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Get It Called

Your Portal to U.S. Synchronized Skating





This Month

Front Page: The Crystallettes senior team, from Dearborn, Mich. at the Kalamazoo Synchronized Skating Kick-Off Classic in Kalamazoo, Mich. November 20.
Photo by Tessa Hedges.

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Get It Called is a publication working to bring skaters, teams, coaches, officials, administrators and trainers together to enhance and strengthen the U.S. synchronized skating community. The views expressed in this publication are those of Get It Called and individual contributors.

November

6th	Thanksgiving Classic
6-7th	Central Carolina Synchro Classic
7th	Anaheim ICE Synchronized Skating Team Championships
12-13th	Granite City Classic
13-14th	Gateway Inviational
20th	Kalamazoo Synchronized Skating Kick-Off
20th	Mountain State Synchro Skate



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for summaries
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for results

December

3-5th	Skaneateles Figure Skating Club Invitational
4-5th	(Dr. Richard Porter Synchronized Skating Classic)
4-5th	Terry Conners Synchronized Skating Open
5th	Bay Cities Synchronized Team Skating Competition
10-12th	(Cape Cod Synchronized Skating Classic)
18-19th	Maplewood Synchronized Skating Classic

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for preview

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for preview

January

7-9th	Colonial Classic
7-9th	Foot of the Lake Synchronized Skating Championship & Junior World Selection Competition
13-15th	Cup of Berlin
13-15th	Zagreb Snowflakes Trophy
14-16th	Mid-America Synchronized Skating Championships
21-22nd	Boston Synchronized Skating Classic
21-23rd	Mozart Cup

Stay tuned for previews
in next month's issue!



What Synchro Means To Me

Rebounding from Defeat

By Nicole Davies



I paced up and down the grassy hill inside the fence of the gym parking lot at school. I memorized the individual blades of grass in each patch of green and brown. Deep breath, inhale, exhale. I continued to pace. I had lacrosse practice, but I couldn't bring myself to head down to the field until my mom showed up with my letter. The letter. Deep breath.

I needed to read the words "we are happy to inform you that you have been placed on the Junior roster for the 2004-2005 season." One of my best friends read those words on her letter an hour earlier, and I was anxious to confirm the same good news for myself. My head was spinning; I couldn't wait to be a member of Team USA, to represent my country internationally, to skate with the older girls, to paint my skates and compete two programs.

A few weeks earlier, I wasn't thinking about the privileges, experiences and opportunities I would have on Junior, because I hadn't planned on trying out until the following season. I was happy skating on Intermediate with all of my best friends, and I didn't want our team dynamics to change or our team to get split up. When a number of my teammates, including four of my closest friends, decided they wanted to move up to Junior I didn't want to be left out, so I showed up for Junior tryouts along with almost half of our Intermediate team.



Davies and teammates. Photo by Nicole Davies.

I told myself I was there for the experience, with no expectation of actually making Junior, because I knew I didn't have a chance. Even with that mentality I was shaking with nerves at the first tryout as my coach watched me perform my junior moves solo. Over the next few weeks of tryouts and "skate with the team" I got more comfortable and relaxed, I laughed with the girls, and I got attached to the idea of skating on Junior. Pacing the hill that afternoon after hearing one of my teammates made it, I believed the odds were in my favor.

I saw my mom's car pull over the hill, so I ran over and jumped in the front seat. The butterflies fluttered in my stomach and I tried to control my breathing as my mom handed me the letter. Either I would get the opportunity to spend the next three years competing at the Junior level, or I would have to go through the nerves, the stress, the emotions and the anxious waiting of the tryout process again in a year. My envelope was fat, and a fat envelope meant only one thing—registration forms!

I pulled out the papers and began to read. "Dear Nicole, Thank you for participating in the tryout process. It is never easy to assess the right blend of new skaters. At this time we feel that you are not ready to join the Junior line..." I read it again. I didn't move. "I didn't make it."

I didn't cry. I made my mom drive around for a few minutes because I couldn't face my friends at lacrosse practice without letting the information sink in. I called my skating teammates to break the news. Most people hadn't received their letters yet, so they didn't know how to react. After I called everyone I went to lacrosse practice and went through the motions, but everything was a blur and I didn't absorb anything my coach said.

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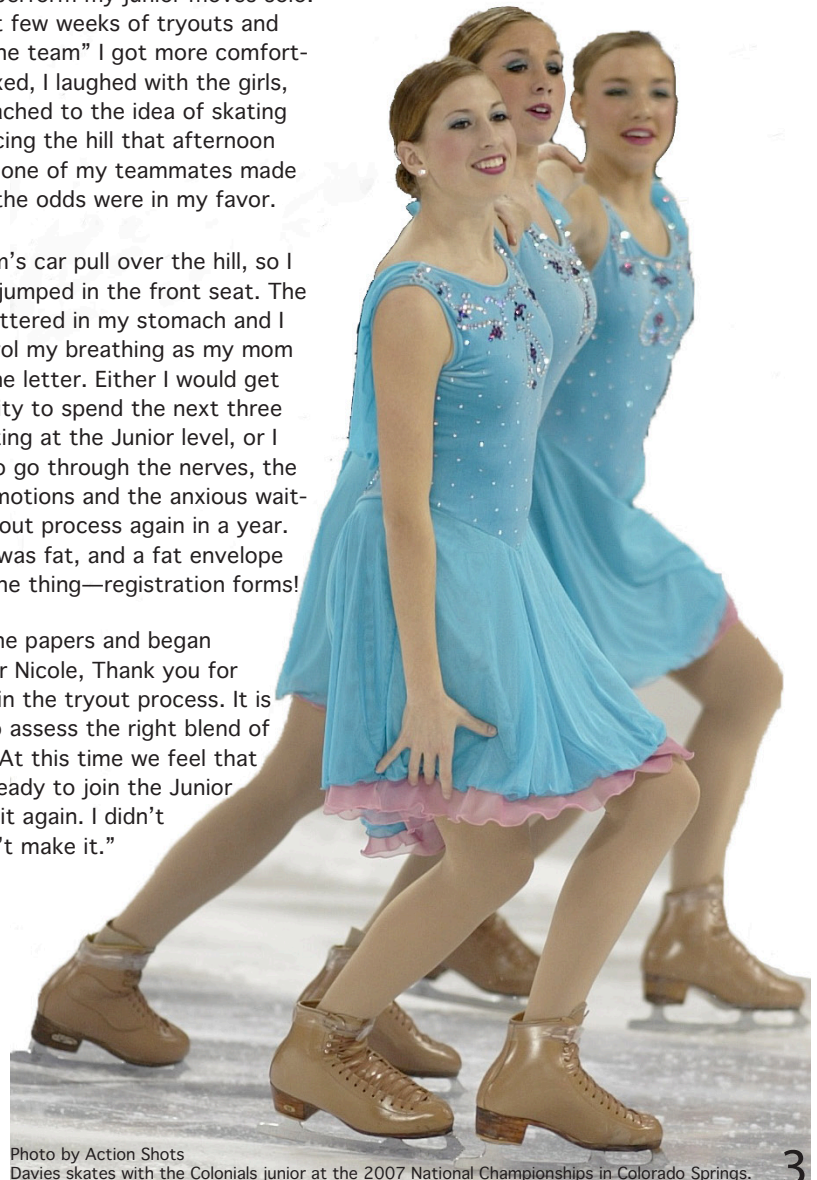


Photo by Action Shots
Davies skates with the Colonials junior at the 2007 National Championships in Colorado Springs.

When I got home I was still in a fog. I signed on the computer to figure out if the rest of my teammates made Junior. I found out from an alumni skater that my best friend did. A wave crashed over me and I felt physically sick. My heart broke. For some reason the thought that the two of us would be split up never crossed my mind. I knew some people would make it and some people wouldn't, but I never pictured us divided.

I signed off the computer and turned off my phone to gather my thoughts and spend time alone. My emotions spun and shifted from disbelief, to disappointment, to anger, to sadness. The final count: three of my closest friends would be moving up to Junior, and they were leaving me behind.

Over the next few weeks our friendships changed. I wanted to be happy for the girls who moved up, but it was painful to hear about how much fun they were having on Junior when I couldn't be a part of their new experiences. Each stage of the season brought a new ache of disappointment. I watched my friends get their international assignment, apply for their passports, get fitted for their Team USA jackets, wear fake eyelashes for competitions, compete their first junior short program—I wanted to be doing all those things for the first time at their side.

Although I didn't think it possible the day I got my rejection letter, or even in the weeks following, as the year passed I was able to rally and gear up for Junior tryouts again both physically and emotionally. During my final season on Intermediate I developed leadership skills, strengthened my skating, and improved my understanding of what a team needs to be successful—all important characteristics of a

The second time I tried out for Junior I made the team. I didn't take anything for granted that season because I was thankful and honored to earn the privilege and opportunity to represent Team USA. The fact that not everyone gets the chance to compete at an elite level is something that I appreciated everyday. I have a distinct memory of warming up at Porter, looking around at my teammates in their navy blue Team USA warm-ups and getting the chills. I was proud and happy to be on my team, competing two programs, wearing red, white and blue, painting my skates and wearing fake eyelashes.

On Junior my friendships healed, and the pain of disappointment faded, but I never let myself forget what I learned from my last year on Intermediate. That year, the year I didn't make Junior, was one of my most challenging, but I wouldn't change it for the world. Those experiences made me who I am. It taught me to fight when faced with disappointment, to never give up, and to take control of things in my power even in situations that seem out of my hands. ■

Photos by Nicole Davies.



Dr. Richard Porter Classic

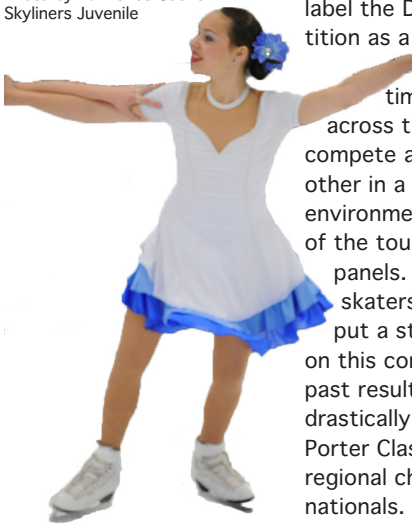
December 4-5, 2010

By Erin Banco



The 2010 Dr. Richard Porter Synchronized Classic will take place this December 4-5 in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Dr. Porter Classic marks the first major competition of the year. Teams from all over the U.S., as well as teams from Finland and Canada, will compete beginning Saturday morning.

Photo by Lawrence Cooke
Skyliners Juvenile



Skaters and coaches often label the Dr. Porter competition as a "mini nationals."

It is the first time teams from across the country compete against each other in a competitive environment with some of the toughest judging panels. Although skaters and coaches put a strong emphasis on this competition, in the past results have changed drastically from the Dr. Porter Classic to the regional championships, to nationals.

Last year, the Collegiate division took the synchronized skating community by surprise when The University of Delaware came out on top, surpassing long time National Champions, Miami University. The University of Delaware attempted mostly level 3 elements and level 3 step sequences, but performed them beautifully, earning high Grades of Execution and placing them at the top of the division.



Gold Ice Junior Photo by Alice Steele



Skyliners Junior
Photo by Lawrence Cooke



Icettes Intermediate
Photo by Sally Sun

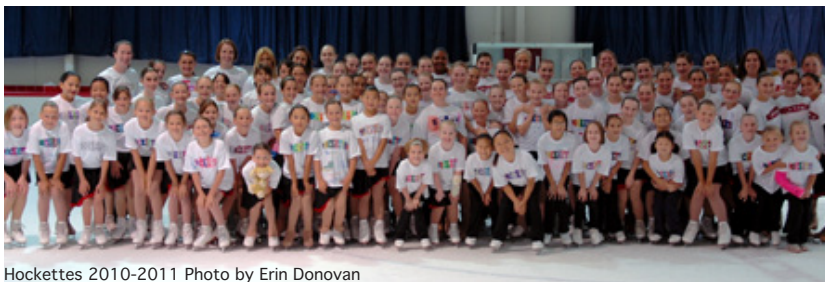
It will be interesting to see which teams attempt level 4s and which teams attempt level 3s. If teams with level 3s earn high enough GOEs they may have a chance to surpass some of the teams attempting level 4s that aren't as polished this early in the season. The question remains: will doing easier steps and elements earn you a higher placement than attempting the more difficult elements?



Nexxice Junior
Photo by Jill Roberts

Some teams who attempted level 3s early in the year last year did not move up to level 4s by the end of the year. Their competitors who began the year attempting level 4s perfected their elements and ended the year with higher technical marks. The University of Delaware added in level 4 step sequences after Porter last year, but refrained from adding in more difficult elements like the level 4 lines. Miami University kept their level 4s in their program and worked on perfecting them. Miami University came out on top again last year at nationals, with a close second place finish by The University of Michigan, who should also be a top contender in the division this year.

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Hockettes 2010-2011 Photo by Erin Donovan



Ann Arbor Ice Cube



California Gold Senior Photo by Amanda Falowski

In the Senior division the Haydenettes and the Crystallettes will compete against each other for the first time since the 2010 ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships last April. They will be challenged by Miami University, the reigning National bronze medalists, and the highest placing U.S. World Team in history, who earned a silver medal at the 2007 World Championships, as well as Team Unique from Finland, who earned a silver medal at the 2009 World Championships.

Team Unique joins the competition in the U.S. to get a jump-start on the international arena this season. Competition among the top ranking Finnish teams, Team Unique, Fintastic and Marigold Ice Unity, will be especially fierce this year as they battle it out for the two Finnish spots on the World team to compete on their home turf for the 2011 World Championships.

The two largest divisions at Dr. Porter this weekend are the Open-Juvenile division with 24 teams and the Intermediate division with 21 entrants. The reigning National gold, silver and bronze medalists will all be in attendance—Team Del Sol, Team Reflections and the Fond Du Lac Blades respectively. Competition will be fierce in this division because of the sheer volume and talent of this age group.

Many of the Team USA Junior teams will compete this weekend including the Skyliners, Chicago Jazz, Miami University and the Hockettes. Missing from the competition will be National Champions, Team Braemar and National Bronze medalists, the Lexettes. Joining the Junior division this season is Evolution, formerly a Senior division competitor. Our top U.S. Junior teams will have the opportunity this weekend to match up with top Canadian competitors including Nexxice and Gold Ice. ■



The Haydenettes Photo by B. Gomez



Team Unique Senior Photo by F. Lintu



Miami University Senior Photo by Mike Zarnek



The Crystallettes Senior Photo by B. Gomez