave enough to skate in the club show. She puts on a sparkly dress (I would never do that) and goes out under the spotlights (nope). When it



comes to skating in public, Lolly is much braver than I am.

I wrote 22 drafts of the story, trying to come up with a plot that worked without getting into the mechanics of training, coaching and competing. Here's a secret, between you and me: Lolly takes lessons. Of course she does. We don't see any of them, or meet her coach, because there simply wasn't room for those details in a 32-page picture book. Maybe the coach will appear in the sequel.

Lolly first appeared on the page as a plump little skater with a blissful smile. Her hair was short and straight. In illustrating the story, I did seven full sets of rough sketches, or "dummies." My agent sent the finished dummy to Random House, where an editor liked the story but not the illustrations. I spent a frantic weekend coming up with some sparkly

new art, and that did the trick. Lolly came to life in a bright coral coat, purple leggings and wild red curly hair.

I illustrate my books in watercolor, which I combined with pen and ink for this book. As I was sketching out the various illustrations, I often hopped off my drawing stool to act out the moves the skaters were doing. Where should the right arm be? How do the shoulders align with the hips? Many of the readers of my book will be skaters themselves, so I was determined to get the body positions right. And, of course, I took great pains to make the skates look like real figure skates.

I hope all the little figure skaters and readers out there will enjoy seeing Lolly step into the spotlights. *Lolly on the Ice* arrives in bookstores on Nov. 11.

ACCELERATED MENTORING PROGRAM OFFERED FOR COACHES ON TEAM USA PATHWAY

U.S. Figure Skating has launched the Accelerated Mentoring Program (AMP It Up!), a unique opportunity for emerging singles coaches to accelerate their development, refine their craft and take the next step toward becoming a U.S. National Team coach.

Designed for high-performing professionals with a growth mindset and a passion for coaching excellence, AMP It Up! is a hybrid initiative blending online learning with hands-on mentorship. World-class coach Jeff DiGregorio, with support from U.S. Figure Skating's Coach I.C.E. team, is the lead mentor.

"AMP is designed to fast-track the growth of coaches working with competitive athletes in the National Qualifying Series," Heidi Thibert, director of coaching development and education at U.S. Figure Skating, said.

The program combines structured online group sessions with in-person experiential learning at the Eastern Sectional Final, with additional opportunities at the 2026 National Development Team Camp

and the 2026 National Coaches College.

Coaches will deepen their technical knowledge, sharpen observation and analysis skills and refine their methods for developing skaters through the competitive pipeline.

"AMP It Up! is about giving emerging high-performance coaches the tools, knowledge and mentorship they need to thrive," DiGregorio said. "From technical analysis to athlete planning, we're building a foundation for coaches who are serious about taking their athletes — and themselves — to the next level. This program isn't just about learning; it's about transformation, collaboration and setting a clear path toward coaching excellence."

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AMP

Participants must be current members of Coach I.C.E., U.S. Figure Skating's premier professional development initiative for coaches. In addition, they must comply with all components of the AMP program, including attendance and participation in both online and in-person sessions.

As this program is specifically designed for coaches who are progressing through the high-performance pipeline but have not yet coached skaters at international competitions, coaches must be actively working with athletes competing in the National Qualifying Series.

In-person mentorship is a cornerstone of AMP. Participants must attend the anchor event: 2025 Eastern Singles Sectional Final in Charleston, South Carolina, in mid-November.

Other mentoring opportunities will be offered at the National Development Team Camp in St. Louis in January 2026 and at the National Coaches College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in May 2026.

Ideal candidates should view coaching as a long-term professional pursuit — not a part-time role. Applicants must articulate their clear ambition and dedication to one day coach athletes at the national and international level for Team USA.

WHAT DOES 'HIGH-PERFORMANCE COACHING POTENTIAL' MEAN?

AMP is designed for coaches who are on the rise — those showing the attributes and ambition to develop top athletes and impact the sport in meaningful ways. Applicants must demonstrate potential through:

- **Technical and Analytical Proficiency**
A strong understanding of jump/spin mechanics, skill development and correction strategies.
- **Proven Athlete Progression**
Evidence of guiding skaters through developmental milestones and competitive benchmarks.
- **Leadership and Communication**
A collaborative, positive approach to working with athletes, families and fellow coaches.
- **Strategic Vision and Growth Mindset**
The ability to think long-term, adapt training strategies and continuously evolve as a professional.
- **Commitment to Ongoing Development**
A willingness to invest in education, seek feedback and engage with the broader coaching community.

Jeff DiGregorio leads a coaching class at the 2024 Access to Excellence event in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



For more information or to register for AMP, contact Heidi Thibert at hthibert@usfigureskating.org.

SKATERS PAY TRIBUTE TO THE COACHES WHO SHAPED THEIR LIVES

National Coaches Day is celebrated on Oct. 6. It's a day to honor coaches for their positive impact on athletes and communities, recognizing their role in shaping individuals both on and off the ice.

The day was established in 1972 by a proclamation from President Richard Nixon, acknowledging coaches as "friends and counselors" who find fulfillment in the achievements of those they guide. National Coaches Day encourages individuals to express gratitude for the dedication and guidance provided by coaches, whether they are volunteers, professionals, or anyone who dedicates their time to coaching others.

In this installment of Coaches Corner, four coaches are featured for the many ways they helped shape the lives of their skaters on and off the ice.



CHRISTY KRALL

I am a former Mexican skater, and Christy Krall was my coach during my years as an international and World skating competitor.

If I can describe Christy in one word it would be humble.

She is the most noble woman that I know, and everything she taught me, especially off the ice, has made me the woman I am today. Christy is like a second mom to me, and in my heart, I know that I can count on her for everything skating related and beyond.

I consider myself lucky to have had her as my coach from 1987 to 1991, when I retired. Thanks to her I became a coach, and now when I am teaching my own students, I can still hear her knowledgeable voice and all those amazing tips she shared with me when I was her student.

She was such an important person in my life that to this day we continue to be in

touch. She is the type of person that when you sit with her, you always learn something new.

Christy can make people pay attention to everything she says. She has an amazing way of telling stories. I cannot thank her enough for being my guiding light.

— DIANA MARCOS



DIANE MILLER AND JACKIE BRENNER

My daughter (Grace VanZanten) has been blessed to work with an incredible team of amazing coaches over the years, and they have all impacted her life in so many ways.

When reflecting upon the impact that a coach has on the lives of their skaters, I cannot help but think of Jackie Brenner and Diane Miller. My daughter met Jackie and Diane during a summer training seminar in Michigan. She was immediately inspired by both the new techniques and the empowering approach that was shared with the skaters.

Jackie and Diane communicated a sincere love, not only of the sport, but of the students they were coaching. I watched with tears in my eyes as my daughter not only mastered new skills but fell in love with the sport in a way I had not seen before. At the end of the seminar, she was the one with tears, as she had experienced something so special. A few months later, she traveled to Diane's rink in Arizona and was further inspired by her expertise. She then spent time with Jackie in Oklahoma and chose Jackie to be her choreographer for future freestyle programs. She was also able to continue to stay connected each year by attending the Miller-Brenner Winter Camp and making occasional trips to work with both Jackie and Diane.

When COVID hit, Grace's world was turned upside down. She could not go to the rink and like many, felt isolated and alone. Jackie and Diane then began coaching Grace virtually — even creating online off-ice jump/spin classes in a Zoom format — so that skaters could stay connected and

keep training.

As the years have passed, Jackie and Diane have continued to invest in Grace, even inspiring her to pursue her passion by skating professionally. She is on her third professional contract at Busch Gardens in Tampa. This past spring her story came full circle, as Jackie and Diane were able to see her skate professionally for the first time. They have both become part of our extended family, and I will be forever grateful for the many ways they have impacted Grace's life, as well as my own.

— JENIFER VANZANTEN
(GRACE VANZANTEN'S MOTHER)



JERRY SANTOFERRARA

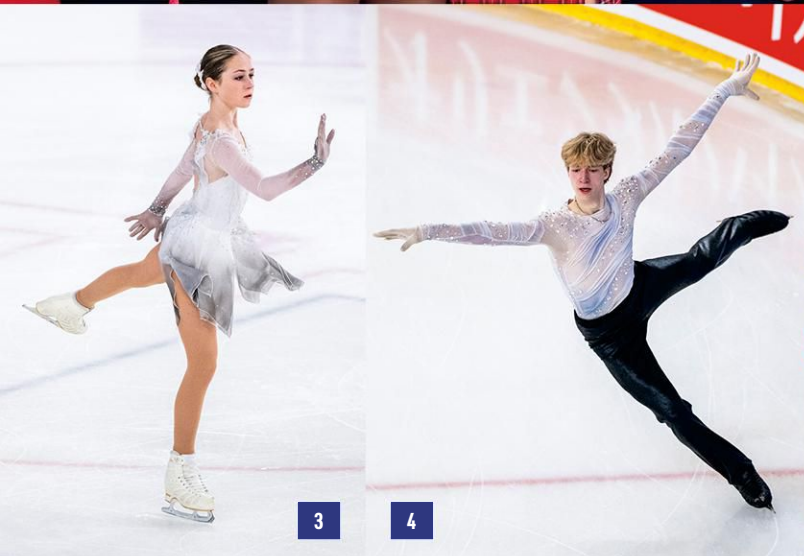
Jerry Santoferrara has been my ice dance coach and friend since we met for my first lesson at the University of Delaware's Ice Arena in January 1991. He has profoundly shaped my journey as an adult skater. His influence extends far beyond technical instruction, embodying a relationship that transcends the typical coach-athlete dynamic.

Throughout our decades together, Jerry has been a mentor and role model, guiding me through countless skating challenges and triumphs. His exceptional ability to adjust his teaching for each skater, regardless of age or skill level, sets him apart. He understands that success isn't just about perfecting elements, but about nurturing confidence and resilience.

Our long-standing relationship demonstrates the profound connection coaches can have with their students. Jerry has been central to my skating journey and personal life, supporting me through head injuries, serious illnesses and the loss of loved ones. His dedication to my improvement as a skater and his unwavering friendship have been invaluable.

Jerry represents the best in coaching, combining impeccable teaching skills with a deep understanding of each student's unique needs. He exemplifies how a coach can foster growth not just in skating, but in life itself.

— SANDY SHACKLADY-WHITE



JUNIOR GRAND PRIX SERIES UNDERWAY

The ISU Junior Grand Prix Series season kicked off in late August with competitions in Riga, Latvia; and Ankara, Turkey. U.S. skaters earned a total of four bronze medals. Here are a few photos of the U.S. Junior National Team.

1) Yann Homawoo, Anaëlle Koeuev, Annelise Stapert, Maxim Korotcov ham it up in Turkey. Photo by Lori Dunn

2) Jasmine Robertson and Chase Rohner compete in Latvia. The ice dance duo captured the bronze medal in their international debut. Photo by Jurij Kodrun - ISU via Getty Images

3) Sophie Joline von Felten competes at JGP Turkey, where she captured the bronze medal. Photo by Jurij Kodrun - ISU via Getty Images

4) Lucius Kazanecki claims bronze in Turkey. Photo by Jurij Kodrun - ISU via Getty Images

5) Members of the U.S. Junior National Team show their spirit at JGP Turkey. Photo by Lori Dunn

6) Naomi Williams and Lachlan Lewer have some fun off the ice in Latvia, with coach Natalia Mishkutenok. The duo earned a bronze medal. Photo by Lori Dunn

Join AARP Membership for 25% Off!*

Only \$15 for your first year with
Automatic Renewal

*Regular membership price is \$20



Get Instant Access to **Hundreds of Benefits:**



EVERYDAY DISCOUNTS – Savings on restaurants, travel, shopping, gas and cell phone plans



TRAVEL PLANNING – Insider tips, tools and advice to plan a great vacation



RX AND EYEWEAR SAVINGS – Savings on prescriptions at over 66,000 pharmacies nationwide and eyeglasses at participating retailers



FRAUD PREVENTION – Free resources such as a scam-tracking map, Watchdog Alerts and a helpline if you've been targeted by a scam



ADVOCACY – A committed advocate for important issues like Social Security and Medicare



RESOURCES – Subscription to the award-winning, *AARP The Magazine*



FREE – Second Membership for anyone in your household

Plus a **FREE** gift!



Insulated Trunk Organizer

23" X 12" X 14"



Join now!

Join at www.joinaarp.org or scan this QR code on your smartphone for **immediate access** to your benefits!

AARP®

MENTAL PERFORMANCE

BY DR. KATY TRAN TURNER

Performance demands vary greatly depending on the type of performance — a wide receiver has different demands than an ice hockey goalie, a firefighter, a C-suite executive or a figure skater. One thing all performers have in common is the requirement to navigate the performance timeline. This concept, initially coined by longtime Cleveland baseball mental performance coach Charlie Maher, refers to the before, during and after aspects of a performance moment and can serve as a powerful framework for planning and implementing mental performance strategies.

BEFORE: THE WAITING IN THE WINGS MOMENT

Moments prior to a competition, athletes might experience nervousness, excitement, self-doubt, or all of the above as a part of the roller coaster of preparation. Athletes are well-practiced in preparing their bodies; however, the mental preparation routine is sometimes left up to chance.

When high-level performers are waiting in the wings before their performance, they have a plan for how they will focus, channel their emotion and use this time to mentally set the stage for success. Elite performers are intentional in transitioning from the outside world into performance mode or going from “green to gold” (Orlick, 2015). As part

2024 Junior Grand Prix Final champion Jacob Sanchez prepares to take the ice.



PHOTOS BY DANIELLE EARL PHOTOGRAPHY



U.S. ice dance silver medalists Christina Carriera and Anthony Ponomarenko get into their respective zones.

of your pre-performance routine, have a plan for your self-talk, use of imagery and relaxation strategies.

DURING: BE WHERE YOUR FEET (OR SKATES) ARE

When the performance has started, many athletes find that nerves disappear and performing allows the nervous energy of the waiting period to be channeled into action. During the performance itself is not the time for athletes to be overthinking, it is a time for automaticity and being in the moment. This state is referred to as being “in the zone” or in a flow state (Csikszentmihalyi, 2008).

Mental performance strategies during competition should be designed to redirect attention to the here and now, so you can “be where your feet are,” a signature phrase of renowned mental performance coach Ken Ravizza. During a performance, short cue phrases that inspire confidence (e.g., “feel the music”) or instruct specific aspects of skill execution (e.g., “arms tight”) are most effective for staying in the moment.

AFTER: FIGHT THE NEGATIVITY BIAS WITH A REFLECTION FRAMEWORK

Athletes can experience high levels of emotion after a performance is over. These emotions can create challenges in maintaining an impartial reflection on the performance. In judged sports, overcoming the negativity bias can be particularly challenging if points have been lost due to errors in execution. The negativity bias is our tendency to notice and remember negative events, which can be useful in identifying areas for improvement (Rozin & Royzman, 2001). However, this bias inherently means we might miss opportunities to learn from what went well.

To overcome the negativity bias, it is helpful to utilize a framework for reflection to identify both what went well that you would like to repeat and what you would like to improve for future performances. Using a performance journal to capture this reflection can help you track your progress over time, a practice elite performers use to inform training and build confidence.

Applying the performance timeline approach can help to shape your approach to applying mental performance skills. Recognizing the distinction between mental skills that will be most impactful before, during, or after a performance will allow you to mentally prepare, stay present in the moment and deliberately reflect.

Dr. Katy Tran Turner is the curriculum and learning design manager at O2X Human Performance, where she helps create world-class training materials. Dr. Turner is a certified mental performance consultant and has provided individual and team mental performance coaching for executives and professional, collegiate and tactical athletes for more than 15 years.

O2X Human Performance provides comprehensive, science-backed programs to hundreds of public safety departments, federal agencies and the military. O2X works with clients to elevate culture, improve mental and physical well-being, support healthy lifestyles and reduce healthcare costs associated with injuries and illnesses. O2X programs are designed and delivered by a team of special operations veterans, high-level athletes and hundreds of leading experts in their respective fields of human performance.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR PASSION FOR FIGURE SKATING TO NEW HEIGHTS?



U.S. FIGURE SKATING

We are thrilled to announce the 2025-2026 Friends of Figure Skating program — a membership opportunity that offers incredible benefits while making a meaningful impact on our athletes' lives.

By becoming a member of the Friends of Figure Skating program, you'll be joining a community dedicated to empowering our athletes in their pursuit of excellence. Your generous gift to the program not only supports their dreams but also offers you a range of exclusive benefits and experiences that will enhance your own figure skating fan journey.

We have carefully listened to the interests and preferences of our loyal supporters and updated our benefits chart to ensure an even more enriching and rewarding membership experience. We can't wait for you to explore the new and improved benefits that await you as a member of our vibrant figure skating community.

**SCAN THIS
QR CODE TO
SELECT YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
LEVEL TODAY.**



**QUESTIONS? Reach out to
giving@usfigureskating.org**

BENEFITS

	FAN \$150	FRIEND \$400	ENTHUSIAST \$1,000	PROMOTER \$4,500	CHAMPION \$15,000
Tax Deduction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advance event ticket purchase**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 editions of Skating Magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supporter Club Gift		✓	✓	✓	✓
Official event programs and pins***		✓	✓	✓	✓
Exclusive invite to purchase tickets to FOFS breakfast**			✓	✓	✓
Photo in the kiss and cry*			✓	✓	✓
(1) Ticket to FOFS breakfast**				✓	✓
(1) all access pass to Boitano's Lounge*				✓	✓
Exclusive rinkside experience with the Senior Director of High Performance*				✓	✓
(1) additional ticket to the FOFS Breakfast at Skate America and U.S. Championships					✓
(1) Additional pass to Boitano's Lounge**					✓
(2) Premium tickets to applicable events**					✓
Exclusive Friends of Figure Skating Long Sleeve Shirt (if registered by July 1, 2025) any level	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* U.S. Championships; ** Skate America; *** Both



In this installment of the Athlete Corner, current and former members of Team USA share the best piece of advice they ever received, as well as what's been the biggest obstacle they've had to overcome.



NINA OUELLETTE (PAIRS)

WHERE DO YOU TRAIN/WORK/LIVE? I live and train in Dallas. I train and coach at the Children's Health StarCenter Euleess.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE YOU'VE HAD TO OVERCOME IN YOUR SKATING CAREER? Finding the right pairs partner and staying motivated. After continuing to struggle to find the right partner for a year, a lot of doubt about whether you're good enough, or if there's something wrong with you, or if all of it is worth it, starts to creep in. All of the "what if" questions threw me for a loop and still do. I've yet to overcome it and am continuing my search for the right partner, but at the end of the day, pairs is what I love doing, so I'm going to continue to push through and do the best I can do.

WHAT'S BEEN THE SINGLE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE SOMEONE HAS GIVEN YOU WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR SKATING? My coach Diana Miro told me trust myself and to always trust in my training. She taught me to have trust and faith in myself, and in the moments when things don't feel quite right or if there are outside factors that are out of my control, I can always trust my body and muscle memory to know what to do in those tough moments. I've carried that throughout my career and it's the last thing that I tell myself before I go out and compete.

EVA PATE (ICE DANCE)

WHERE DO YOU TRAIN/WORK/LIVE? Novi, Michigan

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE YOU'VE HAD TO OVERCOME IN YOUR SKATING CAREER? Moving away from home at 17 to train in ice dance was the biggest challenge I've faced. I am close with my family and it was hard to leave them. One thing that made the transition easier was that I was only two hours away, so I could come home on many weekends to visit.

WHAT'S BEEN THE SINGLE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE SOMEONE HAS GIVEN YOU WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR SKATING? Being a skater from Cleveland, I had the incredible opportunity to have (1960 Olympic champion) Carol Heiss Jenkins step in as my coach at a competition when my own coach couldn't attend. After I finished competing, she gave me a piece of advice I'll never forget: Keep skating, follow my heart and pursue my dream of becoming a Team USA skater.



GRACE HAMERSCHLAG (SYNCHRONIZED SKATING)

WHERE DO YOU TRAIN/WORK/LIVE? I just moved to Long Island to work as a scribe for a spine surgeon, as I'm studying for the Medical College Admissions Test. I had the privilege of training at the skating clubs of Morris and Boston, but now I'm so excited to be in New York.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE YOU'VE HAD TO OVERCOME IN YOUR SKATING CAREER? Believing I was good enough to compete at the highest level — even if I wasn't there yet. The road won't always be easy, but those challenges can be the most rewarding part of your journey. Perspective is everything. That type of belief comes from deep in your heart. Once you find it, no one can sway you. Keep chipping away.

WHAT'S BEEN THE SINGLE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE SOMEONE HAS GIVEN YOU WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR SKATING? "Don't stop until you're proud" and "One step, one breath at a time."





Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation



A word from Scott

“I see a day where everyone survives cancer. A day when no one suffers their way through their treatments. Our body holds the keys to surviving this insidious disease, and only through the research we are funding that we can unlock the keys to a much brighter future - a future celebrating survivors.” - Scott Hamilton



HOST AN EVENT

Host a Sk8 to Elimina8 Cancer Frozen 5K or Ice Show fundraiser for the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation.



RAISE FUNDS

Raise funds for cancer research & receive fundraising rewards at the end of the event.



IMPACT

Honor those impacted by cancer & skate towards a better future for the next person diagnosed.



Email us to learn how you can host an event!



Find an event near you today!



SC OF BOSTON LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO HONOR CLUB MEMBERS LOST IN CRASH

On Jan. 29, The Skating Club of Boston lost six club members in the plane crash near Washington, D.C. To honor the victims — Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov, Christine and Spencer Lane, and Jin and Jinna Han — the club has launched its Always Champions campaign to both honor their lives and create a permanent place of remembrance at the club for their families, friends and the visiting public.

“We developed this campaign to honor the memories of these six individuals, and to ensure that their personal legacies will forever be a part of the club’s legacy,” Doug Zeghibe, CEO and executive director, The Skating Club of Boston, said. “Their commitment to the sport and spirit of excellence will continue to inspire today’s and future generations of our community. For all of us, they are Always Champions who will never be forgotten.”

The campaign includes the renaming of the club’s west rink to the “Always Champions Training Rink” and will include a tribute wall with stories and photos of each of the six club members. The west rink was where Shishkova and Naumov led the club’s “Tomorrow’s Champions” developmental skater program and where Han and Lane both trained. As part of the tribute wall, the club will acknowledge those who have contributed to the campaign.

Outside The SC of Boston’s main entrance, three benches will honor members of the three families who perished. Each bench will have a permanent plaque with the individual names, and

The Skating Club of Boston hosted a Frozen 5K on Aug. 21 to support its Always Champions campaign, in honor of the skaters, coaches and parents lost in the plane crash.



A group of teen skaters perform to a medley from *Grease*.

the bases of the appropriate benches will display bronzed skates of the two coaches and two skaters. To create a space for reflection, two weeping cherry trees will be planted on each side of the flag poles that are front and center to the facility. Memorial plaques will also be included.

As the centerpiece of the campaign, the club will establish two scholarships and three awards to be presented annually. The scholarships will honor skaters Jinna Han and Spencer Lane and be awarded to future generations of skaters pursuing similar skating dreams at the club.

The club awards will honor the coaching team of Shishkova and Naumov, and skaters Han and Lane. These awards will be presented at the annual club awards banquet held each June.

The club hosted a Frozen 5K fundraiser on Aug. 21. Supporters came together for the cause by skating 28 laps in the Tenley E. Albright Performance Center.

For more information about the campaign, including how to donate, visit www.alwayschampions.org.

COLONIAL SC CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

The Colonial Skating Club of Pennsylvania celebrated its 65th anniversary last May. Members skated to music from the club’s birth year to the present. It hosted two “Skating Through the Decades” shows, welcoming past coaches and skaters for a night of memories.

Prior to the shows, a few skaters,

along with six-time U.S. Adult ice dance champions Shay Sterlace and Yovanny Durango, and 2025 South Atlantic junior regional silver medalist Meghan Huffman, performed a beautiful tribute honoring the victims of Flight 5342

Skaters from the Colonial accelerated and developmental programs performed a crowd-pleasing routine to music from *Grease*, choreographed by Learn to Skate USA Director Kara Bolinger.

Former club president and U.S. Figure Skating official Cheryl Wood shared the club’s rich history.

WATERTOWN SC HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL FROZEN POOL PARTY SUMMER SKATE CAMP

The Watertown Figure Skating Club in Watertown, South Dakota, held its 2nd annual Frozen Pool Party Summer Camp, Aug. 11-14.

The advanced camp was held at the club’s new home, Prairie Lakes Ice Arena, a facility that will now allow the club to train and hold events year-round, and included guest coaches Peter and Gia Sasmore, Rick Ziebarth and WFSC Skating Director/Head Coach/Camp Director Taylor Johnson.

Before the start of the advanced camp, WFSC launched the week with a Learn to Skate camp for skaters in levels Snowplow Sam through pre-freeskate.

The advanced camp featured group and private lessons. Group lessons were offered in all disciplines, including spins, jumps, skating skills, power, difficult



Watertown FSC Frozen Pool Party participants and coaches

turns, footwork and a new offering this year: Intro to Theatre on Ice, available in two sessions. The club recently sent 14 skaters to National Showcase in Rochester, Michigan.

“Witnessing some of the best Theatre on Ice teams in the nation sparked a new level of inspiration among our skaters, and me as a coach,” Johnson said. “Since we love performing together as a team, we decided that now is the time to start a full-season production team that will travel and compete in the coming year.”

Campers usually number 20 to 25 skaters daily. For Johnson, it’s part of what makes the Frozen Pool Party Camp so special.

“That smaller group size is a huge advantage,” Johnson said. “It allows our coaches to spend more one-on-one time with every athlete, focusing on their specific needs and goals. It’s truly a personal and supportive environment where everyone gets the attention they need to improve. I absolutely love the energy and excitement the skaters bring to the rink.”

— *Joanne Vassallo Jamrosz*

PANTHERS FSC RAISING THE BAR

The Panthers Figure Skating Club is one of the beneficiaries of the Florida Panthers’ new training complex in Fort Lauderdale.

In March 2024, the two-time and reigning NHL champions left their practice venue at the Florida Panthers IceDen in Coral Springs, Florida, and moved to the new Baptist Health IcePlex, a two-sheet state-of-the-art training facility, in Fort Lauderdale.

The move has opened doors for the Panthers FSC at both venues, with a full slate of figure skating programs being offered. It has also paved the way for the creation of the Panthers High

Performance Skating Academy, a fully encompassed training program for the dedicated figure skater.

The Panthers High Performance Skating Academy at the Panthers IceDen features three sheets of ice, two gyms, a medical area, video playback theater and the newly added Florida Sports Virtual Academy — a fully accredited private school designed for competitive athletes.

With daily freestyle sessions, on- and off-ice group classes, skater education workshops, critiques, video playback, and a restaurant and snack bar with athlete friendly options, Panthers IceDen offers the support a competitive figure skater needs, according to Panthers FSC Director of Figure Skating Jennifer Houghton Morris.

The academy has also forged a new partnership with Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital Sports Medicine program to provide onsite athletic trainers, athlete assessments, educational workshops

covering nutrition, injury prevention and much more. Dr. Matthew Fazekas is the program’s medical director; he’s a team doctor for U.S National Figure Skating’s Team.

“We are proud to have a Stanley Cup champion team, and our goal is to achieve similar excellence in figure skating,” Houghton Morris said. “We will nurture athletes through our development pipeline, while prioritizing the quality of their journey through a healthy, supportive environment.

“Our collective focus is on putting the athlete’s needs first, which is why we created the Panthers PACT — Panthers Athlete-Centered Training. Every skater, coach and parent involved in our high-performance program commits to this PACT, reflecting the core values of the Florida Panthers organization. Our aim is to cultivate the same culture of excellence that the Panthers embody, fostering unity across all programs — whether in hockey or figure skating.”

The Panthers IceDen is already hosting skaters from around the globe who are traveling to participate.

Figure skaters work out in the IceDen’s off-ice training space.



The Skaneateles FSC held its annual ice show last spring in Skaneateles, New York. A total of 17 skaters, ages 6 to 20, participated. Using a Theatre on Ice format, club members performed its version of “The Little Mermaid on Ice.” More than 300 people attended the family-friendly show, which was a club fundraiser.



MAKING THE SWITCH: SHOULD YOU CHANGE BOOT BRANDS?

BY PATTI LARKIN

As a skate fitter, I talk to many skaters who consider switching boot brands. Some have solid reasons for wanting a change, but many don't — they're just curious about something new. Before making a switch, it's important to have a clear reason and to understand whether changing brands will solve the issue.

The truth is, fit can vary not only between brands, but also between models within the same brand. Factors like materials, padding thickness, stiffness, lacing systems and boot height all affect how a skate feels, so two models from the same company can feel completely different on your feet.

Below are the most common reasons skaters think about switching, along with tips to help you decide whether a brand change is the right move, or if the solution might already exist within your current brand.

FIT AND COMFORT

The top reason skaters consider changing brands is comfort. If boots have never felt right — even after adjustments — then a switch may be needed. That said, many issues can be solved by exploring another size, width, or model within the same brand. Nearly all boots require fitting adjustments, so switching brands doesn't guarantee relief. But if persistent discomfort continues despite proper adjustments, a different brand might provide the fit your feet truly need.

SELF-FITTING OR BUYING WITHOUT PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE

Some skaters purchase boots online or skip professional fitting, then assume discomfort is the brand's fault. In reality, no skate will not feel good if it's the wrong size or shape for your foot. Working with an experienced professional fitter can make all the difference regardless of brand.

LIMITED ACCESS TO A BRAND

Sometimes switching has nothing to do with comfort at all. If you move, or if your local shop changes what it carries, you may not have access to your preferred brand anymore. In this case, the switch is about practicality — finding



another option that replicates the feel and support of your old boots.

INFLUENCE FROM OTHERS

It's natural to ask teammates, coaches, or friends about their favorite boots. But remember: Every foot is unique. What works for one skater may not work for another. Someone else's "perfect boot" may be a poor match for you.

RECURRING PAIN OR BOOT INTOLERANCE

Over time, skaters sometimes develop "boot intolerance." Wearing the same model for years means pressure is always applied in the same places. Eventually, that can cause chronic discomfort. Switching brands can shift pressure points and provide relief. While not common, this is a real reason some skaters make the switch.

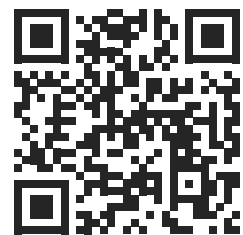
Changing brands isn't always the

first step and it doesn't guarantee comfort. The key is to identify the real issue:

- Is it the fit?
- The model?
- The way it was sized or adjusted?

Work with a professional, try modifications and explore options within your current brand before making your decision. But if nothing works, changing brands may finally give you the fit, support and performance you've been looking for.

Scan the QR code and watch the video to learn more.



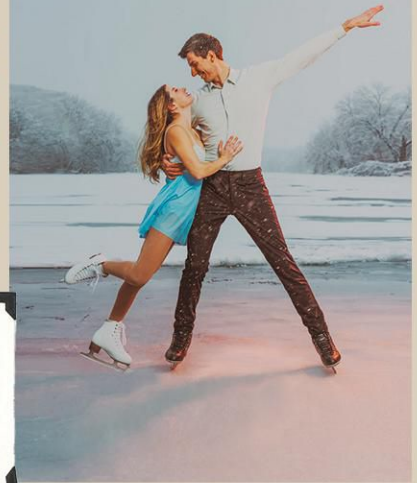
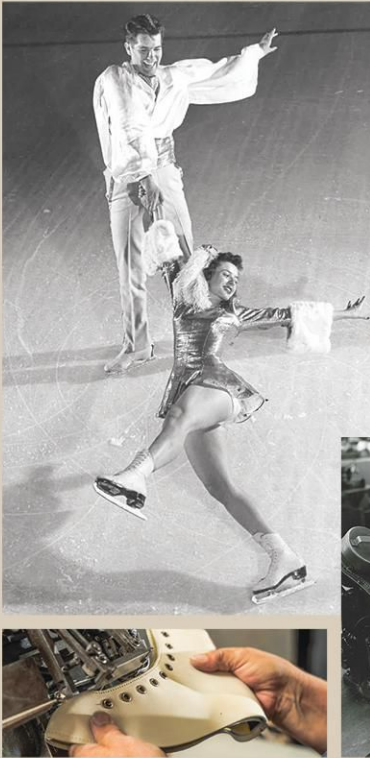
Patti Larkin is a board-certified pedorthist and retired board-certified orthotist; she has spent 21 years in the orthotics field designing and fitting custom orthopedic braces and foot orthotics. As a former competitive skater, coach and judge, Larkin has successfully merged her skating experience with her knowledge of the foot and body mechanics to fit skaters for the past 17 years. She's the owner of Houston Skate & Sports Orthotics Center.



CELEBRATING
80 YEARS
of ARTISTRY & INNOVATION
in SKATE MAKING

RED WING, MN
- 1945 -

Riedell
Skates



ICE.RIEDELLESKATES.COM



Handcrafting quality skate boots since 1945



US FIGURE
SKATING

YOUR GOAL:
**MORE ICE.
MORE GOLD.**

OUR GOAL:
SAME.

CUSTOM DESIGN SPECIALISTS
SINCE 2013.

REVOLUTION

JEWELRY WORKS

5928 STETSON HILLS BLVD., COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80923 + WWW.RJW.ROCKS + 719.650.6000

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF THE 2025 US FIGURE SKATING RADIX PIN



SKATING

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE COACH

BROOKE MITRO

I've been skating with Brooke since I was 2 years old, and she's the only coach I've ever had. She always tells me the truth, even when it's hard, but she makes me feel proud of what I can do. Brooke doesn't just say "good job" all the time. She helps me fix things, and then she cheers the loudest when I get it right.



She understands me. She knows I like strong programs more than sparkly ones, and she helps me stay calm when I feel frustrated. Brooke reminds me that I can keep trying, even on tough days.

Brooke teaches me how to be brave, focused and kind. She makes skating fun and challenging at the same time. I'm lucky she's my coach. She's not just someone who teaches me jumps and spins; she's someone who believes in me.

— Juniper Mills

Pavilion SC, Cleveland Heights, Ohio

CHRISTINE CONDON/BETH KREJNIK

I train at Winnetka Ice and Twin Rinks in Illinois. My main coach is Christine Condon, who has coached me since my first shaky backward crossovers and molded me into the skater I am today. She's the one who demonstrated to me how to land my initial jumps and then rise when I failed. She also teaches me how to keep my spins rapid and centered.

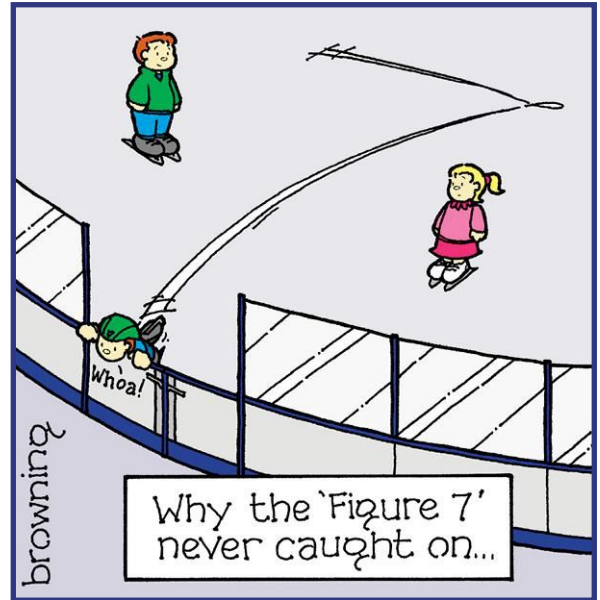


Christine knows exactly when to push me harder and when to remind me to trust myself. She's patient and supportive and always has me thinking I can tackle the next thing on my list, no matter how daunting it appears at first. I work on my moves in the field and skating skills with Beth Krejnik. Beth is awesome at helping me develop crisp, flowing lines and beautiful edges that make my skating look easy. She cites the little things that matter and continually tugs me to glide gracefully and powerfully. Between Christine's help with my jumps and spins and Beth's on-ice expert eye for moves, I feel so lucky to have such awesome coaches guiding me. They inspire me every day to grind on, skate my best and enjoy every moment I'm out on the ice.

— Marcella Trubka

Hello skaters: For the chance to recognize your coach in SKATING, submit a short article (250 words) and a photograph to skatingmagazine@usfigureskating.org.

GO FIGURE BY GENE BROWNING



L	U	T	Z	J	Q	G	W	M	G	B	B	W	S	G
R	O	W	E	F	E	Z	F	T	T	K	I	Z	R	H
R	F	L	S	I	W	O	M	X	S	Z	E	U	W	J
M	N	N	Y	U	H	G	T	A	I	Q	T	H	M	F
M	E	H	X	M	V	J	U	L	W	B	I	G	I	S
I	E	W	D	I	P	T	W	O	T	P	L	Z	S	N
M	W	W	T	W	U	I	X	B	E	X	E	B	R	I
A	O	Z	Z	M	R	P	C	D	L	P	S	K	Q	N
D	L	E	N	Y	N	Y	E	S	P	W	M	V	G	I
E	L	J	S	K	Q	X	Z	Y	I	A	A	N	S	L
H	A	R	G	H	D	O	C	A	R	A	E	Y	R	A
L	H	X	J	J	Y	A	U	U	T	Z	T	A	B	M
K	R	O	T	A	T	I	O	N	Y	J	K	U	K	G
Y	W	M	P	N	Y	S	N	S	G	C	C	D	I	J
W	P	D	H	E	D	I	C	A	L	P	E	K	A	L

WORD SEARCH

Hi skaters! Try to find and circle the listed words hidden in the box of letters. The words will appear in a straight line in any direction (up, down, forward, backward or diagonal), and some words may overlap and share letters. Find them all and you'll be on top of the medal podium!

AUTUMN
LAKE PLACID
MALININ
TEAMS ELITE
HALLOWEEN
OLYMPICS
LIU
LUTZ

ILIANA VALENTI CONTRERAS

Age: 12
Nickname: ili
Hometown: Dallas
Club: Dallas FSC
Level: Juvenile
Coaches: Dmitry Palamarchuk, Viktoria Milevska
How I got started: I signed up for Learn to Skate classes at the mall and fell in love with skating. I started right when COVID hit in 2020 and have been skating ever since.
Favorite skaters: Nathan Chen, Anna Shcherbakova, Alexandra Trusova, Isabeau Levito
Goals: Get my double Axel clean and at least one triple jump; qualify for the National Development Team.
Hobbies: I like to do crafts and watch "Dance Moms" or anime.



Favorite moves:
Double Lutz, double flip

GABRIELLE FREEMAN

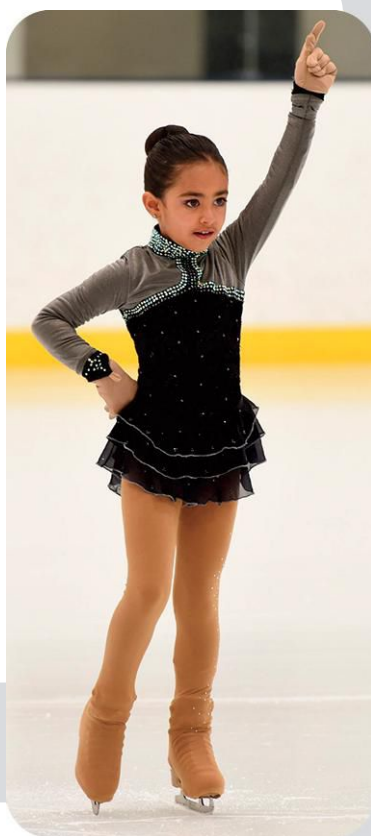
Age: 9
Hometown: Great Neck, New York
Club: Great Neck FSC
Level: Pre-juvenile
Coach: Shannon Lenihan
Favorite skaters: Nancy Kerrigan, Nathan Chen, Alysia Liu, Ilia Malinin
Goals: Getting my double Axel and triple jumps. I hope one day to medal at the Olympics.
Hobbies: Reading, art, crafts
How I started: My dad brought me to the ice rink when I was 2 and I fell in love with skating right then.

Favorite moves:
Cantilever, Biellmann spin, double flip



SAHASRA MALLAJOSYULA

Age: 7
Hometown: Aurora, Colorado
Home rink: South Suburban Sports complex
Club: Denver FSC
Level: Aspire 2
Coaches: Katie Yum, Julie Morris
How it got started: When my parents took me to a Learn to Skate session, I had the time of my life. I told them, right then and there, "I want to be a figure skater!" and never missed a chance to skate from that time.
Favorite skater: Amber Glenn
Goal: Learn triple Axel on ice
Hobbies: Drawing, playing violin



Favorite moves: Two-foot spin, shoot the duck

MILANA SKOPETS

Age: 8
Hometown: Highland Park, Illinois
Club: Skokie Valley SC
Levels: Pre-preliminary moves and competing Aspire 4 and soon pre-preliminary freestyle
Coaches: Vicka Belovol, Nick Belovol, Dana Hult, Manol Atanassov
How I got started: When I was 3, my mom started coaching me on the weekends, and at the age of 5, I started skating competitively with all of my coaches.
Favorite skaters: Sasha Cohen, Isabeau Levito, Michelle Kwan
Goal: To get to the highest level I can get to.
Hobbies: Skating, school, making crafts

Favorite moves:
Axel, sit back-sit spin, spirals



A Perfect Landing Every Night

Saatva. Luxury Mattresses Made Affordable.



PROUD
SPONSOR



saatva

Boosting Body Confidence with BEEP

The Body Empowerment and Environment Project (BEEP) is an initiative developed for and with Team USA athletes. The BEEP team, an interdisciplinary team of dietitians, sport psychologists, and sports medicine experts, aims to deliver evidence-based information and recommendations to support the call to action for all participants and stakeholders to elevate athlete body empowerment.

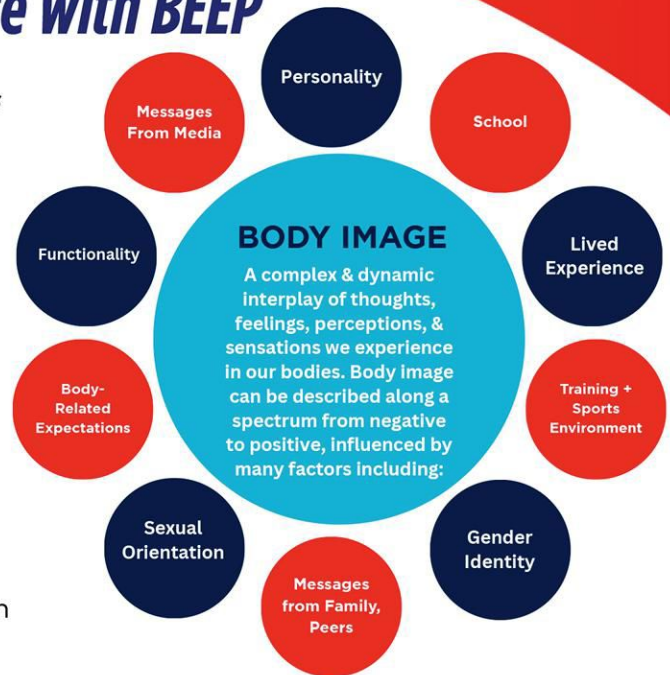
At BEEP, we understand there can be tension points around body ideals, performance, and healthy development (physical, mental, and emotional). We also know that sport is nuanced:

- More than 40 interrelated factors influence both personal growth and elite performance.
- A 3% difference can distinguish those with top scores from those who don't get selected to advance to sectional/national/international competitions.
- Too often, we try to close the performance gap by focusing either on the body or the mind.

At BEEP, it's about the connection. The powerful link between body and mind — what we call the *person-body relationship* (used interchangeably with the term body image, see graphic).

At BEEP, it's about science-backed practices. Researchers have found that building body confidence benefits healthy development AND high performance:

- When athletes learn to appreciate their body and how their body functions (e.g., body confidence), they are more likely to develop sport confidence. Sport confidence, in turn, is directly related to positive performance outcomes (Ricketts et al., *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 2023).
- “Skaters’ perceptions of their bodies and the subsequent effects on confidence and focus may make a greater impact on performance than achieving an exact weight, composition, or physique” (Voelker & Reel, *Journal of Clinical Sport Psychology*, 2018).



How to Empower Body Confidence

<p>Foster connections between:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athlete’s mind and body • Athlete and their peers • Athlete and their broader skating community
<p>Fuel competence by encouraging athletes to engage with a performance and medical support team to:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define specific goals and actionable strategies • Outline ways to assess progress and define success • Determine timeline to evaluate effectiveness of strategy
<p>Provide athletes choices and control in the decision making process by using empowering language:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I’d love to hear about what you’re learning.” • “What’s a choice that would support your energy levels?” • “Tell me about the strengths you can bring to this moment.”



BEEP! CREATING A SAFE HAVEN FOR ATHLETES TO COMPETE, CHALLENGE, AND CHANGE

A GLOBETROTTING SKATER'S TIPS FOR WORLD TRAVELS AND UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES

BY AVIVA M. CANTOR

For lifelong skater Erika Lehman, the best skating adventures aren't happening at her home rink in Colorado Springs, Colorado — they're happening with each new stamp on her passport.

Over the last year and a half, Lehman and her childhood friend Liz Belleau have been traveling the world, skates in tow, making lifelong memories on and off the ice. Here, Lehman shares her favorite outdoor skating destinations, expert travel tips and future plans.

SKATING: Tell us about your friendship with Liz.

LEHMAN: We met during edge class in the summer of 1995. We trained and competed together for many years and were friends on and off the ice. We went our separate ways after high school but made a point of staying in touch. We'd meet up every few years if we happened to be in the same town, and the friendship would always pick up right where it left off.

I currently live in Colorado Springs, and Liz lives in Aviano, Italy, not too far from Venice.

SKATING: Tell us about your international skating adventures.

LEHMAN: Our first trip was to Canada in February 2024. Liz and I met up for dinner in January. I jokingly asked if she wanted to take a last-minute trip to the

Rideau Canal in Ottawa. She said yes without missing a beat, and we started planning. With less than a week to go, the Rideau Canal still wasn't open, so we shifted gears and traveled to Montreal to skate on some ice trails we saw on Instagram (thanks @Rollerbearding). The whole trip came together in less than a month. Luck was on our side, as we still managed a visit to the Rideau Canal. Domaine Enchanteur was my favorite stop. We arrived a few minutes before sunset, donned headlamps and skated our way through the forest on 15 kilometers of icy trails. The trail weaves through the property's farm, so we got to feed goats, llamas, sheep and other critters. One thing that caught me by surprise was skating downhill and uphill. It's an odd sensation that you're not used to on skates, but you get the hang of it quickly. It's a lot like cross-country skiing.

Our second trip was in December 2024. Liz was transferred to northeastern Italy for work, and it felt like the perfect opportunity for another skating vacation. Our trip consisted of:

- Two frozen lakes in Saint Moritz, Switzerland
- Two outdoor rinks with Olympic ties, in Innsbruck and Seefeld, Austria
- The pop-up holiday rink in Mozartplatz in Salzburg, Austria
- A pop-up holiday rink in Izola, Slovenia
- An outdoor rink near the city center in Milan, Italy



Liz Belleau and Erika Lehman explore the Domaine Enchanteur ice trails in Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, Quebec

SKATING: What are your future travel plans?

LEHMAN: Liz and I bought tickets to the Olympic Winter Games in Milan, and we plan to hit up several wild ice destinations and seasonal rinks while we're there.

I'd also love to skate in the Grand Palais in Paris. Perhaps we can make that happen, too.

SKATING: What tips do you have for traveling and skating internationally?

LEHMAN: If you're planning on skating on natural or wild ice, build a rough hit list of places you want to visit, and research the nearest cities or towns in the vicinity of each destination. Plan a fun, inspiring vacation around stays in those cities, as there's a good chance some (or all) of your skating plans won't come to fruition. I also recommend pulling together a list of backup locations that offer guaranteed skating, like manmade rinks or Olympic venues.

Pack plenty of gloves, your skate guards and minimal skating gear. I recommend a small backpack over a wheeled bag or suitcase, as you might find yourself trekking across cobblestones.

Not sure where to start? Search for outdoor skating destinations on Instagram, and the algorithm will start feeding you more ideas. Lastly: Don't forget to take photos.

Erika Lehman visits Celerina, near Saint Moritz, Switzerland





Boston University celebrates its record eighth national intercollegiate title.

because it was the result of months of practice, but because I was proud to represent Boston University and contribute to the team's success," Delcamino-Yang said.

Paige Dong contributed to Boston University's success, capturing titles in juvenile solo dance and the juvenile women's short program. The Terriers also took top honors in low and high team maneuvers.

The 2026 NIF will take place in Salt Lake City, April 10-12.

Follow the collegiate social media page on Instagram @uscollegiateskating.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY CLAIMS RECORD-BREAKING EIGHTH TITLE

Boston University secured seven first-place individual finishes en route to its record eighth team title at the 2025 National Intercollegiate Final in April.

The Terriers have earned six of the last seven National Intercollegiate Final titles.

Sixteen teams from four conferences — Pacific Coast, Midwest, Northeast and Southeast — qualified for the event, held for the first time at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. The top four teams from each conference advanced to the NIF.

Nearly 1,700 athletes participated on intercollegiate teams this season, with 120 teams taking part in the intercollegiate series (three events in each of the four conferences).

Boston University, which brought 21 skaters to the competition, posted an overall team score of 263.5 points, with rival University of Delaware finishing second with 255 points and six first-place finishes. New York University placed third, tying its best-ever team finish. Dartmouth placed fourth.

"The most meaningful and important part of the 2025 NIF was seeing the camaraderie, sportsmanship and love for figure skating shared not only by my team but with every team that competed, which I think is something truly special about collegiate figure skating," Clara Delcamino-Yang, the junior women's free skate champion, said. "Especially since it was my first NIF and I did not know what to expect, to be met with such support throughout the entire competition from my team and other competitors made the experience all the better."

Delcamino-Yang performed her free skate to "La Terre vue du ciel" by Armand Amar and "What Could Have Been" by Sting.

"Winning was exhilarating not only

CT CUTTING EDGE, NORTHWEST GOLD CLAIM HIGH SCHOOL SECTIONAL TITLES

CT Cutting Edge of Cromwell, Connecticut, captured the Eastern Sectional title, while Northwest Gold of Crystal Lake, Illinois, secured the Midwest/Pacific Coast Sectional crown at the second

annual U.S. Figure Skating Sectional High School Final last spring.

High school figure skating teams flocked to Burlington, Vermont, for Easterns and to Evanston, Illinois, for the Midwest/Pacific Coast event.

Hosted by the Champlain Valley Skating Club, the Eastern Sectional featured 16 teams. Connecticut Regional High School Team and the Nauset Skating Team from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, earned second- and third-place finishes, respectively, at the Eastern event.

The Skating Council of Illinois hosted the Midwest/Pacific Coast Sectional which featured 51 teams. Oklahoma Premiere and Great Houston took second and third place, respectively.

Northwest Gold's team maneuvers squad celebrates at the Midwest/Pacific Coast Sectional.



CT Cutting Edge emerges triumphant at Eastern Sectionals.



TRIPLE THREAT: COVERAGE, PRICE & RELIABILITY.

Consumer
Cellular®

OUR NO LONG-TERM CONTRACT PLANS INCLUDE UNLIMITED TALK & TEXT.
PLUS, ADD LINES TO ANY PLAN **STARTING AT \$15.**

1GB 1 LINE \$ 20 MONTH	10GB 1 LINE \$ 35 MONTH	15GB 1 LINE \$ 40 MONTH	Unlimited GB <small>AGE 50+</small> 1 LINE \$ 50 MONTH	Unlimited GB <small>AGE 50+</small> 2 LINES \$ 60 MONTH
---	--	--	---	--

CONSUMER CELLULAR IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF



**NO LONG-TERM
CONTRACTS.**



**#1 IN CUSTOMER
SATISFACTION BY ACSI®.**



**FAST, RELIABLE
NATIONWIDE COVERAGE.**

VISIT **ConsumerCellular.com/0967**

CALL **(888) 766-0967**

© 2025 Consumer Cellular, Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Taxes and fees apply. New service activation on approved credit. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. For unlimited data plans, access to high-speed data will be reduced after 50GB of combined use, and you will experience slower speeds for the remainder of your billing cycle. Offer only for customers age 50+. Age validation required. Plans shown include \$5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Two (2) Unlimited lines for \$60 offer is valid only with two lines of service and an unlimited data plan. Additional Line Fee: Monthly fee of \$20 for unlimited plans; \$15 for other plans. Coverage and reliability based on 2024 ACSI® Survey of customers rating their own Wireless Service Provider. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org.



**SCAN TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE.**

THE OTHER 'MIRACLE ON ICE'

With the 11th annual World Figure and Fancy Skating Championships set for Oct. 8-12 in Lake Placid, New York, the timing seems right to look back at what has been referred to as the other "Miracle on Ice."

For many, the greatest Olympic moment of all time occurred on Feb. 22, 1980, at the Winter Games in Lake Placid, where the U.S. defeated the Soviet Union in hockey, a monumental upset known as the "Miracle on Ice." That epic contest inspired documentaries, books and a motion picture, along with many accolades.

However, back in 1932, also in Lake Placid, the legendary Sonja Henie of Norway secured her second of three Olympic gold medals with precise figures and an innovative and artistic free skate. Her victory came at a time when the world was desperate to escape the widespread hardship and anxiety caused by the Great Depression.

Henie, who won 10 World titles, inspired a generation through her athletic and graceful approach to figure skating, incorporating fancy skating elements and wearing more fashionable costumes; she captivated audiences and elevated the sport to a new level of artistry and entertainment — thus, the other "Miracle on Ice."

A monument stands outside the 1932 Olympic Arena in Lake Placid, reminding people of how the faith and vision of an artist-athlete and her family

inspired and contributed to the legacies of countless others.

Henie went on to become a central figure in Hollywood's Golden Era, starring in numerous major motion pictures and performing to sell-out crowds throughout the world.

Shepherd Clark (eight-time consecutive World Figure & Fancy Skating champion), one of the premier proponents of the World Figure Sport Society (established in 2015 by Olympians Karen Courtland Kelly and Patrick Kelly) and the world art movement, said Henie's impact on the sport helped to create a global culture in which art, sports and entertainment converged.

"Figure skaters must overcome adversity constantly, yet the rewards are great, and the process is extraordinary," Clark said. "Figure skating is a constant display of miracles — gliding on ice crystals, wearing jeweled costumes, while competing for gold. These stories are timeless."

Before Clark's monumental recent achievements at the World Figure and Fancy Skating Championships, he won the 1989 U.S. junior title, 1989 World Junior silver medal and was a 1998 Olympic alternate. Clark has spent much of his professional life reviving and promoting the four major art genres in figure and fancy skating: fine, performing, decorative and recording arts.

The World Figure and Fancy Skating



Shepherd Clark competes on black ice at the World Figure and Fancy Skating Championships.

Championships feature new figure artworks, including Diamond Cross-cuts, Maltese Cross, Swiss S, External Loops, Quad Figures and many more. All are skated on black ice for the enjoyment of the public, furthering the global art movement. In previous times, figures were limited to less intricate art.

It was Clark's mother, Suzanne Shelley Clark, who instilled a love skating figures in her son. A trophy in Suzanne Shelley Clark's name was established for extraordinary individuals to be awarded at the World Figure and Fancy Skating Championships. Dorothy Hamill presented Shepherd Clark with a gold medal following his first World Figure and Fancy Skating victory in 2017.

Calling it a "peace culture," Clark continues to marvel at the global skating family and how it rallies in the best and worst of times. Condolences poured in from around the world after the plane crash in January, which claimed the lives of 28 in the figure skating community.

"Skaters work hard and have a mutual respect for one another, regardless of national origin," Clark said. "We are a global family of love, overcoming adversity and producing beauty together. In my opinion, participants in figure skating culture have never been more relevant and important. We, as a skating family, exemplify love and respect for one another, producing and creating beauty on the ice."

For more information about the 2025 World Figure and Fancy Skating Championships, go to <https://bit.ly/WorldFigureFancyChamps>.

Picture of (from top to bottom) External Loops, Maltese Cross, Diamond Cross-cut and Creative Figure artworks on black ice skated by Shepherd Clark, World Figure & Fancy Skating champion



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WORLD FIGURE SPORT



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

1. Publication Title: **SKATING**

2. Publication Number: 0497-800

3. Filing Date: July 2025

4. Issue Frequency: Quarterly and July

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4

6. Annual Subscription Price (if any): \$20

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4):
United States Figure Skating Association
20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
United States Figure Skating Association
20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address):
United States Figure Skating Association
20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697
Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Troy Schwindt, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Kerstin Henneman, 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name: United States Figure Skating Association
Complete Mailing Address: 20 First St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906-3697

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

PS Form 3526-R, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (See Instructions page 4)) PSN: 7500-00-000-8866 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

CLASSIFIEDS

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE —
Don't miss the opportunity to reach potential customers by placing your classified ad in SKATING magazine. For more information contact Troy Schwindt at tschwindt@usfigureskating.org.

GO ONLINE — To see the latest appointments, tests passed and obituaries, go to usfigureskating.org. Click on About and SKATING magazine. The lists will appear starting Oct. 7.

13. Publication Title: **SKATING**

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **5/14/2025**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
		45,771	49,582
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)	(1) Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and internet requests from recipients, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	45,533	49,432
	(2) In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and internet requests from recipients, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	0	0
	(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
	(4) Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		45,533	49,432
d. Non-requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)	(1) Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	0	0
	(2) In-County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	0	0
	(3) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail (e.g., First-Class Mail®, nonrequestor copies mailed in excess of 10% limit mailed at Standard Mail® or Package Services rates)	237	150
	(4) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms, and other sources)	237	150
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		237	150
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e)		45,770	49,582
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #5))		0	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		45,770	49,582
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.4%	99.6%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Requested and Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
b. Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		45,533	49,432
c. Total Requested Copy Distribution (Line 15f) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		45,770	49,582
d. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		99.4	99.6

I certify that 80% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are legitimate requests or paid copies.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the **Full 2025** issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: *Troy Schwindt* Date: **7-9-2025**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

ANSWERS FROM PAGE 48

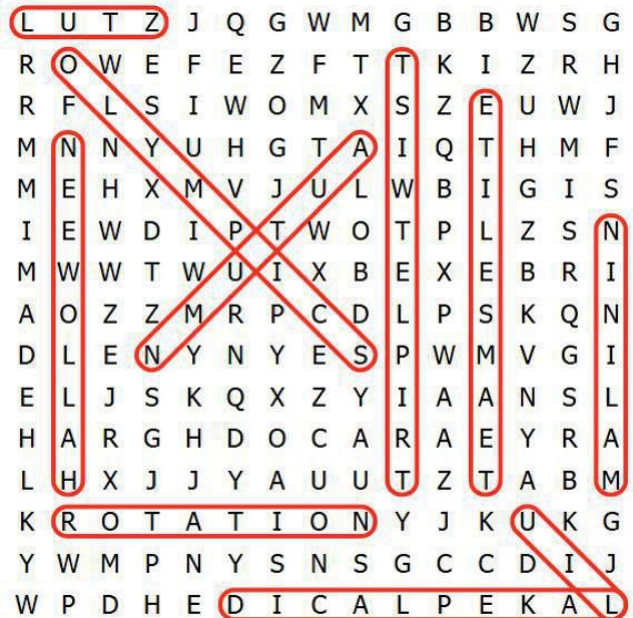




FIGURE SKATING
DON'T MISS A SPIN, STREAM LIVE

peacock 

Sign Up Now

PeacockTV.com

U.S. NATIONAL TEAM The United States National Figure Skating Team converged on Boston in mid-August for Champs Camp. Many of the Olympic hopefuls showcased their programs and received expert support on and off the ice during the event held at The Skating Club of Boston.



PHOTO BY JANET LIU