



November 2005

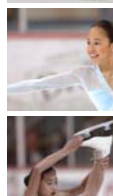
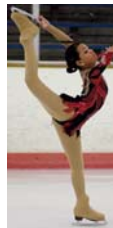
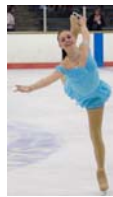
Volume 37, Issue # 2

# In the Loop

News and Profiles from the San Diego Figure Skating Club

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## Congratulations Southwest Pacific Regional Competitors!



Photograph by Jim Woodward, Sebastian Studios

Nineteen skaters traveled to Southwest Pacific Regional Championships to represent the club. Competition was fierce, and our skaters performed beautifully, with several of our club's competitors advancing to second, third and fourth rounds! Read all the details about the competition on page three of this newsletter.

*Congratulations to all of our club's figure skaters who represented the San Diego Figure Skating Club so well! We are proud of you all!*

## Shandra Eastman's Climb to the Top



### Juvenile Dance Team to Compete at Junior Nationals Championship

One skater representing the San Diego Figure Skating Club, **Senior Ladies competitor, Shandra Eastman** may have a shot at joining other elite national figure skaters at U.S. Figure Skating National Championships in St. Louis, Missouri in January 2006.

See page 3 for lots more inside scoop about senior ladies' Shandra Eastman.

The San Diego Figure Skating Club will be represented by two young ice dancers; the brand new **Juvenile Ice Dancing** team **Kassy Kova & Justin Ross**, who will compete at their first Junior National Championship, November 28 - December 3, in Westminster, Colorado. See page 7 to read about the team. **Good luck to all competitors!**

Check out the article on our newest **Profiles in Talent and Tenacity** on page 11 which highlights the Club's latest skater to have passed a **Gold Level Test!** And, don't miss our close-up look at our very own coaches, this time featuring **Natasha Bobrina.**

## President's Letter

*Congratulations to all of our 2006 Southwest Pacific Competitive team. We are proud of all of you. It was great to hear that our skaters came together as a "Team" and supported each other.*

*Cathy Sims and I would like to thank everyone who helped us with the first annual SDFSC Competitive Team exhibitions and reception. The skating was excellent and the food was great. It was wonderful to see so many club members along with the families and friends of our skaters attending.*

*For those of you who may not have heard, Peggy Stark, is in the hospital and recovering from quintuple bypass. My sister, Linda Asbury and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes. It's times like these that show us that we are not just a club, but a true family. The nursing staff at the hospital is amazed at the large "family" that Mom has. I am happy to report that she is doing much better.*

*Best wishes and happy holidays,*

*Suzie Whitehead*



Photographs by Jim Woodward,  
Sebastian Studios

Larger versions of these photos of the SDFSC Competitive Team are available for viewing on the club website:

[www.sds skate.org/meetcomp.htm](http://www.sds skate.org/meetcomp.htm)

## Editor's Letter



*Suzan  
Cioffi*

This issue of *In the Loop* brings you stories and news from Southwest Pacific Regional Championships, held last month in Scottsdale, Arizona. The story of this year's Southwest Pacific Regionals began, in fact, right here in San Diego, on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, when all of our competitors were given the opportunity to shine in front of family, friends, and the San Diego skating community in the context of a very lovely club-sponsored exhibition and reception. Several hundred eager attendees filled the stands. Each skater was announced with a bit of information given about them. The audience warmly applauded as skater after skater dazzled them with their tricks and jumps. The charming reception that followed included a presentation to each competitor of his or her Competitive Team jacket, group photos of the Competitive Team with our club's coaches, two beautiful cakes to wish Good Luck to the group, and raffle prizes too. The camaraderie experienced by all at this event gave our competitors a real sense of community and support by the club. All of our competitors were truly grateful!

*In the Loop* shares news of Shandra Eastman, well on her way to becoming a top-notch Senior ladies competitor. Shandra's achievements are the result of years and years of training and hard work, the daily dues paid by each figure skater working hard to climb the ladder of success. We also shine a bright light in this issue

on a Junior skater who has grown up in our midst into a lovely young lady – Brittany Smith. Brittany gave us the performance of her life at Regionals – her way to strut her stuff before going on to bigger and better things in professional ice shows. What an exciting future awaits her, and we wish her well!

Southwest held magic for younger skaters too! Angela Bajet, ever the powerful competitor, attacked each of her programs with style and gusto, and proved that she was a top Intermediate ladies skater, making it all the way to the final round of that division! As this was but her first appearance in Intermediate ladies, she will be a force to reckon with next year. Our younger, Juvenile skaters, Julie Bennett and Brittany Mai, showed off their skill and grace, and succeeded in moving on to skate in second rounds. We applauded them all. To put these great achievements in perspective, keep in mind that Intermediate ladies had some eighty competitors and Juvenile had sixty! Simply mind-boggling! But instead of tilting at windmills, these young ladies are out there training day by day, with the conviction that one day they will make it to the top!

This year, our club's only representatives at Junior National Figure Skating Championships will be Kassy Kova and Justin Ross, who received a "bye" to Nationals. This brand new, young ice dancing team has worked hard to earn the right to represent the club at Junior Nationals, and for them it is like a dream come true. They will certainly face daunting competition, but will have a fabulous learning experience.

And we return with our "Profiles of Talent and Tenacity", celebrating here the golden achievement of Ada Chinda, who recently passed her Gold Moves in the Field. Remember to congratulate her when you see her next!

And now, the beginning of a new season!

## Shandra Eastman's Climb to the Top

In Senior Ladies, Shandra Eastman skated a sharp and dramatic long program, with commanding double and triple jumps that were well-executed. Her strong program landed her in seventh place in the final line-up. And now the nerve-racking waiting game begins. Shandra is an Alternate to compete at Pacific Coast Sectionals, and if she gets to go, and places in the top four, she will advance to Nationals.

"I can be notified up to forty-eight hours prior to my event." Shandra explained to us after Regionals. "I am anxious to find out whether or not I am going to Pacific Coast. I would love to skate at Nationals this year because it is an Olympic year. It is going to be very exciting. I am still training very hard and if I go to Nationals, I will add at least another hour to my daily training. I need to pay a lot of attention to my spirals, footwork and spins with the new judging system."

We asked Shandra about her experience in Scottsdale. "I felt aggressive and confident going into the long program. The music was from the Quidam performance of Cirque du Soleil. My coaches and I decided that I needed an exotic look to match the music. We felt that by matching my appearance to the music I was able to stand out and have the judges remember the performance. Overall, I felt good and my coaches were pleased with the way I skated in Scottsdale.

**Q: What about next season? Will you continue competing?**

**A:** I want to compete for another season. I love my long program music and the exotic look so I will keep it. I am still thinking about whether or not I will keep my short program music. I would like to attend college when I am done with my competitive career. It is hard to stay competitive at the senior level, so I need all my energy to go into my skating. **Good luck, Shandra!**

### *Shandra Eastman Senior Ladies*



Photograph by Dan Amorde  
Rising Star Photography

## A Great Learning Experience

### SDFSC's Skaters Gain Valuable Experience at SWP Regionals

Southwest Pacific Regional Figure Skating Championships proved to be a great learning experience for all of our club's competitors. For almost every one of our competitors it was either their first time competing at a higher level than in previous years or it was their first ever time performing at SWP Regionals. Both scenarios provided our skaters with lots of challenges, extremely tough competition, and a great learning experience.

In Senior Ladies, Shandra Eastman skated a sharp and dramatic program, with commanding double and triple jumps that were well-executed with only one exception. Her strong program landed her in

the laudable position of seventh place in the final line-up.

In the Junior Ladies division, Brittany Smith skated what many who know her thought was the best-ever competitive program of her life with loads of pizzazz and audience-pleasing expression as icing on the cake on top of her consistent jumps. Her strong performance gave her the top Junior ladies standing among SDFSC Junior competitors at seventh in the long program. She missed making the second round by only one place (see article on page 4). Laura Williams skated a clean and smooth Junior program, with graceful moves and solid jumps, earning her warm

compliments from her coach, family and friends in the audience. Only the intense competitiveness of the Junior Ladies group, with top-flight skaters landing multiple triple jumps, resulted in Laura earning a 10th place finish for her well-executed program. Veteran top SDFSC competitor, Britney Torreon, decided to tough it out and skate her Junior long program, even though she was battling a nasty head cold that night, but she found it difficult to perform her best while fighting dizziness and fever. Britney, ever the tough competitor, left the disappointing skate behind her in Scottsdale, and resolved to work harder and do better next season.

## A Gem of a Junior Lady - Brittany Smith

For those of our members who had the pleasure of watching Brittany Smith skate at SWP Regionals, they know it is not an exaggeration to say that she competed the best program of her life! Her energy level was on high voltage, her smile broad enough to fill the arena with happiness, and her artistic expression was at its best. What brought out this peak performance from Brittany? We share here a personal



Photograph by Dan Amorde  
Rising Star Photography

interview in which our gem of a Junior skater shares her thoughts about Regionals, and hopes and aspirations for her future.

**Q:** You skated extremely well at SWP Regionals. How did you celebrate your great skate in Scottsdale?

**A:** I celebrated with all of my friends - by cheering them on in their events and enjoying every minute I could of the competition.

**Q:** Were family & friends in Scottsdale to share the moment with you?

**A:** My Mom, who has been there for me every moment since day one, shared my success. Without her I would have never gotten to this place in my life.

**Q:** What's in store for you next?

**A:** I plan on auditioning for some skating shows. Most people know I love to skate artistically and my greatest

joy is to hear the applause of a crowd. I like to make people happy and hope they enjoy what I am doing for them. Also, I have been teaching classes at SDIA as a Junior Coach and love every minute of it. The kids are the greatest! Someday, I will become a coach, hopefully with a long line of students of my own. I can only hope that I am as great for them as my coaches have been for me.

**Q:** So, rumor has it that SWP Regionals was your last competition. Is that true?

**A:** As of today my focus is on taking my senior free skating test and putting together the package for show auditions. My choice has been to go out with a bang and make this SWP Regionals my last. There have been so many people that have asked me to stay in the competitive ranks; I cannot believe there are so many people that care about me like that.

**Q:** Since you skated and competed so very well this year, aren't you interested in seeing if you could go even further next year?

**A:** There are two reasons why I have made my decision; 1) I don't like the pressure that comes with the higher level competitions, 2) The expense is something that my Mom has had to bare for the past nine years. I don't know that she could financially manage another season. Skating is an expensive sport. We have lived on a limited income for over 11 years and now that I will be graduating



Photograph by Dan Amorde  
Rising Star Photography



Photograph by Jim Woodward  
Sebastian Studios

and soon will be 18, we will lose some of that, so to say we won't have the money is the truth. I know my Mom would do anything she could to make it happen if I wanted it but I don't want to see her give up more than she already has.

**Q:** How does it feel to be leaving the competitive arena as the highest ranked Junior Ladies' skater in SDFSC?

**A:** This is something I never thought I would be able to achieve, so to say I am elated and beaming with pride is just putting it mildly!

**Q:** How about school? When will you graduate? How will you fit continuing your education in with being on tour with ice shows?

**A:** I plan on graduating in December. As far as college, I plan on taking some classes at a community college. If I am not accepted for a show, I will enter classes, if I get offered a show I will put it off until I finish show skating. The ice is my life, every plan I have for my future is surrounded by ice.

## Focus on Coaching

*We see them every day, we entrust our children to them to train and to mold, but how much do we know about them? Each issue read a close-up profile of one of SDFSC's top coaches. Be prepared to say "Wow!"*

### Natasha Bobrina - From Russia ... with love.



of the most historical, cultural places in Europe. I love to visit my city and go home at least once a year.

**Q: What discipline did you begin with?**

**A:** I started to skate as a single skater doing free skating and figures. When I was training we spent at least half of our time on the ice practicing figures, which of course now are no longer a part of competitive skating system. When I turned 13, I added pairs to my training schedule which was much harder as it took twice as long to train than before.

**Q: Please tell us about your competitive career. How far did you go?**

**A:** When I was 15 my partner and I won the Junior National Pairs Championship for Russia. At the age of 16 I became the Junior National Singles Champion. Advancing to the Senior level of competition I was ranked 5th in the nation for both singles and pairs. Andrey Suraykin, my pair partner for the last three years of my competitive career, was the 1972 Olympic Silver Pairs medalist. It was at this time in my life that I learned how to not only love skating but to also understand how much this fantastic sport could change my life forever. Andrey was my coach, my partner and my friend. Our time skating together was the most meaningful and special part of my career.

**Q: Where and when did you become a skating coach?**

**A:** After my competitive skating career, I traveled for three years

with the St. Petersburg ballet on ice show. I was hired by the St. Petersburg figure skating club to teach primarily pairs before being asked by the Finland Skating Federation to be head coach for their competitive skaters. During my seven years in Finland, I was fortunate enough to train both the Novice and Junior ladies National Champions along with one of the girls who became the Worlds Silver medalist in Synchronized Skating.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about coaching?**

**A:** It is a real joy to see how young students who every day, little by little, take their basic skills to a more advanced level. I enjoy seeing them develop their passion for skating, working harder to be able to express themselves with music and movement. I try to pass on my knowledge to each and every one of my students so they can one day learn to love what they do, believe in themselves, show their own personality and develop their own sense of style since each skater is unique and special.

**Q: What is the downside?**

**A:** For me, I do not think there is a downside to coaching. I love my career and feel very passionate about teaching. I make an effort to always stay on top of the sport and its ever changing ways. As a coach, you must constantly educate yourself in all areas of the sport.

**Q: When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

**A:** I always had a desire to be a doctor. However, nobody in my family had anything to do with medicine and therefore could not give me the proper guidance to follow this dream. I also think they did not realize how much I wanted to do this but, my passion for medicine was passed along to my son, Maxim, who is an orthopedic surgeon in St. Petersburg. I am so proud of his accomplishments!

**Q: How old were you, and where did you live, when you started skating?**

**A:** I started skating when I was seven and a half. I began skating because my brother Yuri was already in the sport and I wanted to be just like him. I was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia (previously known as Leningrad, second biggest city in the Soviet Union). It is a beautiful city and one

# Angela Bajet

## The Foundation of a Bright Future

***Lots of focus and determination - and always a smile! That's Angela Bajet's recipe for creating a strong foundation on which to build a future national skating champion!***

Anyone who watched Angela Bajet skate at Southwest Pacific Regional Championships in Scottsdale, Arizona saw these three elements come together with powerful effect.

The Intermediate Ladies event was one of the most competitive at Southwest Pacific Regionals with an incredible number, YES! **eighty-six** young ladies battling it out on the ice, in flights of 17 to 18 skaters, to advance to the next round of competition.

Angela did not feint in the face of these daunting odds. She kept her focus and performed a strong long program in her opening qualifying round, buoyed by the cheers and applause from the boisterous San Diego contingent. She placed third, advancing to the next step in the gauntlet, where she went out to deliver a masterful short program and capture the fourth place spot. Never wavering in her level of

energy or the consistency of her technical elements, Angela went out the final day of the competition and wowed the audience yet again with her

big jumps and electric light-bulb smiles as she nailed them. Her ninth place finish in the final round doesn't give the full story of the great young skater who went out and, with the fire of determination in her eyes, performed beautifully, and lit up the arena with her skill, expression and dreams.

Angela was thrilled to have skated well at Southwest. "I was already celebrating when I started performing my program in the Freeskate - Final Round. I thanked God for everything; I was smiling a lot and wanted to show my feelings to judges to tell them how much I love skating. My family, especially my little sister Ashley and friends were there to share the moment with me and I want to tell my friends thanks for the support and the HUMONGOUS cheer you gave me!" "I think the competition was a blast and I had so much fun! I enjoyed cheering for my friends and they all performed like champions, plus I got to know more people over there. Yes, it was pretty tough competition, but I'll be better next year! I'm going to clean-up my double axel and at least have one triple ready before the next Southwest Pacific Regionals."

We asked our skating dynamo about her plans for next season, and here's what she had to add: "I'm planning to stay in Intermediate level and take each competition one at a time. Right now I'm looking forward to doing Skate La Grande which should be fun."

How about school, Angela? How do you fit your education in with the serious training required to be a top competitor?

"I am attending the Charter



Photograph by Dan Amorde  
Rising Star Photography

School of San Diego and I have a great teacher right now. Right after skating I work on my schoolwork and it takes a lot of discipline to keep my grades at A's and no lower than C's."

When we asked our top-notch Intermediate Ladies competitor if she has time for anything other than skating and school, Angela replied: "I love hanging out with my friends or cousins and sometimes we're at movies or theme parks. When I want to relax alone, I read, listen to my I-pod, edit photos on the computer (my dad taught me...I'm getting good at it too!) and when I'm done with chores I can browse the web a bit."

We laud Angela's admirable achievement at Southwest Pacific Regionals and look forward to watching her build a bright future on the solid foundation she has made.



Photograph by Dan Amorde  
Rising Star Photography

## Jumping Juveniles! Bennett and Mai make it to SWP Round Two

Southwest Pacific Regionals saw great competition in the Juvenile division too, with sixty skaters in the first round, split into four flights.

Two San Diego FSC skaters made it



through their first rounds of skating to qualify to compete in the final round - Julie Michelle Bennett and Brittany Mai. Both of our young ladies, each only twelve years old, delivered solid performances with clean double jumps, graceful spirals, and good interpretation of their music to take 4th place in their respective qualifying round groups.

Above photographs by Dan Amorde, Rising Star Photography

While many of the San Diego youth who had already skated and had no additional competitions, gathered to relax and socialize around the pool Friday evening, Julie and Brittany each rested with their families and mentally prepared themselves for the Juvenile Division Final Round the following morning at 8 AM.

Saturday morning the bleachers were full, and the excitement began to build as the final round competitors came out to warm up. The San Diego cheering section bathed both competitors in the warm support of applause and shout-outs.



During the warm-up, Julie M. Bennett landed a sky-high, clean double-axel right in front of the San Diego cheering section, and the group went wild! In the final round competition, Julie Bennett skated a clean and smooth program, with confidence in her double jumps, and a beaming countenance assuring the judges that she was in control. Brittany Mai also

skated extremely well, landing most of her elements and showing off her great flexibility and gracefulness. The judges placed them twelfth (for Julie) and thirteenth (for Brittany), but in our hearts we put them first! These Jumping Juveniles will have no trouble jumping right in to the Intermediate Division next season!

## Brand New Juvenile Ice Dance Team, *Kova & Ross* Achieves Dream of Competing at Junior Nationals

Brand new Juvenile Ice Dancing team, Kassy Kova and Justin Ross, are working hard with their coaches, Suzy Seminick-Schurman and Wendy Smith, to put the finishing touches on the Freedance and two Compulsory Dances they will compete with at Junior National Figure Skating Championships, in Westminster, Colorado, November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Competing at Junior Nationals this year is literally a dream come true for this young team, who only began training together in late June.

When they first began training as a team, the dream of being able to compete at Junior Nationals was tempered by the immense challenge of the many tests Justin would have to pass for the team to qualify to go. He had been a recreational ISI skater, with no previous USFSA tests when Kassy's coach, Wendy Smith, first approached him

about partnering with Kassy. But the two skaters hit it off well, and the new team gelled quickly. Kassy and Justin trained intensely together throughout the summer, working out on and off



ice at both SDIA and at Escondido Ice-O-Plex some five to six hours each weekday. They also had the privilege of working alongside Suzy Schurman's top level Senior and Junior ice dancing teams, and gained from the wonderful mentoring offered by Ben Westenberger and his partner Brooke. Justin was up to the challenge of transforming himself almost overnight from a recreational ISI skater into a competitive Juvenile level ice dancer, passing the first four levels of moves in the field, the first three compulsory dances and his first freedance test, all in just three short months. It's like a Cinderella Story for a boy! And now they are off to their first-ever competition - and it's nothing less than Junior Nationals!

***We wish them the best of luck!***

Photograph by Jim Woodward, Sebastian Studios

## “Rockin’ the House” - Team del Sol Teen Team

With the goal of “Making Seattle Rock”, the Team del Sol Teen Team is competing this year to Elvis Presley’s “Jailhouse Rock”. A plucky group of twelve teenaged skaters have the ambition of making this the last year on the books for the Team del Sol’s Teen Team, as they all fondly dream of becoming the foundation of a new Intermediate Team next season.

The Team del Sol Teen Team was created by Karen Weismeier, Director and Head Coach of San Diego’s Team del Sol Synchronized Skating Teams, some three years ago, as an interim step to provide a framework for teen skaters to develop the skills necessary to participate in a nationally-competitive synchronized skating team. Team participants enjoyed skating the first year to a quick Irish jig, and last year had us all snapping our fingers and tapping our feet to the quirky tunes of the Adams Family. This year, the skaters are older, the skating skills have continued to grow, and the theme has matured too. Now, these spirited teens plan to rock the house, here in San Diego, at synchronized skating competitions across Southern California, and at their penultimate season finale, the



Photograph by Jim Woodward, Sebastian Studios

### 2006 Pacific Coast Sectional Synchronized Team Skating Championships to be held in Seattle, January 20 – 21, 2006.

The team trains Saturday and Sunday mornings for an hour or hour and a half on ice, followed by off-ice aerobics and stretching led by Synchronized Skating Coaches Sarah Lovejoy and Jenny Lovejoy. The Lovejoy sisters thus have a chance to pass on their lifelong love for synchronized skating to the next, eager generation of skaters. Both of these talented young women skated for more than ten years on nationally-ranked Team del Sol Synchronized Skating

Teams, competing for several years on the prestigious Senior Team in its heyday. They both enjoyed the fabulous opportunity to represent the United States in two international synchronized skating competitions.

Teen Team participants mix hard work with lots of fun too. The social side of synchro is of great importance. Teen Team skaters enjoy many team-building outings, and strong bonds of friendship flourish. But when they hit the ice to compete, watch out! This Teen Team is hungry for higher ground and is determined to rock us all.



Members may now subscribe to the SDFSC Newsletter to receive it via email. Simply send an email to [editor@sdsksate.org](mailto:editor@sdsksate.org) with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line!



# SDFSC Test Results

## Test Results - August 8th

### San Diego Ice Arena

#### SENIOR MOVES

ADA CHINDA

#### JUVENILE MOVES

TAYLOR TINLEY

SARA YOGI

#### ADULT PRE-BRONZE

MICHAEL DOERING

#### PRE-PRELIMINARY MOVES

NGUYEN BUI

JESSICA YENNIE

#### PRE-JUVENILE MOVES

SHELBY OLDS

ROLSALIE CHEN

#### PRELIMINARY MOVES

GRACE JENG

GEORGE JENG

CONSTANTINE EVANS

MELISSA TRUONG

NICOLE KELDER

NGUYEN BUI

BROOKE BRANNON

#### INTERMEDIATE FREE SKATE

SASHA OVCINNIKOVA

#### JUVENILE FREE SKATE

TRACEY HUYNH

#### PRELIMINARY FREE SKATE

CONSTANTINE EVANS

#### PRE-PRELIMINARY FREE SKATE

NGUYEN BUI

GEORGE JENG

#### DUTCH WALTZ

MELANIE BARTON

#### CANASTA TANGO

MELANIE BARTON

#### RHYTHM BLUES

MELANIE BARTON

#### SWING DANCE

MELANIE BARTON

KRISTEN DAVIS

#### CHA CHA

MELANIE BARTON

KRISTEN DAVIS

Continued on page 10

## San Diego Figure Skating Club Board of Directors

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**Test Results - August 30th****Kroc Arena****JUVENILE MOVES**

AMANDA LEVIN

**PRELIMINARY MOVES**

ERIN RODDEN

**PRE PRELIMINARY MOVES**MADISON TAYLOR  
EMILY ROSE BLOOM**JUVENILE FREE DANCE**

JUSTIN ROSS

**JUVENILE FREE SKATE**

OLIVER ASBURY

**PRELIMINARY FREE SKATE**

AMANDA LEVIN

**PRE-PRELIMINARY FREE SKATE**MADISON TAYLOR  
HANNAH BROEDER**AMERICAN WALTZ**

SARAH HERVEY

**QUICKSTEP**

MEGAN MARSH

**SWING DANCE**

DALENNA KESSLER

**DUTCH WALTZ**LAUREN BENCIVENGO  
KATIE HANDFELT**CHA CHA**

DALENNA KESSLER

**CANASTA TANGO**LAUREN BENCIVENGO  
KATIE HANDFELT**FIESTA TANGO**

DALENNA KESSLER

**RHYTHM BLUES**LAUREN BENCIVENGO  
KATIE HANDFELT**Test Results - Sept. 12th - SDIA****NOVICE MOVES**ERIN WINSLOW  
LAUREN BRACKEN**PRE-JUVENILE MOVES**TEHYA BELZ  
CONSTANTINE EVANS**PRE-PRELIMINARY MOVES**ALEXA PARKER  
ALYNA LAM**DUTCH WALTZ**STACEY JACOBSON  
SERAFIN ONG**CANASTA TANGO**STACEY JACOBSON  
SERAFIN ONG**RHYTHM BLUES**STACEY JACOBSON  
SERAFIN ONG**Test Results - Oct. 17th - SDIA****INTERMEDIATE MOVES**

KATIE HANDFELT

**PRE-JUVENILE MOVES**

MELISSA FARIN

**PRELIMINARY MOVES**

MARISSA CARMARDA

**PRE-PRELIMINARY MOVES**MICHELLE BARRETT  
EMILY BARRETT**DUTCH WALTZ**

AMY SIMS

**CANASTA TANGO**

AMY SIMS

**RHYTHM BLUES**

AMY SIMS

**SWING DANCE**

ALICIA HERNANDEZ

**CHA CHA**

ALICIA HERNANDEZ

**FIESTA TANGO**

ALICIA HERNANDEZ

# Gold Medalists - Profiles of Talent and Tenacity

## Ada Chinda

**Q: How old were you when you first started skating?** A: I was six years old.

**Q: What first got you interested in learning to skate?**

A: I saw the ice rink on the freeway when I was little. It was summer and very hot so I decided to go there. I've been hooked ever since.

**Q: What motivated you to begin testing?**

A: I wanted to be a competitive ice skater and to do that, you have to complete the tests so, I did.

**Q: What has MITF/Freestyle testing brought to you as a skater?**

A: Moves in the Field testing has taught me to be more controlled in skating. It has also taught me to be consistent on working on the patterns.

**Q: What was the hardest test you ever took?**

That's a tough question, I guess I'd have to say my novice test.

**Q: So, now that you've passed your Gold test, what next?**

I'm going to continue skating, finish the rest of my freestyle tests and hopefully become a coach.



*Congratulations, Ada!*

## A Great Learning Experience - SWP Regionals

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Our club's Novice ladies top competitor Ada Chinda, skated her way up to a solid 8th place finish in a ultra-competitive first round flight of 16 skaters. Ada is tough and talented, and will work hard to improve her ranking in the next season. Sara Luu skated well to earn a 10th place finish in her flight.

The Intermediate Division at Southwest Pacific was daunting to say the least, with eighty young ladies vying for the plum of moving on to the next level of competition. The club had five skaters who competed at SWP in Intermediate. Angela-Christine Bajet gave us all great hope as she blazed through the first rounds of competition (3rd in the Qualifying Round and 4th in the Semi-Final Round), but alas, the judges only placed her 9th in the Final Round. Sasha Ovchinnikova and Katherine Nguyen came oh-so-close to piercing through to the second round with their fine performances and 6th place finishes in each of their QR's, but it was not quite enough, as only the top four in each group moved on to the next level of competition. Macy Austria skated a good quality performance, finishing 8th in her QR, and Kimberly Baer rose to the challenge of her first Regionals performance to earn an 11th place QR finish.

Our young Juvenile ladies skaters, Julie Bennett and Brittany Mai, created quite a buzz of excitement

for San Diego club members at the competition when they both performed beautiful programs in their qualifying rounds and won the right with their respective 4th place QR finishes, to move on to the next level of competition. Second round competition was fierce though, and our young ladies skated to a 12th place (Julie B.) and 13th place (Brittany M) final round placement. Erika Perry, thrilled to compete at her first-ever Regionals, skated well, earning a 14th place finish in her qualifying round.

The final day of competition blended the high-stakes angst of Intermediate final rounds with the much more relaxed atmosphere surrounding the Open Juvenile events. In Open Juvenile Boys Division, our club had two skaters in the group of five, Brett Ryan and Oliver Asbury, and they both skated to take the top honors with Brett in First Place and Oliver in Second. Kristie Baer was our sole Open Juvenile Girls skater in a larger competitive pool. Kristie skated well and finished eighth.

As much as the excitement of their own individual competitions, all of our club's skaters seemed to enjoy the warmhearted camaraderie with other club members at the competition. They stayed and cheered their fellow club members as they skated and then enjoyed each other's company in the warm evening breezes at the resort pool. All were unanimous in having enjoyed and learned from their experiences at 2006 SWP Regionals.

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## San Diego Figure Skating Club

The **SDFSC Newsletter** is published by the **San Diego Figure Skating Club** 5 times per year.

The Club's mailing address is: P.O. Box 500774, San Diego, CA. 92150-0774

**Letters to the Editor, and articles for publication**

may be submitted either by email to: [editor@sds skate.org](mailto:editor@sds skate.org)

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Subscription Rate: Included with SDFSC annual membership.

San Diego Figure Skating **Club web site:** <http://www.sds skate.org>

**Team del Sol's web site:** <http://www.teamdelsol.org>