

World Art Champion

by Syl



Beautiful Tokyo, the great modern city of eleven million people, was the perfect site for the 1984 World A

Singles

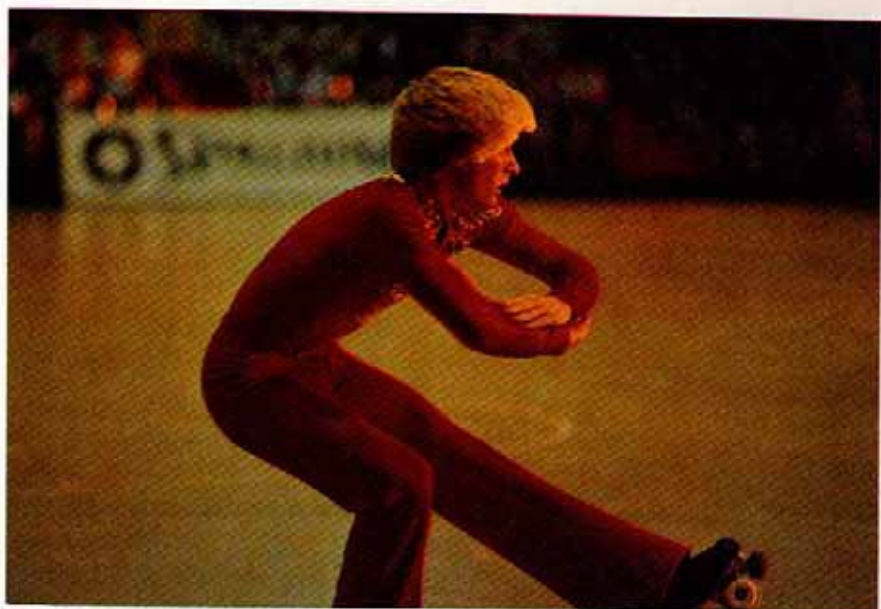
The women's singles event was a showcase for many former world medalists and champions, including Germany's Claudia Bruppacher and Petra Schneider and USA's Anna Bergin and Tina Kneisley. Several other ladies made their presence felt, and showed everyone that they were not to be ignored. Included in this group was America's hopeful of the future, Missy Miller, who started the contest off in the right direction with a clean routine. Her content, other than her fabulous heel camel combination spin and inverted camel, was not quite difficult enough for the top three positions, but she showed superb footwork with exceptional interpretation.

Anna started strong with a loop, double mapes, euler, double flip combination followed by a slightly cheated triple salchow, but then proceeded to have little misses on every other item. Italy's Raffaella Del Vinaccio was next. Her opening was a double loop followed by a very nice double lutz and then a triple mapes with only a slight hook on the end. Her double axel had a half turn cheat, and she stepped out of a double mapes at the end of a combination. The spins were fast and very strong, but with bad body posture. Her content scores were 5.7's and 5.8's. Her body position was reflected in performance scores of 5.4 and 5.6, but the audience knew this performance would be hard to beat.

As Petra Schneider did not skate at all well, it was down to the last two skaters, defending World Champion, Tina Kneisley, and Claudia Bruppacher, who was holding first after the short. The winner was going to have to be the best and skate the best. Tina, dressed in an Oriental costume and skating to classical Oriental music, showed Claudia that she and the Americans preferred gold to silver. In the first thirty seconds of her routine, she perfectly executed a double axel, double flip, and had only a slight toe stop landing on an otherwise clean triple toe wally. Tina footworked her way from item to item to the delight of the audience. Her heel camel to OB sit and her broken ankle were among the

World Artistic Roller Skating Championships 1984

by H. Haffke, SRSTA



(far left) Tina Kneisley's performance put her on top of the World in Tokyo; David Golub and Angie Famiano watch as the 6s light up the scoreboard; (right) Bryan Denney brought home the bronze in his first shot at the World title.

axel instead of the double axel she had practiced all week. Her axel combination was strong, but a fall on her second attempt on a triple salchow cost her any chance of winning the elusive gold.

The top five placements all skated to win the World Championships, but when it was over, the one who wore the crown was Tina Kneisley. The silver went to Claudia Bruppacher and the bronze to Raffaella Del Vinaccio. Fourth was Missy Miller, fifth Anna Bergin, and moving into sixth was Italy's Elana Bonatti. Seventh was Petra Schneider and Canada's Wendy Prosser placed eighth.

The final of the men's freestyle was most disappointing. Everyone expected Scott Cohen to dazzle the crowd as he did at last year's world championships, but Scott was anything but dazzling. Other than his opening double axel, he toe-stopped many landings, had hand falls on two triple salchows and at one point fell skating backwards and couldn't find his music for some time. Although his spins were up to par, which is far above all other men in the contest, his overall routine was not. Leonard Steinberg, in his first World appearance, had every opportunity to pull up into a placement, but falls on a triple lutz and a triple toe wally kept him in fifth place. Following Leonard was another young American at his first World Championship, Bryan Denney. His opening was a double axel, double axel followed by a triple toe wally, which he stepped out of. He

had the best variety of spins in the entire contest and cleaned a triple mapes and an axel loop, double loop combination. His scores ranged from 5.6 to 5.8 for content and 5.5 and 5.8 for impression.

Italy's Michele Sartorato had only one fall, on a double axel. He opened with a solid triple mapes—a beauty of a jump. Although his spins were weak, the program was strong. His teammate, Michele Biserni presented a very creative routine. His triples were solid except for a fall on the triple flip. His spins were decent, and the judges scored him in the 5.7 to 5.9 range.

Since the first world championships in 1947, only three countries had ever won the gold in men's freestyle: Switzerland, Germany and USA. With Biserni's performance, Italy was added to the list. Sartorato took the silver, and USA's young Bryan Denney stood proudly on the podium to receive his world bronze medal.

Figures

In the men's competition, defending World Champion Tony St. Jacques held his title from the first strikeoff, skating four consistent figures. Michele Biserni was not as steady as the Americans, but he made a minimum of errors. USA's Skip Clinton skated an excellent 23A and paragraph double three, but ran into trouble on the forward loop as the rink became warmer and the floor tacky. Michele Tolomini scored slightly higher than USA's Mike Ricigliano on

CONTINUED

Artistic Roller Skating Championships.

strongest spins in the event. Tina had skated a near-perfect routine, but the judges' scores left room for one person to beat it.

Claudia chose Broadway music, starting with "Annie." Her opening Arabian cartwheel was breathtaking. Early in her routine she did a sequence of footwork that incorporated her spectacular spread eagle split on her heel wheels, up to an extension arabesque to an Arabian cartwheel. Her opening jump combination—double lutz, double flip—was very nice, and her spins were unbeatable in this contest. She was skating the winning routine until she attempted a triple salchow that ended up under rotated and two footed. Then she did a single

World Artistic Championships 1984



The 1984 Gold Medal line-up (from left): Angela Famiano, David Golub, Tammy Jerue, John Arishita, Michele Biserni, Tony St. Jacques, Tina Kneisley and Claudia Bruppacher.

CONTINUED

the first figure, and much higher on the loop, giving Italy silver and bronze in men's figures. Ricigliano finished one point out of third.

Biserni added another "first" for Italy by winning the men's overall. His teammate Tolomini took the silver, and Jeff Brabant, in a "first" for Canada, took the bronze.

The women figure skaters, like the men, suffered from changing temperatures that affected the condition of the floor. America's Cindy Larson, although inexperienced in world competition, did quite well with her sixth place finish. The winner of this contest was Claudia Bruppacher, beating out her teammate, defending World Champion Petra Schneider. Third was Debbie Erdmann and Anna Bergin finished fourth.

What was good for one American was bad for another, as Debbie's bronze placement in figures cost Anna a bronze in the overall. In third place combined was Raffaella Del Vinaccio; second was Petra Schneider; and winning the overall for the third consecutive year, Claudia Bruppacher.

Pairs

The pairs competition was a contest between the three American teams. For the short time they have been together, Mark Pollard and Cathy Hayduk have done remarkably well.

Their unison lacks only slightly and only because of the newness of the team, but another year should eliminate these kinks and they could be in contention for the gold. In 1984, they had to accept the bronze.

Defending World Champions Arishita and Jerue did not skate their best performance. In contrast, U.S. Champions and 1983 World silver medalists Ken Benson and Robyn Young skated well, with only a fall on a double flip by Robyn marring an otherwise perfect routine. They have a great variety of take offs and landings on all their lifts, and their unison is near perfect. But this year, once again, they took the silver behind Arishita and Jerue.

Dance

In the dance event, David Golub and Angela Famiano were the World Champions from the time they set their skates on the floor. Their final competition was definitely their peak. Watching David and Angie's OSP was reminiscent of an evening in Vienna. The long white gloves and lovely white chiffon dress on Angie, and the white military dress uniform on David, perfectly matched their Vienna Woods Waltz. Their scores ranged from 5.7 to 6.0.

The contest was not for the crown, but for second place, between the

three teams of Scott Myers and Anna Marie Danks, Jeannine Parks and Rob Galambos, and Germany's Andrea Steudte and Martin Hass. Steudte and Hass skated an excellent waltz which contributed greatly to their final placement.

In the long awaited free dance competition, one of the best routines was from an unexpected pair, Australians Giuffre and Irving. Their sixth place finish was the best an Australian dance team had finished, and far higher than this team finished last year.

Galambos and Parks were superb at changing their moods with each change of music. Anna Marie Danks and Scott Myers also made their presence felt in this event as they actually scored higher in total points than the German team. They had a slight but very costly miss at the end of their routine, and the judges dropped them just enough to allow Steudte and Hass to receive the silver. Danks and Myers placed third, and Galambos and Parks fourth.

Not enough can be said about the champions Golub and Famiano. Their perfect unison and total skating compatibility was unmatched by any other. Their gold medal was merely a formality. This would be their final competition performance, and another great American dance team has retired to join the teaching ranks. David and Angie's scores for their final world championship title were five 5.9s and two 6.0s for content, and artistic impression scores were three 5.9s and four 6.0s.

The final medal tally gave the USA five gold, one silver and four bronze; the Italians two gold, three silver and three bronze; the Germans two gold and four silver; and the Canadians, one bronze. The 1985 World Meet is scheduled for Rimini, Italy, and the Italians will be skating on their home ground. They will, definitely, be the team to beat. ■