



Go Figure!

AUCKLAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CLUB NEWSLETTER

July 2004

The 2004 skating year is well underway with the Autumn Champs behind us and the Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club Champs scheduled for the 10th and 11th July 2004 at Botany Ice Rink. I wish all skaters well for the forthcoming competition.

Address label

May I take this opportunity of saying 'thank you' to my committee for all the help and assistance I receive, not only during competition times but with the running of the club.

We have a busy quarter ahead of us culminating with the New Zealand National Champs being held in Queenstown in September.

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Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Please send articles, items for sale etc to Delwyn Watson (del.watson@xtra.co.nz).

Autumn Championships Results 2004

Skate School Advanced

1. Luella Ware

4. Anna Brocklehurst

5. Kyria Yearsley

Elementary Ladies Under 10

1. Zoe Cameron-Brown

Intermediate Ladies

1. Emily Warne

2. Meret Vischer (Guest)

Elementary Ladies Over 10

1. Lisa Kuo
2. Alice Lilley
3. Emma Thorne
4. Emma Judd
5. Winnie Wong
6. Sarah Brown
7. Aimee Prendergast

Novice Ladies

1. Leanne Rudolph
2. Aravinda Marinkovich

Novice Men

1. Cameron Hems

Junior Ladies

1. Caitlin Haynes
2. Dee Pulman
3. Vicky Kuo

Junior Men

1. Joel Watson
2. Mathieu Wilson

Juvenile Ladies

1. Ariel Nadas
2. Libby-Jean Hay
3. Kestra Laurent
4. Courtney Bettink
5. Doris Kuo
6. Hannah McAvoy

Senior Ladies

1. Aslihan Aydin

Juvenile Ladies 12 or Over

1. Alexandra Wilson

Senior Men

1. Tristan Thode
2. Joel Watson

Juvenile Men 12 or Over

1. Jimmy Kuo

Pre-Primary Ladies

1. Christine Winspear
2. Dharini Marinkovich
3. Yuko Tanaka

Masters Diamond

1. Rachel Fisher

AIFSC Club Champs Photograph

Would all AIFSC Home Club Skaters who are intending to compete at the New Zealand Nationals in Queenstown please stay on the ice after the medal ceremony to have a group photo taken. All skaters should be wearing the AIFSC jackets.

Report on Four Continents Championships, Hamilton, Canada, 2004

by *Tristan Thode*



On Friday, January the sixteenth, Slava and I set out to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada for the Four Continents Championships. Our flight to Toronto was via Los Angeles and together with the van ride to Hamilton we travelled for approximately twenty hours. We arrived on Friday evening and official practices for the competition started on Sunday morning.

As we rode to the hotel I could see that outside there was a thick layer of snow everywhere. It reminded me of winter in Russia. We stayed at the Sheraton hotel, which was part of a big complex. The complex also contained the ice arena called the Copps Coliseum, a large shopping mall, and movie theatres. We didn't have to go outside except to catch the bus to the practice ice rink which was convenient as being outside for long periods was not pleasant in that temperature (about -15 degrees). It was a twenty-minute trip. In the practice rink there were two ice surfaces but we only used one. Inside the rink it was very cold but the ice was better than at the main arena, which was hot and had soft ice.

The practices were twice everyday, except for on days I competed. There was only one practice on those days, which were Thursday the twenty-second, and Saturday the twenty-fourth. In my practice group were three Canadians and one Korean. The practices were good for me all week. My triple Salchow, triple Toe loop and double axel jumps were very consistent all week. My triple Loop jump was going well as I was cleanly landing it sometimes, which was surprising as I was having trouble with it before I left New Zealand. My triple Flip and triple Lutz jumps were going ok but they are still cheated. So basically I was training well and felt good.

At the opening ceremony a representative from each country carried their country's flag, and stood by it on stage as the Canadian national anthem was played. As I was the only skater in the New Zealand team I had this

honour. After that there were some speeches followed by finger food.

For the short program I drew twelfth which was first in the third warm up group, which was all right with me because you don't have to wait around to skate after the warm up. My short program was good and I only made two minor mistakes. The first was on my triple flip after steps. It was a good one but I couldn't hold the landing so I did a three turn out of it and then did a landing position. My triple toe double toe and my double axel were both good. The other mistake I made was on my flying camel where I did the take off wrong and while I was spinning I had to recentre and it was slower than usual but I still managed to do eight revolutions. After the program I was in fifteenth place, which meant I was in the second warm up group, which was one of my goals for the short program so I was happy about that.

For the free skate I drew tenth so I was the last one to skate in my group. This was bad for me because you have to wait for about half an hour between the warm up and when you skate. I skipped the practice in the morning after my short program for recuperation but did the afternoon practice. My free program had good and bad parts but overall it was better than at Australian Nationals. I opened with a triple loop that I popped into a double, and then followed with a triple toe loop, half loop, triple toe loop jump sequence, which was good but I had to step out of the second jump. Slava told me not to try triple Lutz so I did double and I decided to just do double flip as well. This is because those two jumps aren't consistent enough and I didn't want to risk falling. I completed double axel double toe loop, a double axel by it self, a triple toe loop by it self, and a triple salchow as well. However I popped my second triple salchow. At the end of my program I stuffed my flying camel and changed it into a backspin. It was a strange program for me. At Australian Nationals I was too slow and this performance was faster. I made a few minor mistakes and popped jumps but I did not fall at all. And it was the first time that I had landed three triple jumps in a competition, which was great. I didn't make any major mistakes and with more experience

in competitions like this the quality of my program will improve. Overall I was happy with it because I had been training hard since Australian Nationals and that work led to the improvement in performances, which is satisfying. I came eighteenth in the free program and seventeenth overall and this was a good result for me. I was a bit surprised with the level of skating with my direct opponents. The usual people I am directly against are the Mexicans, South Africans and Australians. I thought the Mexicans were much better this year as all of them could do at least two different triple jumps and two of the South Africans had at least three different triple jumps. However I realise that the only thing that matters is what you do in competition so I just concentrated on my own skating as this is the only thing I can control, and I had two good skates.

After my free program I was given a present and card from a Lord of the Rings fan club. Because I am from New Zealand they have adopted me as their skater to cheer for, which I thought was delightful.

Instead of a closing banquet, this year there was a closing brunch, which was on Sunday morning and then the skating exhibition was in the afternoon. Luckily I got to go to Niagara Falls with the Australians and some of the Russian coaches. It was freezing out there but it was worth it to see the Falls. The bottom of it was nearly all frozen over but the Falls were running strong and the whole thing was huge. The spray from the Falls had frozen on the trees around it making them look really pretty with thousands of icicles on the little branches. It was good to experience despite the weather and I was glad to have seen it.

Mladost Competition in Croatia by Aravinda Marinkovich

In the beginning of March, My Grandfather and I, along with my friend Morgan left for a 3-week trip to Croatia. My grandfather was born in Croatia and was keen to show us his homeland. We were pleased to finally arrive in Zagreb after waiting in the Frankfurt Airport

The Right and Wrong Approach to Skating

for 6 hours without food!!! We stayed in 2 different hotels. The first one in old Zagreb was my favourite; every morning for breakfast Morgan and I ate about 6 chocolate croissants each and custard pastries. They were so delicious that once we went down for a second breakfast at 11. As the competition drew near, we moved to a second hotel closer to the rink.

The competition was really exciting, we watched some amazing skating and made some new friends. The atmosphere at the rink was really friendly. The standard of skating varied greatly. Among the best were the Japanese: the 9-year-old Japanese girl in Morgan's grade was doing consistent double axel combinations and triple salchow, and toe loops. The 13-year-old girl who won novice was consistently landing triple, triple, triple combinations and triple axel combinations! Morgan and I were absolutely amazed!!! I didn't skate my best but I was still pleased to be part of the competition .

We left for Pula by bus soon after the competition; the Roman Coliseum there blew me away! From there we made our way down the coast by bus to stay with relatives. We stayed in a village of 10-15 houses near my Grandfather's birthplace. In the days that followed we visited the Island of Kortula, where we saw Marco Polo's house; Dubrovnik, an ancient coastal city surrounded by a massive stone wall; and Makatska, a beautiful tourist beach.

All too soon it was time to head home. Looking back on it all, I feel very lucky to have had this opportunity! Morgan and I had so much fun and we share so many happy memories of this trip together!



Morgan and I sitting on the wall of Dubrovnik

The Right Stuff

Have you ever wondered why athletes who have similar talents and abilities differ so much in their results? When all of the skating is done, some make it – some don't!

There are many variables in a skater's life – from coaches, parents, equipment and programs to availability of ice time. But even when things are not even, some skaters excel even if they are at a disadvantage, while others fall by the wayside even if they have everything at their disposal.

Sometimes it is called potential, sometimes it's called talent – whatever it is called, it can be narrowed down to who has "The Right Stuff!" The subject can be debated but a few factors are constant. Let's take a look at some of them – What has the Right Stuff? Who doesn't?

Those Who Don't – Signs Of The Wrong Stuff

1. *Appearance* – sloppy and uncaring, they look like they rolled out of bed and never looked in the mirror.
2. *Promptness* – They are always a little late, chronically canceling lessons, going by the rule Last One On/First One Off.
3. *Forgetfulness* – Forever forgetting their skates, their tape and their clothes, these skaters have entire wardrobes in the rink lost & found.
4. *Inability to Practice* – They have a need for constant lessons; otherwise, the public skating mode kicks in. You can pick these skaters out, as they skate on the outside perimeter of the rink in circles, occasionally throwing in a spin or jump to keep the coach off their backs.
5. *Stalling Techniques* – Just when figures are nearly gone from the landscape, we find out that the art of stalling is alive and well. Following are the top five time-wasting techniques.

- Retying skates
 - Getting a Drink of Water
 - Taking a Bathroom Break
 - Talking during Lessons about Everything *but* Skating
 - Taking their Sweatshirt/Sweater on-off/on-off.
6. *Hide & Seek* – It's time for their lesson? Try to find these skaters. It's probably time for

hot drinks and chips at the snack bar.

7. *Parents Who Coach* – These parents take over ownership of the sport from their child. Usually the child shuts down after the novelty wears off.

8. *Low Motivation* – These skaters do not pay attention to the world of skating. They know little or nothing about top skaters.

Those Who Have It – Signs Of The Right Stuff

1. *Appearance* – Always sharp, giving careful attention to grooming, these skaters look like champions.
2. *Promptness* – First ones on the ice, last ones off? Watch out for these skaters. They are the best!
3. *Organised* – Totally committed, they care about what they are doing and have respect for themselves, their equipment and the sport.
4. *Ability to Practice* – They actually practice what they learn in lessons. In fact, they actually have new ideas about their skating ready to show their coach at each lesson.
5. *Focus Techniques* – They make every effort to garner every bit of information during their lessons. They never need any of the time waster's techniques.
6. *Ready for Action* – They're warmed up, stretched out and raring to go.
7. *Taking Ownership of their Skating*. Their skating belongs to them. Their parents understand (or they make their parents understand) being supportive and positive in their influence.
8. *Enthusiastic* – They're excited about skating, study the sport, see shows, attend events, read about skating. They know the top skater's names and have heroes and role models in the sport.

So, what does this potential, talent thing really come down to? Everyone is on the lookout for people who want to skate: the coaches, the associations, the agents, the rink owners. The whole issue of "The Right Stuff" need not be analysed scientifically with dozens of experts, but rather can be found in one coach's simple sentence: "I don't want the people who *want* to skate. I want the people who *have* to skate."

skater profile



Name: Yuko Tanaka
Grade: Pre-primary Ladies
Date of Birth: 23 August 1993
Place of Birth: New Zealand
Profession: Student
Home Club: AIFSC
Main Training Rink: Paradise Ice Arena, Botany Downs
Year Started Skating: 2002
Coach: Chris Blong, Rosanna Armstrong and Valerie White
Choreographer: Valerie White
Previous Coach: None
Hobbies: Ice Skating and playing the piano
Main Achievements to date:
Landing her double loop and double salchow

Trophies

A plea from the competition organisers: Can skaters please clean their trophies with Silvo before returning them for the next competition. We get them back almost black sometimes or cleaned with what looks like steel wool or other silver eroding agents (culprits will remain nameless for now)."

Olympic Silver Keyrings

Highly detailed 3D design. Good quality, antique silver finish with Olympic Figure Skating Design. These are now collectors items and are being sold in the USA at NZ\$27.00. First in, first served as there are only a few left.

Cost to buy here NZ\$22.00

Please contact: Delwyn Watson, del.watson@xtra.co.nz



For Sale

Graf Edmonton Special, Ladies White figure skates.

Size 7.5, Wide fitting. Almost new – only worn for 3 months. Excellent condition. Cost \$850 - sell for \$450.

Phone: Laura Mills (03) 384 3385, mills_l@xtra.co.nz

Medal Test Passes

Inter-gold Free:

Vicky Kuo

Inter-gold stroking:

Dee Pulman

Inter-silver Stroking:

Tao Lin

Bronze Stroking:

Yuko Tanaka

Inter-bronze Free:

Jimmy Kuo, Alex Wilson

Inter-bronze Stroking:

Courtney Bettink, Ariel Nadas,
Doris Kuo, Jimmy Kuo, Lisa Kuo
Christine Winspear

Preliminary Free:

Lisa Kuo, Alice Lilley

Preliminary Stroking:

Siobahn Brown, Kyzsana Leiataua,
Alice Lilley

Elementary Free:

Esther Gan, Emma Thorne,
Winnie Wong

Elementary Stroking:

Jahne Potgieter, Emma Thorne,
Winnie Wong

Masters Test 1:

Catherine Rezaei

Masters Test 2:

Catherine Rezaei

Happy Birthday!

May

24 Winnie Wong
28 Melissa Gallagher

June

14 Esther Gan
22 Anna Brocklehurst

July

1 Alice Lilley
7 Dharini Marinkovich
7 Keryn Haynes
16 Rachel Fisher
19 Anne Wong

August

6 Alexandra Rout
8 Emma Judd
23 Yuko Tanaka

September

17 Alicia McNabb
20 Kestra Laurent