



# THE INSIDE EDGE



November 2011

## MARIA KALINA QUALIFIES FOR MIDWEST SECTIONALS

Maria Kalina landed solid triple salchows in both the Short and Free Skate programs at the Upper Great Lakes Regional Championships in Richfield in mid-October and earned a spot in the Midwestern Sectional Championships in Colorado in November. The Regional Competition included skaters from eight states and is the first step in the U.S. Figure Skating qualifying structure that leads to the National Championships in San Jose in January, 2012.

Maria was in 6<sup>th</sup> place after the Short Program and placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the Free Skate, but earned a combined 101.51 points, enough to edge out the 5<sup>th</sup> place finisher and capture the coveted 4<sup>th</sup> place spot. The top four finishers move on to Sectionals.

Maria's accomplishment is extra sweet for her. She finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place last year and has spent the past few months battling through a painful foot injury suffered during ISI World's in July.

There is no time to rest the foot now. She took one day off from training after qualifying, and was then back at Parade training with renewed momentum and a new goal.

Sectional Championships will be held in Ft. Collins, Colorado November 15 - 19 and include the top four finishers from three regionals across 22 states.

Maria has previous experience competing on the national level. She finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Intermediate level at Junior Nationals at Lake Placid, NY in 2009.

Maria is a senior at Edina High School. She has skated with SQSA Parade for several years and is coached by Page Lipe.

**Good Luck, Maria!**

**MARIA SHOWN PERFORMING HER SHORT PROGRAM**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Summary of major events. See website CALENDAR for complete club schedule**

- Nov 12: Winter 1 Ice Contract due, 11:30
- Nov 14: Winter 1 Ice Contract begins
- Nov 19: ISI Test Session at Parade, 12:00-1:00
- Nov 22: Registrations due to Michael for Blizzard Blast ISI Competition in Blaine
- Nov 23-26: Thanksgiving Break/No Contract Ice
- Dec 2-4: White Bear Lake ISI Competition
- Dec 12: ISI Test Session, 7:00 pm
- Dec 15: NO CONTRACT ICE SESSIONS
- Dec 16: Registrations due to Karen for Frosty Blades ISI competition in Blaine
- Dec 17: Holiday Party & Bake Sale at Parade, 11:30-1:00
- Dec 27: *IllumiSkate* at Parade, 7:00-9:00 pm
- Jan 7: Blizzard Blast ISI Competition in Plymouth
- Jan 10: Tuesday classes begin for Skate School
- Jan 14: Saturday classes begin for Skate School
- Jan 14: Test Session. 12:00-1:00
- Jan 14: Blades of March registrations due
- Jan 21: Snow Daze Exhibition, 11:30-1:00
- Jan 28: Spring Ice Show registrations due Exhibition Ice, 12:00-1:00
- Feb 10-12: Frosty Blades Competition in Blaine
- Feb 19: Club Skating Party at Depot Rink
- Feb 25: Test Session, 12:00-1:00
- Mar 3-4: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Blades of March competition hosted by SQSA Parade
- Apr 26: Spring Ice Show Dress Rehearsal
- Apr 27-28: Spring Ice Show

### Welcome New Members

**Zoe Fustgaard** and **Greta Schmalz** joined as new members. **Lucy Durben** is a returning member.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT ON ALANA CHRISTIE

When Alana Christie re-joined SQSA Parade last year it was like coming home—in more ways than one. Alana began skating at Parade as a tot and lives blocks from the rink.

Alana skated with Parade for several years as a child and now as a senior has returned to skate with us. As she recently put it, “she is loving it even more than before.”

Alana is an accomplished skater. She has placed at the Minnesota State competition five times and was a first alternate to Junior Nationals. She skates with a passion that matches her love for the sport. “My sheer passion and love for this sport has kept me going all of these years.”

She took on a new skating challenge last year when she was selected to skate with one of the Team Braemar (Edina) synchronized skating lines. She has traveled nationally and internationally as part of the accomplished team which last year finished first in the French Cup, seconds at Nationals and third at the World Championships in Switzerland.

Alana loves the SQSA Parade Spring Ice Shows. Her favorite was the 2006 show, “Colors” where she skated her solo performance to “Fields of Gold.”

When asked advice she would have for young skaters, she offered, “work hard and have fun. If you are truly passionate about this sport, then do everything in your power to get what you want out of it.”

The Christie’s are truly “family” members. Her parents, Jon and Lynn, have been involved with club activities and served on the board and sister Jillian is also a skater.



**As a 2005 Soloist in the Spring Ice Show**

**As a member of the Penguins Synchro team in 2000**

## TUTORIAL: SQSA & PFSC

It can be confusing. We’re the first to admit it and it’s our most frequently asked question, “what’s the difference between SportQuest Skating Academy, Parade Figure Skating Club and SQSA Parade?” Here’s a brief summary:

SportQuest Skating Academy is a private business owned by Page Lipe that operates the Skate School, SummerQuest skating program and classes (freestyle, jumps, STARS).

SportQuest ensures there is practice ice time for members by purchasing blocks of ice time and re-selling it to skaters (contract ice). Coaches who teach classes are hired by SQSA, but individual coaches who give private lessons are private contractors and do not work for either SQSA or PFSC. Most of the regular coaches volunteer time to benefit SQSA Parade.

Parade Figure Skating Club (PFSC) is the non-profit club of skaters and their families that functions as part “booster club”, but also runs our two large events: The Blades of March (BOM) ISI competition and the annual Spring Ice Show. We rely on member families to provide the hundreds of volunteer hours to manage these two events. The proceeds from BOM provide the majority of our yearly budget of funds for our numerous social events and to partially fund the Ice Show.

*(continued on next page)*



## OLYMPIAN AT PARADE

Caryn Kadavy, member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic Figure Skating team spent time recently coaching Page Lipe’s students at Parade. Here she is shown with Page (right) and Raleigh Weld (left), coach and Skate School Director.

Caryn is a 3-time World Championship competitor and 4-time US Nationals medal winner.



The club also coordinates test sessions, the Team Ensemble skating program and manages club merchandise and most club events. An elected Board of Directors runs the club and activities are volunteer run.

SQSA Parade is the name we “compete” under at ISI competitions and the name that we commonly use to refer to the joint group of SQSA skaters and PFSC members.

Each entity plays very important roles.

The Skate School is generally the entry point for our young skaters. If they want to continue with skating, SportQuest provides the “infrastructure” in the form of figure skating expertise, coaching, ice time and afterschool and summer training programs.

PFSC provides the volunteer organization and labor to promote the program and run our social and fundraising activities and Spring Ice Show.

The key thing to remember is that we all work in tandem to make Parade a quality, supportive and fun place for skaters, coaches and families.

## TESTING SCHEDULE

ISI test sessions will be Nov. 19, Dec. 12, Jan. 14 and Feb. 25. The December session is a Monday from 7-7:45 pm. The others are Saturdays, 12-1. The Jan. 14 test session is the cutoff for Blades of March and Spring Ice Show level. Questions can be directed to your coach or Test Chair, Michael Luedtke.

## REPORTING COMPETITION RESULTS

After each competition, members will receive an email with a link to a shared “Google Docs” document and brief instructions on how to enter the results. There will be a separate spreadsheet for each competition. If you are in a competition and there is not a spreadsheet for it, email [sqsaparade@gmail.com](mailto:sqsaparade@gmail.com) and one will be set up.

We only publish results that are reported by families and please enter only results for your child.

## NOTES AND REMINDERS

The website, [www.sqsaparade](http://www.sqsaparade) is being updated regularly. Please check it for any questions on schedules, team practices, contract ice, etc. **Click on “Calendar”** button for complete club schedule.

**Reminder:** Ice Sessions, classes and Team Ensemble practices start **a half hour later**, effective with the start of the Winter 1 Ice Contract Nov. 14.



## ISI & USFS TESTS PASSED

**Breckon Hill - FS 2**  
**Kirby Goodman - FS7**  
**Kirby Goodman - Pre-Juvenile Free Skate**  
**Kelly Jiang - Juvenile Free Skate**  
**Greta Paschke - Pre-Preliminary Moves & Free Skate**  
**Abby Richardson - Pre-Juvenile Moves**  
**Sophie Rothenberger - Intermediate Moves**

## COMPETITION RESULTS

### UPPER GREAT LAKES REGIONALS USFS

|  |                         |                        |      |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|------|
| Maria Kalina   | Senior Ladies Freestyle | SP & LP                | 4th  |
| (qualified for Midwest Sectionals in November in Colorado) |                         |                        |      |
| Julia Hussian  | Juvenile                | Freestyle Qualif Round | 10th |
| Kirby Goodman  | Preliminary             | Freestyle Qualif Round | 1st  |
| Kirby Goodman  | Preliminary             | Freestyle Final Round  | 8th  |
| Izzi Gorowsky  | Preliminary             | Freestyle Qualif Rd    | 6th  |
| Abby Richardson  | Preliminary             | Freestyle Qualif Rd    | 5th  |
| Abby Richardson  | Preliminary             | Freestyle Final Rd     | 4th  |
| Sophie Rothenberger  | Pre Juvenile            | Freestyle Qualif Rd    | 9th  |

### WOODBURY ISI

|                             |       |                       |     |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| Lucy Albin                  | FS6   | Solo Comp. FS6        | 2nd |
| Lucy Albin                  | FS6   | Interp. Gold          | 3rd |
| Kyle Berglund               | FS6   | Freestyle             | 1st |
| Eve Clarkson                | Delta | Couples Spot Lt Ent   | 1st |
| Kathryn Ercolani            | FS2   | Freestyle 2           | 2nd |
| Carmen Ercolani             | FS2   | Freestyle 2           | 4th |
| Breckon Hill                | FS1   | Freestyle 1           | 3rd |
| Laura Lehman                | FS5   | Freestyle 5           | 3rd |
| Laura Lehman                | FS5   | Interp. Silver        | 2nd |
| Laura Lehman                | FS5   | Light Ent Spot Silver | 3rd |
| Laura Lehman                | FS5   | Couples Spot Lt Ent   | 1st |
| Greta Paschke               | FS5   | Freestyle             | 1st |
| Greta Paschke               | FS5   | Footwork 5/6          | 3rd |
| Ava Pihlstrom               | FS1   | Solo Compulsory       | 1st |
| Ava Pihlstrom               | FS1   | Freestyle 1           | 4th |
| Sophia Mary Rudeen Heegaard | FS 1  | Freestyle 1           | 1st |
| Sophie Sela                 | FS5   | Silver Freestyle      | 1st |
| Sophie Sela                 | FS5   | Solo Compulsory       | 1st |
| Sophie Sela                 | FS5   | Couples Spot Lt Ent   | 1st |
| Tori Shrake                 | Delta | Couples Spot Lt Ent   | 1st |



An exciting new event debuts this holiday season.

Raleigh Weld is coordinating a skater-driven exhibition where skaters perform a short program on the Parade ice surrounded by luminary candles. Skaters will pick their music, do their own choreography and choose their own costume.

Families and friends will be invited and the club will provide refreshments and treats.

*IllumiSkate* will be held December 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00. Details and entry forms will be coming soon.

## MEET COACH RALEIGH WELD

She's probably the most recognized name and face at Parade. This month we feature Raleigh Weld.

Raleigh's unique position as Skate School Director, coach, Blades of March Competition Director, one of the team coordinators and Ice Show organizing committee member, puts her right in the middle of just about every club and skating function. If you need an answer about anything SQSA Parade, Raleigh is the "go to" person.

There is not a skater in the club that she does not know or could not tell you about. She is passionate about not only skating, but also insisting that our young members have fun, build friendships, and learn to work and skate hard while evolving into wonderful young people. It's hard to imagine what our club would be like without her ability to identify the Skate School students who love skating enough to take it to the next level and encourage their parents to do so.



Raleigh grew up skating at Lake Minnetonka Figure Skating Club and skated from age four to 17. She was a little tomboy and her parents were thrilled when she discovered skating. She skated and competed individually and on precision (pre-synchronized) teams and admits to once skating to "Achy Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus (later more famous as Miley's dad).

Her most embarrassing skating moment was when she had to play "Woodstock" (from *The Peanuts* series) in an ice show. The costume was a giant suit of feathers and padding with a full head mask. She lost her balance after a split jump and landed on her head, resulting in a concession. She added, "Children in the audience were traumatized and crying by seeing Woodstock sprawled on the ice".

Her skating career was not confined to figure skating. She played for the very first Hopkins High School women's hockey team. Of the experience, she adds, "we were horrible!"

Raleigh taught learn-to-skate classes at two other rinks before coming to Parade in 2004. She started teaching one day a week and has continually added responsibilities to the point where a few years ago she "quit her day job" at Target Corporation to coach and work with SportQuest full time.

In her free time, she has a unique part time job as a stand up comic. She is well known on the local Twin Cities comedy club scene and several club moms can personally attest to her witty and biting routines. Of course, working with young children and skating parents could provide a steady source of comic material.

*(This is the second in a regular feature that will profile SQSA Parade coaches)*