



# INK FROM THE RINK

## DECEMBER 2009

**GOOD LUCK!**



2010 U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships

December 14-19, 2009

Hoover Arena, Strongsville, Ohio

Olivia Serafini qualified for and competed at the 2010 US Junior Figure Skating Championships in Strongsville, Ohio. She placed 13<sup>th</sup> out of 20 skaters in her qualifying round and scored a total of 49.12 points! Olivia was also featured in our December 30 SkateFest and congratulated with a beautiful bouquet of flowers for her accomplishments!



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Senior Awards Presented to:**

- Emma Briceland



- Amanda Gemmitti



- Amie Skoda



- Maddie Olberg



- Quinn Desiderio



- Aislyn DiRiso



- Helen Serafini



**Saratoga Springs FSC Test Session November 22:**

Sarah Booker:

- Dutch Waltz
- Fiesta Tango
- Rhythm Blues
- Preliminary Dance Test

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Skaneateles Figure Skating Invitational Dec. 4-6:**

Amanda Gemmitti:

- Intermediate Ladies Short Program: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Intermediate Ladies Long Program: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**2009 First Night December 31 Saratoga Springs FSC:**

- Emma Briceland
- Lea Sposito
- Ginny Mahoney
- Rachel Pierce

**Albany FSCs Winter Ice Show December 20:**

- Achilles Edge Pre-Juvenile Synchronized Skating Team
- Achilles Edge Intermediate Synchronized Skating Team
- Rachel Bluth & Gianna Foley
- Hannah Conroy
- Amanda Smentkowski
- Emily Mueller
- Maya Septer
- Sabrina Zayas
- Jennifer Glenn
- Amanda Gemmitti
- Desiree Larrivee
- Trisha Roohan
- Morgan Gillies
- Ellory Smith

- Lea Sposito
- Amanda Zeng
- Issabella Hussey
- Mary Elizabeth Roddy
- Abby Smentkowski
- Julia Geangrande
- Kylar Coleman Foley
- Christina Lombardi
- Taylor Kennedy
- Stephanie Lombardi
- Gina DiNapoli
- Emma Briceland
- Jessica Marinstein
- Rachel Bluth
- Shea Coleman Foley
- Isabelle Lombardi
- Gianna Foley
- Lukas Sotola
- Samantha Zayaz
- Catherine Amodeo
- Izabella Martin
- Danielle Sgroi
- Katie Howard
- Grace DiRisio
- Colleen Sommerville

### **Talented Skater also Talented Runner!**

Shea Coleman Foley competed at the Junior Olympic Cross Country National Championships on December 12th. All competitors there had participated in Regional Qualifiers with the top 20 from each region advancing to nationals. Shea finished 49th out of the 271 competitors in her age group with a time of 12:26 for the 3k race. Reno, Nevada provided an extra challenge having several inches of snow on the ground on Friday with an additional 6 inches accumulating the night and morning before the race.



### **SYNCHRO NEWS**

#### **Cape Cod Classic**

The Pre-Juvenile team continued its winning ways in December, taking the Pewter Medal (4<sup>th</sup> place) in a field of 12 teams at the Cape Cod Classic in Bourne, Massachusetts on December

12<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all of our Pre-Juvenile skaters and to Coach Stephanie Hunter for a great job!

The Intermediate team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in a very competitive field of 8 teams, and was very happy that they significantly improved their point scores over the previous competition. The Intermediate skaters and coaches are working very hard to make sure that this trend continues!

Both teams are looking forward to their next competition, the Colonial Classic, in Lowell, Massachusetts on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. This major synchro competition attracts teams from all over the Northeast and New England. The teams will also skate at the Eastern Synchronized Skating Championships in Lowell January 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Winter Ice Show**

The synchro teams were pleased to showcase their skills for the home crowd at the Albany FSC Winter Ice Show at the Bethlehem YMCA on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Both teams performed beautifully, and received a warm welcome from the large audience.

#### **Pasta Party**

The Pre-Juvenile and Intermediate synchro teams enjoyed a fun pasta party at the home of Pre-Juvenile team member Jessica Marinstein after practice on December 27<sup>th</sup>. In addition to chowing down on pasta, salad, and dessert, the skaters also played games and had fun creating their own individual door hangers to bring with them to competitions. Special thanks to Robyn and Ed Marinstein for hosting this special end-of-year event!

#### **SkateFest!**

The synchro teams were featured at the Albany FSC's First Annual SkateFest on Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. This fun event was part of USFS's National Skating Month, and was aimed at introducing skating to new participants of all ages. The synchro teams performed for the crowd in an opening skating exhibition, and then worked as teachers or assistants helping new

skaters learn the basics, or manning informational tables. Everyone seemed to have a great time. Thank you to all the synchro skaters for sharing their expertise, and to all the synchro families who volunteered to help with the event.

The synchro teams also held a bake sale fundraiser at the SkateFest event in order to raise money to purchase a banner with the Achilles Edge logo on it that can be displayed at synchro competitions. Thanks to the synchro families' baking talents (and lots of hungry event participants), almost \$100 was raised toward the purchase of the banner.

#### **Hewitt's Holiday Fundraiser**

The Achilles Edge Synchronized Skating Team sold coupons for Hewitt's fresh Christmas trees and wreaths in November and December, earning \$976 for the synchro program. Thank you to all the synchro families who sold the tree and wreath coupons, and to AFSC families who purchased them. Special thank yous go out to Elaine Briceland and Spencer Skoda for organizing this event.

**Interested in Joining Synchro?** For more information about our successful synchro program, please contact team manager Dawn Hopsicker at [jhopsick@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jhopsick@nycap.rr.com) or assistant manager Tara DiRisio at [tdirisio@verizon.net](mailto:tdirisio@verizon.net).



### **USFS NATIONAL SKATING MONTH SKATEFEST DEC 30**

The SkateFest was a greater success than anyone could have imagined! We had 59 skaters including preschoolers (our youngest was only 2!) and we had

some adult skaters. Everyone enjoyed the exhibition, free lesson & freeskate time.

The volunteer coaches did a FANTASTIC JOB! They not only offered to help in droves but then they actually did some effective teaching and had fun at the same time.

All the AFSC parents who were at the rink also pitched in before and after the event. My sister, who attended with my niece, said this even felt like a true "club" event meaning all the club members and their families worked together to make this happen and it showed!

The Times Union & Schenectady Gazette attended so we got a little publicity. We also got some new skaters for our Basic Skills Program.

Paula Wagener is also going to put a little blurb and a photo or 2 in her next issue of "Inside Skating" magazine. If you are interested in subscribing to her magazine the website is: [www.insideskating.org](http://www.insideskating.org).

Below are some of the best photos of the event – you can see how much fun everyone had!

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of our sponsors!

- ✓ Albany Academy for their generous donation of 2 hours if ice time
- ✓ Price Chopper
- ✓ Hannaford
- ✓ I Love Books
- ✓ Mercato's Restaurant
- ✓ Goldstock's
- ✓ North American Hockey Systems: Dave Randall
- ✓ The Paper Mill
- ✓ Del Lanes, Delmar
- ✓ Cutting Edge Sciences: Dyke Naughton
- ✓ J Nagengast Florist

It was a wonderful even which was made even better because of all the help during the event from club members – including skaters & parents!



#### BASIC SKILLS 2009-10

The first week of our 2010 Winter Basic Skills Program has passed and we have more skaters than ever registered. We have our youngest skater yet – only 2 ½ and this Sunday he was a little tired because it was nap time. Next week he will get his lesson early so he can enjoy it! We have more advanced skaters than ever before also because of returning skaters. We have 2 groups of Basic 2 & 2 groups of Basic 3, as well as 13 Finer Edge Skaters (Basic 4-6).

**HELP NEEDED!** If any Albany FSC skaters would like to volunteer on the ice and help out we need you! Each of our skaters groups should have at least 1 volunteer and sometimes need more. If you are interested would welcome you! And remember if you volunteer your time with our Basic Skills program you would be eligible for our Apprentice Coach's program when you are 16. Your volunteer hours are also good for those college resume's!

If you are interested in volunteering for or getting more information about our Basic Skills Program contact either Jayne Deane White @ [jdeanesk8@verizon.net](mailto:jdeanesk8@verizon.net) or Janet Sotola @ [jsotola@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jsotola@nycap.rr.com).



#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

1. **January 3:** Basic Skills 2010 Winter Program begins at the Albany Academy Fieldhouse from 12:30-2:30.



#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. Treasurer Needed: Our illustrious treasurer, Colm Kennedy, will be completing his term in May and the board will need a new treasurer. Contact Laurie Briceland Lombardi if you are interested.
2. Skaters needed to help our coaches during the 2010 Winter Basic Skills Program. See "Basic Skills" for more information.



#### Happy Birthday!

- Emma Briceland: December 3
- Rachael Gray: December 5
- Ellory Smith: December 6
- Pai Worapatkitkul: December 6
- Isabelle Lombardi: December 14
- Sarah Rubin: December 16
- Aislyn DiRisio: December 18
- Judy Min: December 18
- William Fichter: December 20
- Olivia Serafini: December 20
- Rachel Bluth: December 29

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. **Inside Skating Magazine Subscription Discount:** As some of you know Lukas & our recent SkateFest will be featured in a future issue of Inside Skating Magazine. Right now Paula Wagener is offering discount on subscriptions: During the week of January 25 & 31 subscriptions will be buy 1 get 2 free! This includes present subscribers. You can subscribe online @ [www.insideskatingmagazine.com](http://www.insideskatingmagazine.com) or contact Paula @ [pwagener58@msn.com](mailto:pwagener58@msn.com).

**SKATING ON TV**

1. **January 10:** Progressive Skating & Gymnastics Spectacular: NBC, 4:00-6:00 PM.
2. **January 16:** 2010 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships: Pairs Free & Men's Short: NBC, 4:30-6:00 PM
3. **January 17:** 2010 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships: Men's Free Skate: NBC, 4:30-6:00 PM
4. **January 23:** 2010 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships: Free Dance, Original Dance & Ladies Short: NBC, 3:00-6:00 PM
5. **January 23:** 2010 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships: Ladies Free Skate: NBC, 9:00-11:00 PM
6. **January 24:** 2010 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships: Event Recap: NBC, 4:00-6:00 PM
7. **January 24:** 2010 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships: Skating Spectacular & Olympic Send-Off: NBC, 9:00-11:00 PM
8. **January 31:** Skate for the Heart, NBC, 4:00-6:00 PM

**UPCOMING USFS TEST SESSIONS:**

1. **January 24, 2010:** Offered by SSFSC, Saratoga Springs, NY. Application is now available: <http://www.saratogaspringsfsc.com/resources/TestAppJan242010.doc>. Deadline to avoid late fee is January 13!
2. **March 28, 2010:** Offered by SSFSC, Saratoga Springs, NY

**UPCOMING COMPETITIONS FOR THE SEASON:**

**USFS COMPETITIONS:**

1. **January 10, 2010:** Glens Falls Figure Skating Classic, Glens Falls Civic Center, Glens Falls, NY @ [www.glensfallsfigureskating.com](http://www.glensfallsfigureskating.com).
2. **January 16, 2010:** 2010 Mohawk Valley Classic, New Hartford Recreation Center, New Hartford, NY @ [www.scnh.org](http://www.scnh.org).

3. **January 17, 2010:** 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Escapade Competition offered by the Essex Skating Club of NJ @ [www.essexskatingclub.org](http://www.essexskatingclub.org).
4. **February 21, 2010:** Pittsfield Open & Basic Skills Competition, applications are available @ [www.pittsfieldfsc.com](http://www.pittsfieldfsc.com).
5. **March 13-14, 2010:** 2010 Skate Challenge, Skating Club of Central NY, Cicero, NY @ [www.sccny.org](http://www.sccny.org).
6. **March 27, 2010:** The Garren, Troy, NY

**ISI COMPETITIONS:**

1. **January 14-17, 2010:** 2010 Lake Placid ISI Championships, applications now available, visit [www.riverdaleice.com](http://www.riverdaleice.com).
2. **March 20-21, 2010:** Saratoga Springs FSC ISI Competition. Information and applications are now available on their website: <http://www.saratogaspringsfsc.com/>

**109 MEMBERS!**

Questions? Contact New Membership Chair Paulette Morgan @ [pmorgan3@nycap.rr.com](mailto:pmorgan3@nycap.rr.com)



**SYNCHRO COMPETITION  
DEC 11-12**







**SKATEFEST DEC 30 @ AA**





**DECEMBER 27 PASTA PARTY**

