

SIKATERS

MAGAZINE



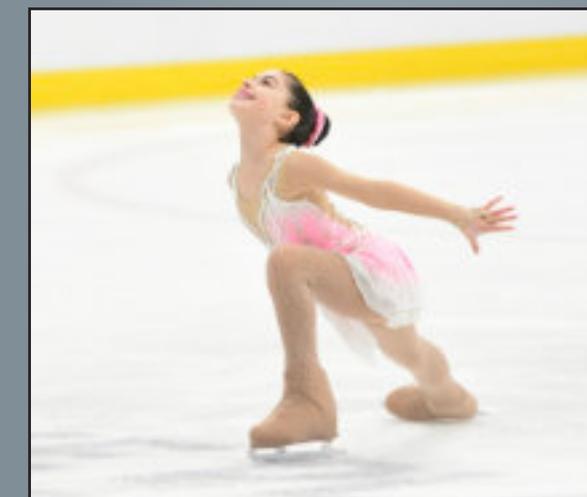
Gianna Rose
Andolina

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Featured Athletes



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My name is Brenda Denny, and I started skating in 1994 when I was 5 years old. I am grateful for all the experiences and opportunities that figure skating has brought me over the last 29 years, both as a skater and a coach. Skating has been a constant presence in my life, teaching me valuable lessons about perseverance, discipline, and resilience. I have formed close friendships with fellow skaters and coaches who share my passion, giving me a sense of community and belonging.

In 2006, I achieved the distinction of becoming a USFS double gold medalist in both freestyle and moves in the field. The following year, I had the honor of performing as the principal pairs skater at the Frosty Follies Ice Show. Fast forward to 2017, I competed at the senior level in the National Theater on Ice Competition, marking my final performance in front of an audience and making the experience all the more poignant. Later that year, I was invited to coach at Bjorninn, Iceland's largest figure skating club, a true privilege.

For 18 years, I have had the privilege of sharing my passion for the sport with others and helping them achieve their own personal goals. While coaching has its own set of challenges, seeing my students develop a love for the sport and achieve their



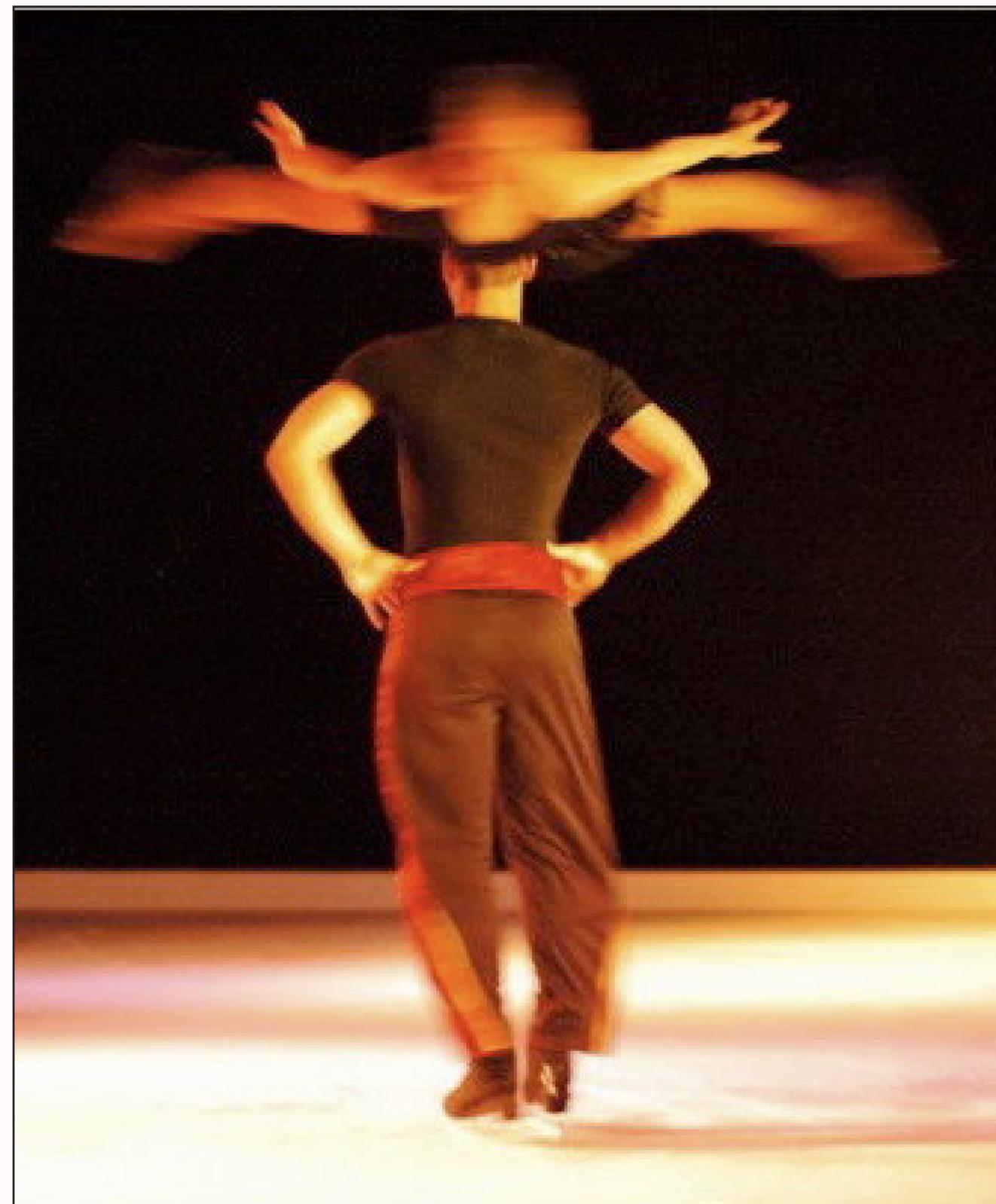
Brenda Denny

own personal goals is immeasurably rewarding. Coaching has given me a unique perspective on the challenges and achievements that come with pursuing figure skating as a hobby or a career. As a coach, I have been able to share my passion for the sport with others and help them achieve their own personal goals. I have coached skaters to compete and medal in regional and national events, such as the South Atlantic Regional Championships and Adult National Championships.

Despite sustaining a full ACL tear on my right knee, I refused to let this keep me from skating or coaching. Instead, I set new long-term goals for myself, such as learning and passing the pattern ice dancing tests.

My skating journey has been filled with challenges and achievements, successes as a skater and fulfilling experiences as a coach, as well as valuable experience, insight, and a deep appreciation for the sport. I am grateful for the opportunities that skating has brought me and look forward to continuing to pursue and share my passion.

Photos Credits: unknown







My name is Ciaron Chester, I am an 11 year old boy from the West Midlands in the UK. I started my skating journey in April 2019, when I was 7 years old, by entering a skating competition at my local rink aimed at complete beginners. I will never forget that first time I stepped onto the ice, I couldn't quite reach the barrier to hold onto so used a penguin for support for the first few minutes, then decided I didn't like the weight of the penguin, so just let go off it and messily skated. From that moment I was hooked, spent all my free time at the rink, practising having fun and then winning my very first competition. I managed to pass all my Learn to Skate levels apart from one before the pandemic hit and rinks were closed. Even during lockdown, my coach arranged Zoom off ice sessions, so continued training. The minute the rinks were opened again, I was there, feeling like I was finally home. Over the past 18 months, I have progressed through British Ice Skating levels and I am currently competing at National Level 3. I have won 5 medals at local level competitions, and 3 Silver medals at British Ice Skating level and at each competition I have gained a PB. I currently train 5 or 6 days a week on the ice around school as well as off ice sessions run by my amazing coach and his team. And constantly jumping around at home, when I am doing neither of those. I also enjoy taking part in shows at my local rink as well as competitions. My dream is to be at the Olympics, but as a skater, I know how unpredictable the ice can be, you fall (lots) and you pick yourself back up, injuries happen and nothing is certain, but it isn't about

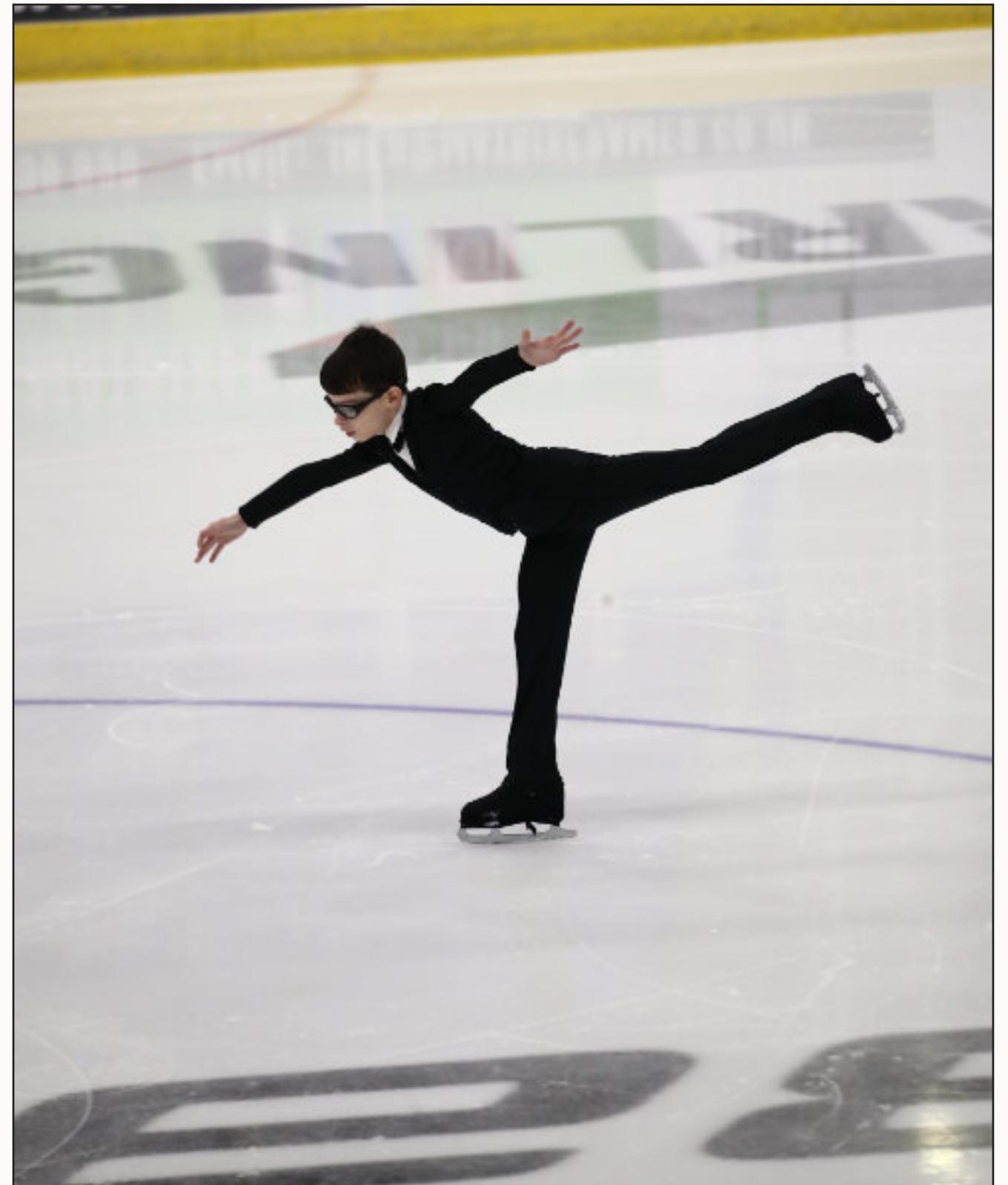


Ciaron Chester

the dream, it is about the journey. My skating journey has taught me so much, with plenty more to teach me, it has given me the best coaches, the best team and the most amazing friends. It has taught me to work at something, even the boring bits to learn a new jump, or spin, or pattern, and by doing so you feel the greatest sense of

achievement when you land that jump, or perfect that difficult spin. I hope to achieve my dream, but even if I don't, my journey so far has been the best.

Photos Credits: Helen Chester







My name is Cleo Park and I am a Team USA figure skater athlete. My dream is to make it to the Olympics and get into the Top 10. My achievements is being an International Champion, Pacific Coast Sectionals Bronze medalist, NQS 2022-2023 #1 in Novice Ladies.









My name is Gianna Rose Andolina and I am a Figure Skater from Wyckoff, NJ. I was first introduced to ice skating when I was just three years old. I would go with my parents to the rink, and sometimes other family members would join. We always had a fun time and my dad is a pretty good skater!

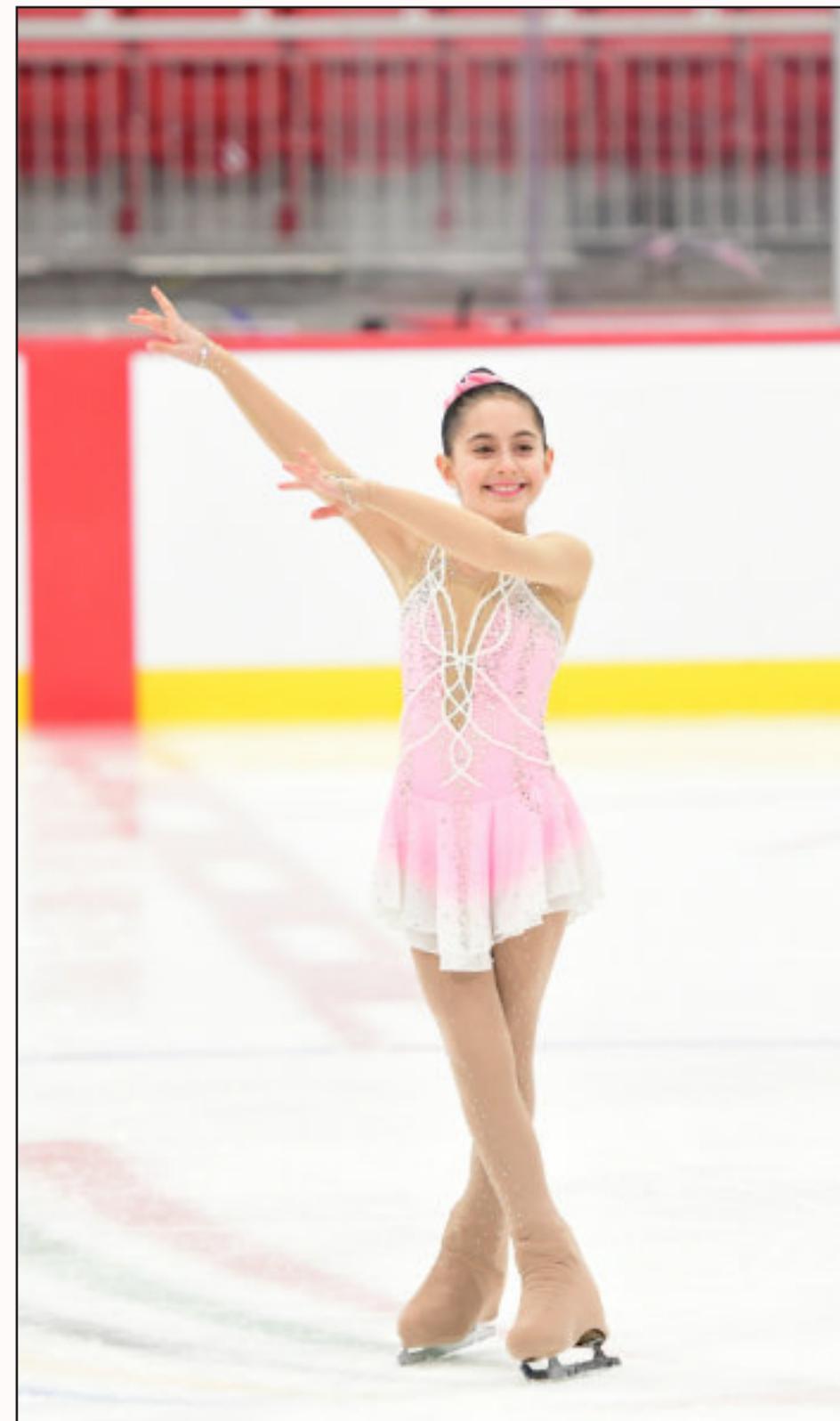
As I got older, I tried a variety of sports but eventually went back to skating at the age of nine and asked my parents for figure skating lessons. I am currently doing competitions and have won a few gold medals!

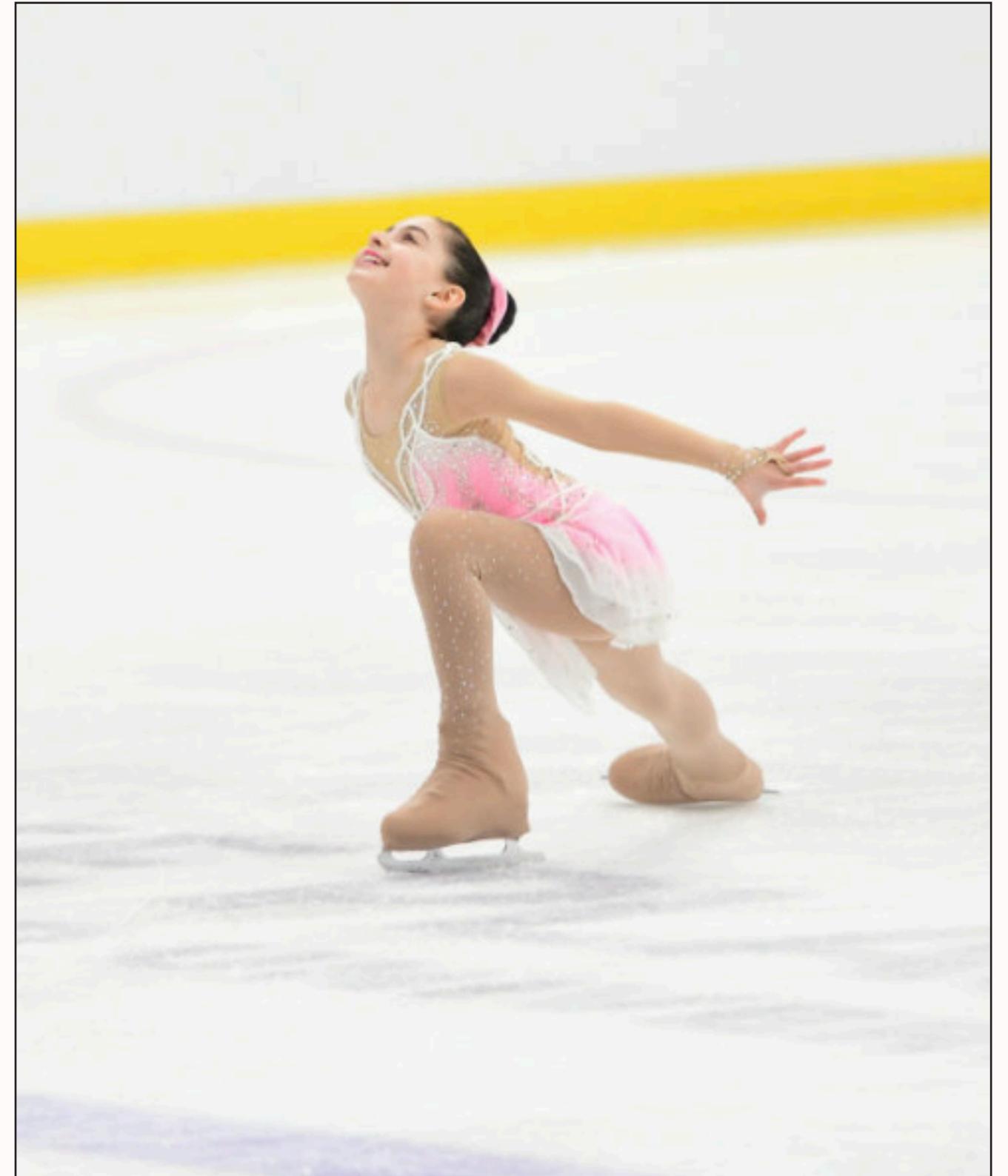
My favorite part about figure skating is working on spins with my coach. I spend a lot of time each week either before school or after school trying to perfect them.

My goal right now is to compete at the juvenile level and I'm working really hard almost every day to make that happen.

My biggest challenge is stretching! I don't like to do it, but I know to be an amazing figure skater it must happen!

Thank you for taking the time to read my article and I hope to see you all on the ice soon!







Harley Quinn Sims

My Name is Harley Quinn Sims, and I am 8 years old. I have been figure skating since I was 3 years old at Hollydell ice rink with my Coaches Maggie, Michelle, and Amy. I have loved skating since I watched the world championships with my mom when I was 2. That Christmas my uncle Ryan got me a gift card for Hollydell, and I meet Coach Amy who asked if I would like to take classes, and I

have been skating ever since. My dreams are to one day compete in the world championships and the Grand Prix Finals and I know with hard work and the help of my Coaches I hope to get there one day. My goals are to get better at my jumps and spins. I hope to master a sit spin and camel spin soon. My goal for jumps is to learn and master an axel and a double axel. I have always



Harley Quinn Sims

wanted to learn how to do an axel. My achievements that I am most proud of is that I have mastered my scratch spin. It took me a long time, but I did it with hard work and not giving up. I am also very proud of my achievement of my lunges. I practiced really hard to get down as far as I do, and I love doing them. The challenges I have faced as I have learned skating is when I first started skating it was very hard for me to learn to go backwards. I had the hardest time learning to

do a backwards swizzle, because my legs were so tiny and not strong enough yet. Another challenge I had to overcome was backwards crossovers. Just like my backwards swizzles I had a hard time with them in the beginning as well. Another challenge that I am proud i overcame was one-foot turns. They were so hard for me in the beginning that I didn't even want to do them, but Coach Maggie worked with me very hard and I got it. My successes I am most proud of is I did my first



competitions this year. My first one was at the Skating Club of Iceland Spring Open. I took First Place in Basic 4 group B. I was so proud of myself. I didn't even expect to place, because it was my first one. My second competition was the 2023 Philadelphia Area Championships. I placed Forth in basic 4 group A. I am still very proud of myself it was a hard competition, and it was only my second one and I still placed. I am very happy and proud of myself for all I have done and learned

from ice skating. I am so happy and thankful for my amazing coaches and awesome friends I have made in my club while skating. They are all so supportive and we are always there for each other. They are like family to me. I think ice skating is the best thing ever, and everyone should give it a try, because you learn so much from it. I know I have learned to be confident in myself and never give up, and to always get up and try again.



Katalina Victoria LaSalle



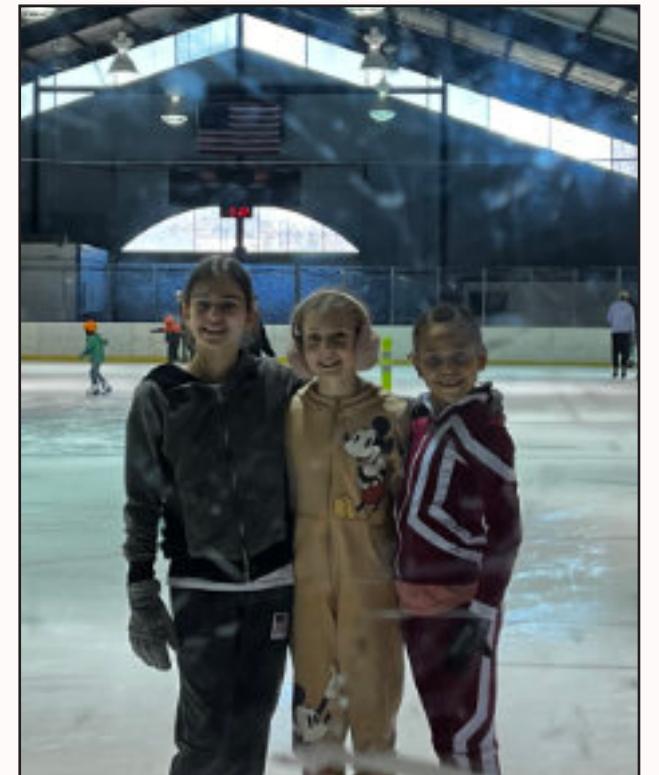
My name is Katalina Victoria LaSalle. I started skating when I was 3 years old with Learn to Skate USA. Unfortunately I broke my leg on ice when I was 4 years old and didn't skate till I turned 6 but then Covid Pandemic started and I had another set back. But in the fall of 2021 i returned to skating and i want to compete in Juvenile next season. I want to win Olympics of course or whatever will be the most prestigious competition when I am older. I love skating - at training i am sometimes

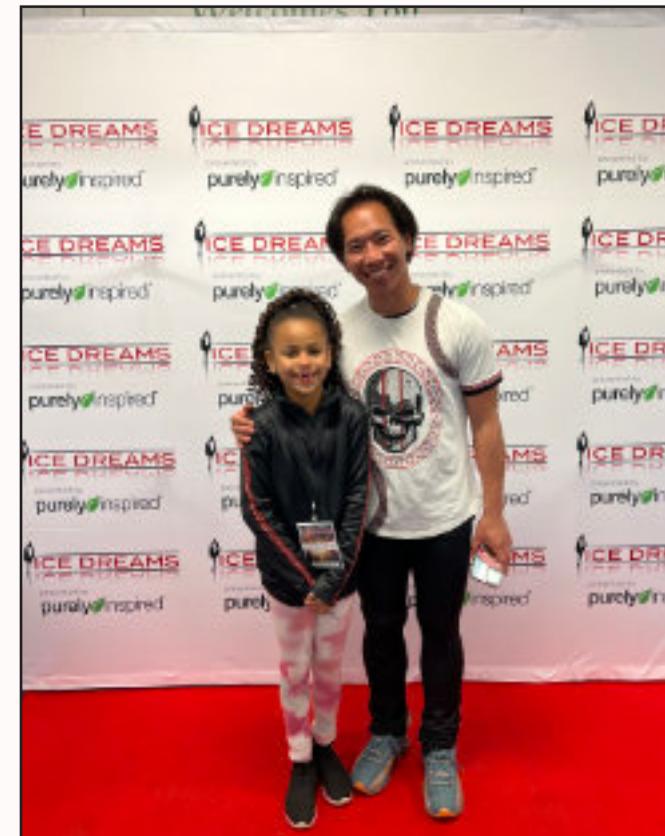
holding myself back- but when I am competing I love the atmosphere, the music. I hope one day to jump like Adeliya Petrosyan or Ilya Malinin. I want to keep enjoying skating. I am grateful to my coaches Gennadi, Nina and Yelena who give their 100% every time. I hope to "pay back" by doing well.

Photos Credits: Naira Aslanyan, Yuliya Khripunkova (god mother) Alla Aslanyan (mother)



Katalina Victoria LaSalle







My name is Lindsay Wang, and I am a figure skater representing the United States. I live in and train in Los Angeles, California, my hometown where I was born. Watching the 2014 Sochi Olympics, I became inspired by Yuna Kim and picked up skating at the age of 10. Even though I started later than my peers, I persisted because of my passion and love for the sport, all of its artistic and technical aspects. My dream has always been to participate in the Olympics, and I am working towards achieving this goal.

The year of 2019 was the hardest and most difficult year of my career. I fractured my ankle on a jump gone wrong and I had to withdraw from Regionals to qualify for Nationals that year. After recovering from the first injury, I collided with another skater during training and had to get stitches for a skate blade laceration, taking me off the ice again. After resuming practice after both injuries, Covid 19 hit and everyone had to stay home to protect themselves. Through it all, I spent more time reading and considering new concepts of life and the human existence. I rekindled a new hobby of writing and publishing. Writing has become a new purpose in my life and I continue to do it consistently in the form of my newest project of an e-mail newsletter publication.

I am currently a freshman at Arizona State University, majoring in Mass Communications and minoring in Philosophy, in hopes of using



Lindsay Wang

this knowledge as a basis for an opportunity to work in law. I also attend collegiate competitions representing my university, with this year's collegiate nationals approaching soon.

When I am not skating, studying, or communicating with friends, I also enjoy studying language as an entry into different cultures. I am fascinated by other countries and would love to travel around the world to appreciate their unique art, landscape, and food. I am an avid art

enthusiast, and spend most of my weekends going to art museums and temporary exhibitions. With English and Chinese being my mother languages, I can also speak Korean and Japanese. The next language I hope to master is Bulgarian, as three of my coaches and one of my teammates are Bulgarian!

Photos Credits: Paul Yeung, Clouds2sea Photography, Getty Images





Meghan Huffman



My name is Meghan Huffman and I'm currently competing Junior Ladies. I was the 2023 South Atlantic Novice Ladies Regional Champion, 2022 & 2023 National Development Team member and I'm looking forward to achieving my goals. I was sidelined in February 2023 when I broke my fibula and tibia on a triple toe combo, but I worked very

hard in PT, listened to my orthopedic doctor and after 5 months started training again. My hope is to one day compete internationally and be a US National Champion.

Photos Credits: MHeaney photography & S Huffman









My name is Sawyer but my nickname is Sauce. I am 8 years old and I love the game of hockey. I have been playing for a few years before and after covid and love the game.

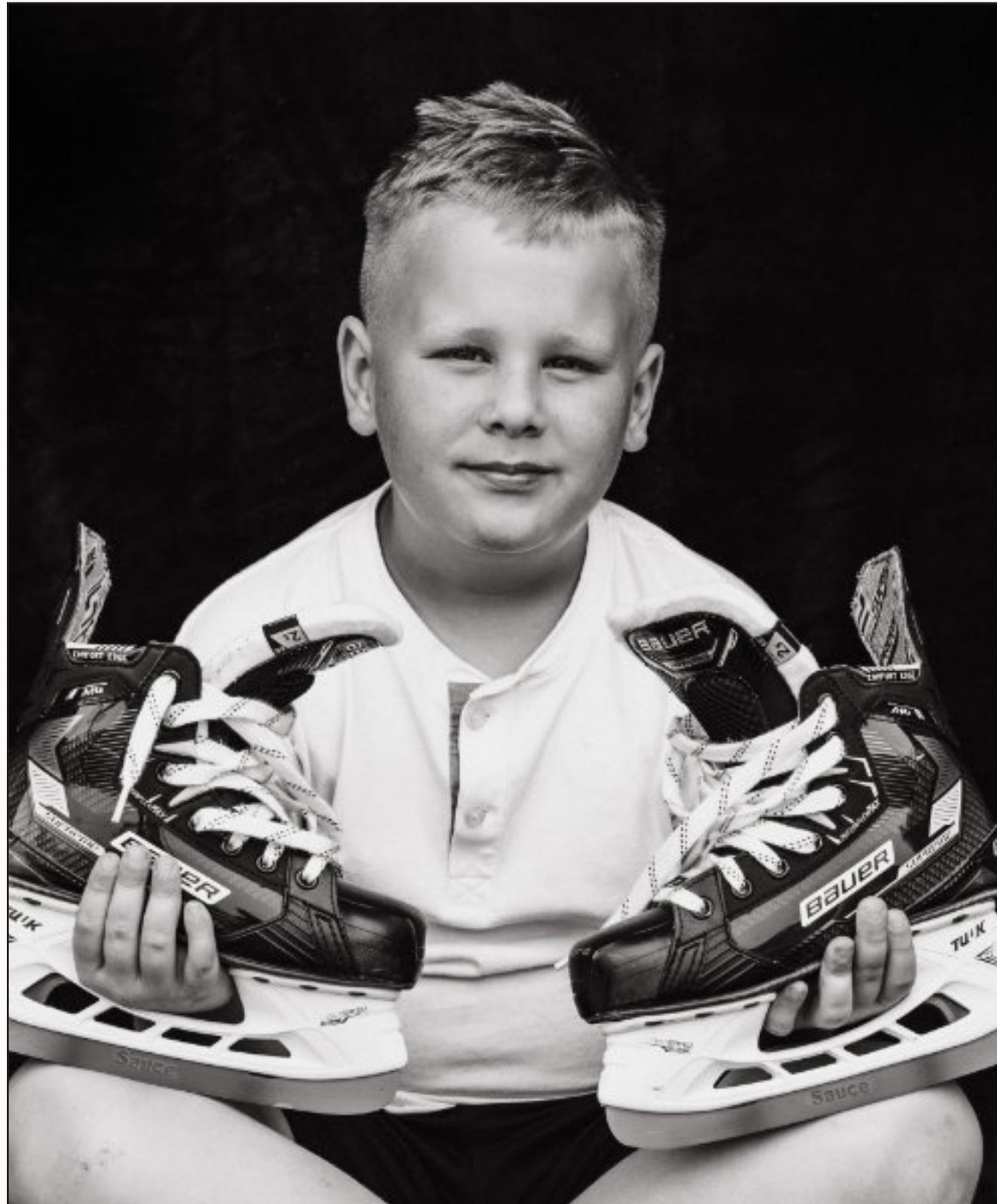
obsessed with the game

My teammates and coaches call me Sauce and I can't wait to show the world what I can do.

I have been working on my skills and hope to make the rep team this season. I am dedicated and

I love it!







Skylar Lautowa Peguero

My Name Is Skylar Lautowa-Peguero

I am currently 10 years old. I first started skating at the age of 3. My mother Julia Lautowa, being a former figure skater herself, taught me how to skate from the very beginning. It was love at first skate!

My mother has always been my coach, and i wouldn't change a thing! My Dream in skating would be that i would come in first place in the

world championships.

My goal is to land a clean triple axel.

My achievements are landing clean triple triples and scoring higher than any other Juvenile girl in the country!

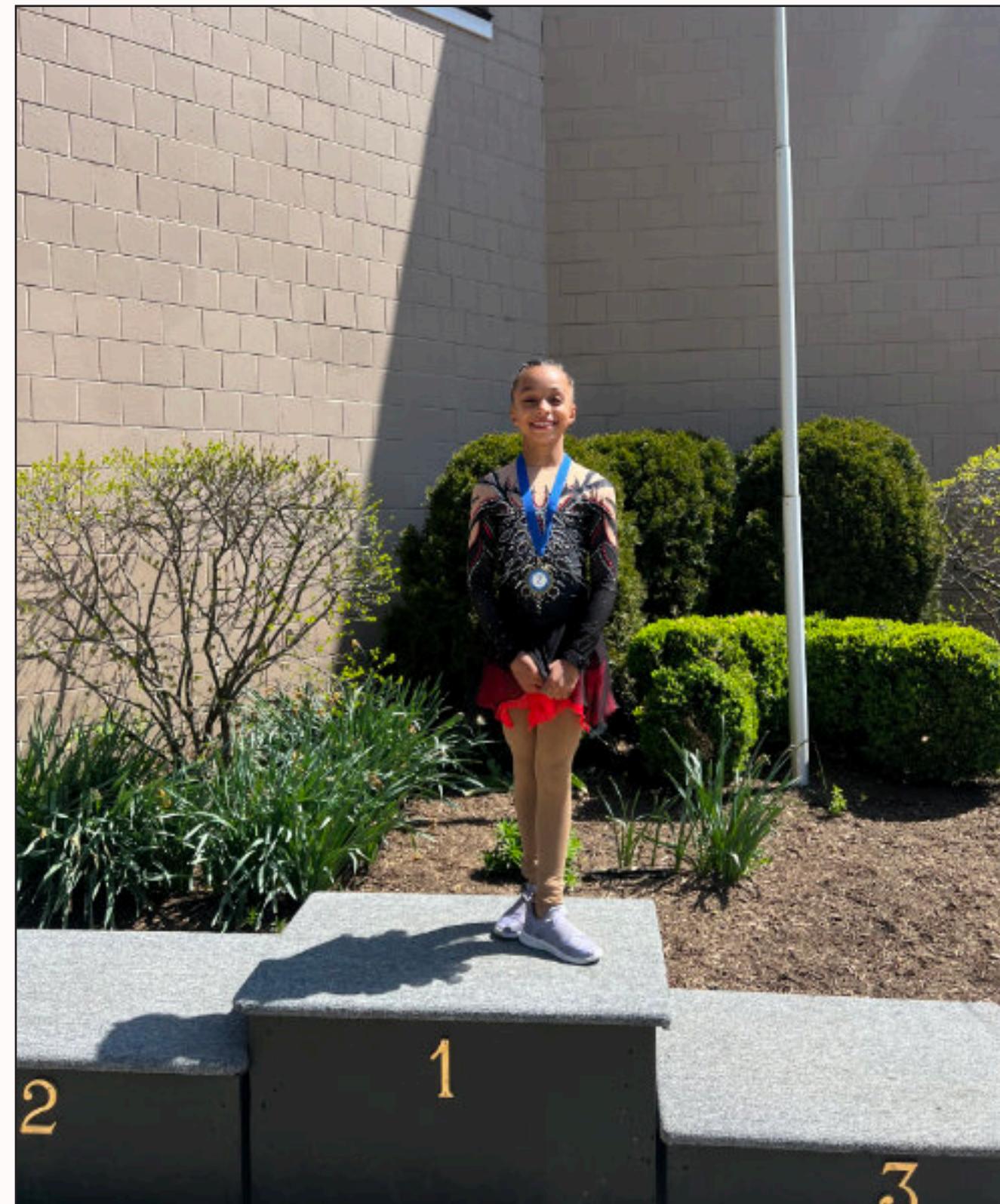
My challenges are landing triple flips consistently

Photos Credits: Julia Lautowa, Jorge Peguero



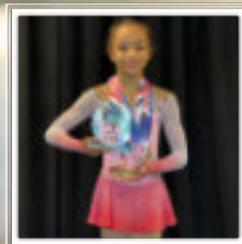
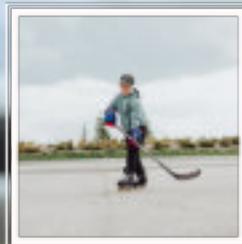
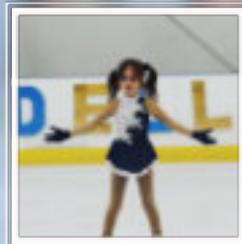


Skylar Lautowa Peguero



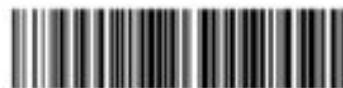
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Meghan Huffman

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