

Albany Figure Skating Club

INK FROM THE RINK

FEBRUARY 2008

CONGRATULATIONS!



**Empire State Winter Games
February 22-24, 2008;
Lake Placid, NY**

Helen Serafini:

- Intermediate Ladies Group A: 4th Place
- Intermediate Ladies Final: Helen skated a clean program in the Finals and finished 4th overall!



Christina Lombardi:

- Intermediate Ladies: 12th Place

Adi White:

- Intermediate Ladies: 17th Place

Emma Briceland:

- Intermediate Ladies: 16th Place

Hannah Keehan:

- Intermediate Ladies: 12th Place

Stephanie Lombardi:

- Intermediate Ladies: 13th Place

Amanda Gemitti:

- Intermediate Ladies: 16th Place

Achilles Edge Open Juvenile Team:

- Intermediate Synchro: 3rd Place

**Pittsfield Basic Skills Competition
February 9th Pittsfield, MA:**

Amy Barba:

- Basic 6: 1st Place



**January 2008 Lake Placid ISI
Championships Updates:**

Also competed:

Gianna Foley:

- Freestyle 2: 3rd Place

Rachel Staudt:

- Freestyle 4: 1st Place
- Artistic 4: 1st Place
- Dance 2: 1st Place
- Interpretive 4: 2nd Place
- Footwork 4: 3rd Place



SYNCHRO NEWS

The Achilles Edge synchro teams continued their winning ways in February. All three teams once again medaled in the Connecticut Synchronized Skating Classic on February 10th. This major synchro competition, held at the Wesleyan University skating rink, featured teams from all over the northeast and New England.

Our Beginner team did a wonderful job, taking 4th place in the Beginner 2 level. The Pre-Juvenile team just gets better and better, placing 4th against a tough field of 12 competitors. Finally, the Open Juvenile team turned in a flawless performance, earning a Gold medal in a field of 14 teams.

Congratulations to all the synchro skaters who have worked so hard to make the Achilles Edge teams some of the best teams in the Northeast. A big thank you also goes out to our coaches, Liz Spiller and Rocky Irish, and to the team manager, Dawn Hopsicker, and her team of parent helpers.

The Achilles Edge Open Juvenile team competed in the Empire State Winter Games in Lake Placid for the first time on February 23rd. This was a great experience for all the skaters, who also got to participate in the

Opening Ceremonies on Friday. The Ceremonies included the entrance of all 1,400 winter sports athletes, the lighting of the cauldron, and a laser light show – just like at the Olympics!

The team performed spectacularly, skating a longer, more difficult Intermediate-level program against tough competition, and taking the Bronze medal. They were cheered on by a large and noisy contingent of family and friends who were extremely proud of the team. Thanks again to our tireless coaches, Liz and Rocky, and to Dawn H. and all the parents.

All three teams will participate in their final competition of the season in the Skating Club of Central New York's Skate Challenge Competition in Cicero, NY on March 2nd.

Questions about our synchronized skating teams? Contact Dawn Hopsicker @ 357-0934 or jhopsick@nycap.rr.com.





BASIC SKILLS WINTER 2008

This year for the first time our school age and adult skaters will be doing group numbers to music during our Spring Ice Show on March 29! They have been working on learning their programs since January and are looking forward to showing off their new skating skills. There will be 5 groups skating to fun music including:

- Happy Days
- Lemon Drops
- Rock-n-Robin
- Singing in the Rain
- You Have a Friend in Me

They are also looking forward to seeing what our club members can do.

Albany Figure Skating Club members please come and cheer our Basic Skills skaters on!

Thanks to Donna, our skating director, and all the coaches, Liz, Nikki, Karla, and Maria for all their hard work in making the Basic Skills program and this ice show a success! Thanks also to our volunteer skaters: Adi, Sarah, Lukas, Ellory, Lizzy and Megan who truly do make a difference!

Questions? Contact Janet Sotola
jsotola@nycap.rr.com or 861-6705



Happy Birthday!

Rachel Roberts: February 4
Amy Barba: February 16
Shea Coleman Foley: February 20
Shelby Lynn Fichter: February 19
Samara Finkle: February 19
Erin O'Sullivan: February 24
Lukas Sotola: February 8

SPRING CLINIC REGISTRATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE:

Application deadline April 1 for early member discounted rate of only \$265.00! Non-AFSC members welcome, early rate for non-members is \$300.00.

Clinic will run from April 14-18, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM and include on ice work on jumps, spins, presentation and footwork and off-ice classes. On Friday April 18th skaters will perform in an ice show. This clinic's theme is "Broadway on Ice."

Skaters must be 8 years or older and ISI Freestyle 1 to be eligible. Freestyle 1 elements are:

- 2 foot spin
 - Spiral
 - Half-flip
 - Backward edges
- Other pre-requisite elements would include:
- Stroking
 - Forward crossovers
 - Backward crossovers
 - 3-turns
 - Mohawks
 - Forward edges

ARTISTRY IN MOTION CLINICS

Artistry in Motion Performance School for Figure Skaters was held this winter break at Union College and the Knickerbacker Arena. Several of our skaters participated including:

- Lukas Sotola
- Aislyn DiRisio
- Isabelle Lombardi
- Stephanie Lombardi
- Christina Lombardi
- Rachel Roberts
- Catherine Roberts
- Catherine Amodeo
- Alyssa Hopsicker
- Ellory Smith
- Samara Finkle
- Katie Howard
- Emily Digman
- Lily Digman
- Rachel Galloway
- Brendyn Lupe
- Abigail Smentkowski

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. Seeking 3 adult volunteers to serve on Test Committee. This is a (minimum) two-year commitment to serve the club by assisting the Test Chair (Paulette Morgan til 7/08; Diane Bloustein for '08). As a committee, duties include working w/ Board to set test dates; securing judges for test sessions; arranging judge's travel, hospitality (food, blankets, heaters) and gifts; arrange for skater hospitality (water); preparing test registration form, distributing and posting on website; collecting registration forms and setting test schedule; attending test sessions and lining up additional volunteers as needed to register skaters, play music, announce, and photocopy results; registering tests w/ USFS; distributing test certificates/patches at Annual banquet, etc. AFSC holds 2 sessions per year (Oct and April). This is a great opportunity for someone to serve the AFSC in planning and implementing important USFS test sessions. Please give this serious thought as we rely on volunteers to continue offering the excellent programs of the AFSC. Submit your name to Laurie Lombardi by March 1 please: bricelal@acp.edu.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

1. AFSC Members -- The Albany FSC Achilles Edge Synchronized Skating Teams are again offering beautiful fresh flower bouquets for sale to parents, relatives, and friends of skaters participating in the AFSC Spring Ice Show on March 29, 2008.

Arrangements have been made with The Floral Garden for special bouquet packages for our Club. If you have ordered flowers for our previous shows, you know how nice these bouquets are!

A single long-stemmed rose with greens is \$5, and a lovely mixed bouquet is only \$10. Orders must be received by March 23, 2008.

Information about the sale and an order form is attached. If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please contact me at 475-9419 or pmorgan3@nycap.rr.com.
2. Lake Placid ISI Championship Souvenir items now available for purchase online. There are lots of new items that were not available at the competition. Check them out at www.cafepress.com/riverdaleice.

Next year's competition will again be on the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. Save the date!

3. Smucker's Stars on Ice tickets now for sale: \$18.00 each! Seats are in sections 127 & 128. If you are interested in purchasing tickets send requests with check to Albany FSC to:
Debbie Sgroi
76 Fields End Drive
Glenmont, NY 12077

4. Smucker's Stars on Ice Contest for your chance to win Four VIP Tickets to the 2009 Tour & Meet & Greet with the Cast! Simply decorate an ice skate adding your own creative touch – paint, glitter, decoupage ... even bejewel! Use your imagination! The only requirement is that the skate must include the Smucker's Stars on Ice logo. Please visit our website to download the logo:

http://www.starsonice.com/FunStuff/StarsOnIce_Contest.aspx A panel of judges will select the Top 5 ice skates from all entries. The Top 5 skates will be presented to the 2008 Smucker's Stars on Ice Cast for selection the grand prizewinner. The grand prizewinner will receive:

- Four VIP Tickets to the 2008-09 U.S. Smucker's Stars on Ice performance
- Meet & Greet with the Smucker's Stars on Ice Cast
- The Winning Skate Entry autographed by the 2007-08 Smucker's Stars on Ice Cast
- Smucker's Stars on Ice Gift Basket

Four Runners-Up will each receive a Smucker's Stars on Ice Gift Basket. So get your creative juices flowing! Submit your "masterpiece" to:

Smucker's Stars on Ice
Decorate a Skate Contest
c/o IMG
1360 East 9th St., Suite 100
Cleveland, OH 44114

All entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2008 and received by March 21, 2008. Best of luck to all!



QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Thank you Paulette Morgan for this information for our skaters and parents. The original version of this is available @ <http://www.rit.edu/~jwsldc/GFSC/scoring.html>, thanks to Genesee FSC!

USFS Competition Scoring Rules

By Wick Smith

Perhaps the following paragraphs will help you to better understand the scoring system and to feel more a part of the actual competition.

A panel of three, five, seven, or nine judges rates each skater's performance with marks ranging from 0.0 to 6.0 in 0.1 steps with 6.0 representing perfection. Each judge's marks are then used to determine the ranking, or placement, of each skater by that judge. The skater with the highest marks from a judge receives first place from that judge, the skater with the second highest marks receives second place, and so on. These placements are often referred to as "Ordinals". The winner of the event is the skater who is placed first by the majority of the judges. The second, third, and remaining places are determined in a similar manner using the same "majority of placements" principle.

Rarely, if ever, do judges completely agree on the placement of each and every skater in an event. Each judge determines his or her marks and, hence, placements are determined separately so no judge knows how other judges have placed the skaters until after the entire event has concluded. The scoring system handles this by a series of computations and tiebreakers. Here is how it works:

Suppose an event has five judges and nine skaters and those placements of the skaters by each judge have already been determined as follows:

JUDGES

	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-
SKATER 1	6	3	5	4	5
SKATER 2	5	6	8	6	7
SKATER 3	3	4	2	3	2
SKATER 4	8	5	7	5	3

SKATER 5	4	7	6	7	6
SKATER 6	9	9	9	8	9
SKATER 7	1	1	3	1	1
SKATER 8	7	8	4	9	8
SKATER 9	2	2	1	2	4

Since there are five judges, a majority consists of three or more. The scoring system looks at each skater, and determines the "lowest majority" of placements for that skater by asking "What is the lowest placement given to that skater *by the majority* (three or more) of the judges? SKATER 1's lowest majority (LM) is 5. This means that at least three of the judges (in this case, 4 of them) gave SKATER 1 a *placement* of 5 or better. This is typically abbreviated 4/5 and is read as "four placements of 5 or better". Remember, a *lower* placement is better. SKATER 2's lowest majority is 6. Three judges gave SKATER 2 a placement of 6 or better. LM = 3/6 SKATER 3's lowest majority is 3. Four judges gave SKATER 3 a placement of 3 or better. LM = 4/3 SKATER 4's lowest majority is 5. Three judges gave SKATER 4 a placement of 5 or better. LM = 3/5 The scoring system would determine the lowest majority for the remaining skaters in a similar manner. They would be:

SKATER 5	3 placements of 6 or better	LM = 3/6
SKATER 6	5 placements of 9 or better	LM = 5/9
SKATER 7	4 first places	LM = 4/1
SKATER 8	4 placements of 8 or better	LM = 4/8
SKATER 9	4 placements of 2 or better	LM = 4/2

Here, then, are the results of our lowest majority (LM) search:

JUDGES

	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	LM
SKATER 1	6	3	5	4	5	4/5
SKATER 2	5	6	8	6	7	3/6
SKATER 3	3	4	2	3	2	4/3
SKATER 4	8	5	7	5	3	3/5
SKATER 5	4	7	6	7	6	3/6
SKATER 6	9	9	9	8	9	5/9
SKATER 7	1	1	3	1	1	4/1
SKATER 8	7	8	4	9	8	4/8
SKATER 9	2	2	1	2	4	4/2

Have you figured out who won yet? Read the numbers farthest to the right. They represent the majorities. SKATER 7 is first. SKATER 9

is second. SKATER 3 is third. They received majority placements for first, second and third respectively.

By now, however, you may have noticed several inconsistencies in the majorities. There are no majorities for fourth or seventh place, and two majorities for fifth and sixth place. Here is where the tie breaking rules must be used. They are as follows: Whenever two or more skaters are awarded lowest majorities for the same place, the following tie breaking criteria are applied in order:

1. Greater majority (GM) - a larger number of judges making up the majority
2. Total Ordinals of Majority (TOM) - fewer total ordinals (placements) of the judges making up the majority
3. Total Ordinals (TO) - fewer total ordinals (placements) from *all* judges

Should the preceding rules fail to break the tie, all skaters still tied are awarded the place in question and one or more subsequent places are then skipped. For example, if two skaters are tied for third place, both are awarded third place and fourth place is not awarded.

We can now finish the placements for our event in progress. There is no majority for fourth place, but there are two skaters with majorities for fifth place. Tiebreaker rule number 1 (GM) works here. SKATER 1 has four judges in the majority while SKATER 4 has only three judges in the majority. SKATER 1 is awarded fourth place and SKATER 4 is awarded fifth place. There are two majorities for sixth place. SKATER 2 and SKATER 5 both have 3 judges in the majority and so we must go on to tie breaker rule number 2 (TOM) to try to determine who is awarded the placement in question. SKATER 2's lowest majority of sixth places come from one 5 and two 6's for a TOM of 17. SKATER 5's lowest majority of sixth places come from one 4 and two 6's for a TOM of 16. Thus, by lower TOM, SKATER 5 is awarded sixth place and SKATER 2 is awarded seventh place. The remaining two places are awarded by majority placements. There are no more ties. SKATER 8 is eighth and SKATER 6 is ninth.

Here, then, are the results of this event:
JUDGES

- - - - -
1- 2- 3- 4- 5- LM

1 SKATER 1 1 3 1 1 4/1
7

2	SKATER 9	2	2	1	2	4	4/2	
3	SKATER 3	3	4	2	3	2	4/3	
4	SKATER 1	6	3	5	4	5	4/5	
5	SKATER 4	8	5	7	5	3	3/5	
6	SKATER 5	4	7	6	7	6	3/6	TOM = 16
7	SKATER 2	5	6	8	6	7	3/6	TOM = 17
8	SKATER 8	7	8	4	9	8	4/8	
9	SKATER 6	9	9	9	8	9	5/9	



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

1. **March 1:** Deadline for Spring Ice Early Bird registration!
2. **March 23:** Last date to order flowers for your skater for the Spring Ice Show!
3. **March 29, 3:30-6:30:** Spring Ice Show at the Bethlehem YMCA.
4. **March 30, 4:00:** Smucker's Stars on Ice @ Times Union Center. For tickets see Debbie Sgroi.
5. **April 1:** Spring Clinic Registration forms due! After this date a late registration fee will be applied.
6. **April 14-18:** Spring Clinic Week 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM @ the ACHF.
7. **Friday April 25:** AFSC Annual Rewards Banquet. More information will be available soon.
8. **July 7-11:** AFSC Summer Clinic Session 1 @ the Albany County Hockey Facility.
9. **July 28-August 1:** AFSC Summer Clinic Session 2 @ the Albany County Hockey Facility.
10. **Saturday October 25:** 2nd Annual Albany FSC Basic Skills & Open Competition.



SKATING ON TV

- **March 1, 9:30-11:30 PM, CN8:** Nancy Kerrigan's World of Skating Championships
- **March 2, 4:00-7:00 PM, ESPN2:** 2008 Four Continents Championship
- **March 8, 5:00-7:00, CN8:** Nancy Kerrigan's World of Skating Championships
- **March 15, 5:00-7:00, CN8:** Nancy Kerrigan's World of Skating Championships
- **March 20, 7:30-11:00 PM, ESPN:** 2008 World Championships
- **March 21, 7:30-11:00 PM, ESPN:** 2008 World Championships
- **March 22, 3:00-6:00 ABC:** 2008 World Championships
- **March 22, 9:30-11:30 PM, CN8:** Nancy Kerrigan's World of Skating Championships
- **March 23, 5:00-7:00, ESPN:** 2008 World Championships
- **March 29, 7:30-9:30 PM, CN8:** Nancy Kerrigan's World of Skating Championships

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS FOR THE SEASON:

USFS COMPETITIONS:

1. **March 1-2:** 6th Annual Skate Challenge Cup, Cicero, NY.
2. **March 7-9:** Green Mountain Open, South Burlington, VT.
3. **March 8-9:** 2008 Eastern Adult Sectional Championships in Wayne, NJ. Email Anne Marie Bellantuono @ idealtiley1@aol.com
4. **March 29, 2008:** The Garren, given by Hudson Mohawk FSC, Troy, NY.
5. **April 25-27, 2008:** 2008 Colonial Open www.thecolonialopen.com/index.html for applications. Application deadline March 14.
6. **May 16-18, 2008:** New England Figure Skating Summer Challenge www.newenglandfsc.com/summerchalle

[nqe08/](#) for information and application.

Application deadline April 4.

7. **June 14, 2008:** Ice Time Skating Academy's Fourth Annual Basic Skills & Beyond Competition (Basic Skills levels through Preliminary), Newburgh, NY. www.icetimesports.com/Basic%20Skills%20Competition%202008.pdf
Application deadline May 15.
8. **June 26-28, 2008:** Lake Placid Summer Figure Skating Championships. For more information & applications: www.lakeplacidskating.com/newsite/competitions/free_skating/index.php
9. **July 25-27, 2008:** 2008 Champlain Valley Open held in Burlington, VT www.champlainvalleyskatingclub.org.

ISI COMPETITIONS:

1. **April 5 & 6, 2008:** Saratoga Springs Invitational, Saratoga, NY. Registration forms are now available on their website: www.saratogaspringsfsc.org.

UPCOMING USFS TEST SESSIONS:

- **March 28 or 30:** Troy, NY given by HMFSC. www.hmfsc.org/media/2008TestApplication.pdf. **Application deadline March 14.**
- **Sunday March 30:** @ Saratoga Springs, Weibel Rink given by SSFSC. Check the Saratoga FSC website for updates: www.saratogaspringsfsc.org and registration form.
- **Sunday April 27:** @ Albany County Hockey Facility offered by Albany FSC. Applications and more information will be available in March.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AFSC MEMBERSHIP: 122

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

- **William John Fichter**

BASIC SKILLS MEMBERSHIP: 55

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP TO ALBANY FIGURE SKATING CLUB?

Contact Membership Chair Janet Sotola @ jsotola@nycap.rr.com for information & registration form or go to our website: www.albanyfsc.org.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday March 25th 6:30-8:30 @ the Delmar YMCA. All are welcome to attend.

