

# THE BLADE

## **2018 UPPER GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COMPETITION UPDATE**

As we shared in the Fall newsletter, U.S. Figure Skating (USFS) has awarded the Upper Great Lakes Regional Figure Skating Championships to the Northern Blades Figure Skating Club. The Championship will be held October 4-8, 2017, and will attract over 700 skaters from Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. Planning is already underway! This is a huge event that will take many volunteers to be successful. If you are interested in helping with the planning please contact Molly Fitzel at [uglregionalchair@northernblades.org](mailto:uglregionalchair@northernblades.org) or Jane Schaber at [jschaber@superrink.org](mailto:jschaber@superrink.org)



**Welcome to the newest member of the club**

Lori Giese

### ***Francesca Hope's and Dreams Scholarship***

In cooperation with Ruthann Chapman, the Francesca Hope's and Dreams Scholarship will be offered as an academic scholarship for the pursuit of continued education. The goal of the scholarship is:

- To promote the continued education of Northern Blades NSC skaters
- To strengthen the scholarship process and provide an opportunity to extend the scholarship beyond the original 5-year commitment
- To promote the opportunity to fund the scholarship through tax deductible donations
- To give more skaters the opportunity to apply for the scholarship over an increased number of years
- To make the scholarship available to skaters at any skating level
- To promote the Northern Blades NSC Figure Skating Club through a community service requirement
- To encourage the continued active involvement of collegiate members in the Northern Blades Club

Applications have been sent to Northern Blades members and are due by February 17, 2017. Applications may be dropped off at the Northern Blades locker in Rink 3 or emailed to [nbvp@northernblades.org](mailto:nbvp@northernblades.org).

#### **Inside This Issue**

Northern Blades



NSC Figure Skating Club

Spotlight Events	2
Skating Results	3 - 4
What's Happening	5
Coaches Corner & Volunteer Update	6
Skaters Section	7-8
Governance & Board Spotlight	9

# Spotlight Events

## Love to Skate Party

The club's annual outreach event to inspire others to get involved in the sport of figure skating was held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all the skaters, parents and friends that came out to enjoy. A special thank you to the volunteers that helped make it a success, including Tania Uhde, Mel Berghuis, Meegan Johnson, Leslie Greves, Cheryl Duffy, Kelly Larson, Kelly Spartz, Jordan Golomb., and Bella Golomb.



# TESTING



## Tests Passed Since Fall issue of The Blade Published

### Chelsey Henry:

Junior Free Skating  
Senior Moves in the Field

### Bella Golomb:

Preliminary Free Skating

### Rachel Kraber:

Kilian



### Tyra Schmalzbauer:

Novice Free Skating

### Jo Jo Fitzel:

Juvenile Free Skating

### Rachel Pietsch:

Juvenile Moves in the Field

### Emily Miller:

Juvenile Free Skating  
Intermediate Moves in the Field

### Katelyn Lawrence:

Pre Juvenile Free Skating  
Intermediate Moves in the Field

### Erin Darang:

Pre Preliminary Moves in the Field  
Pre Preliminary Free Skating

### Charlotte Hemmila:

Intermediate Free Skating

### Ava Hartvigsen:

Pre Preliminary Free Skating  
Pre Juvenile Moves in the Field

### Claire Goodreau:

Preliminary Free Skating



### Alaina Fish:

Preliminary Moves in the Field

### Lydia Deboer:

Pre Juvenile Free Skating  
Intermediate Moves in the Field

### Claire Cotten:

Pre Juvenile Free Skating

### Audrey Callahan:

Pre Juvenile Free Skating  
Juvenile Moves in the Field

### Makenna Leik:

Blues  
Kilian  
Starlight Waltz  
Pre Gold Dance Test

### William Thorne:

European Waltz  
Foxtrot  
Pre Silver Dance Test

### Casi Reiser:

Senior Moves in the Field



### Sydney Ullman:

Senior Free Skating

### Dani Reiser:

Senior Moves in the Field

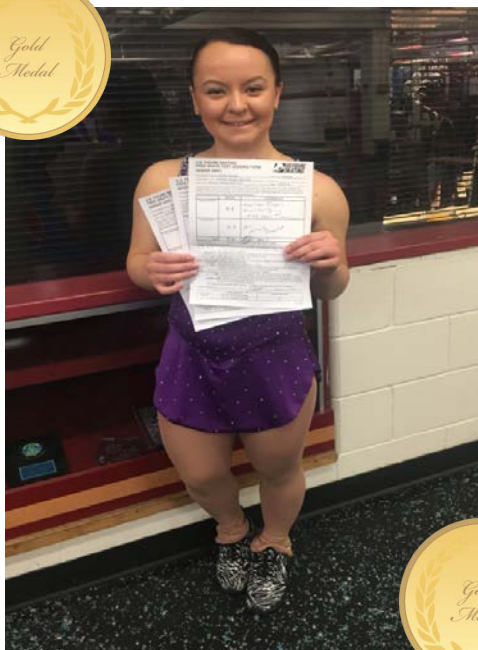




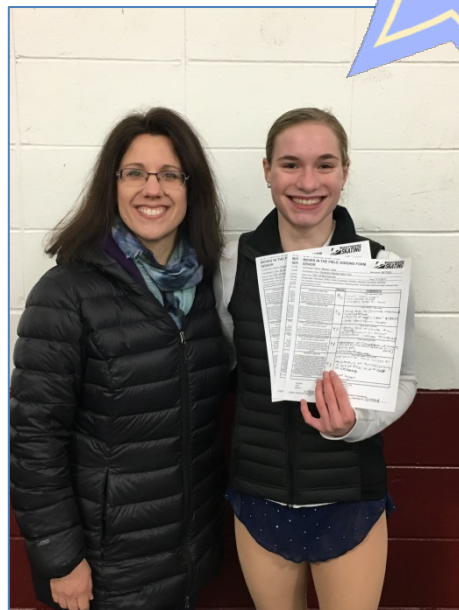
# Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following skaters  
passing senior tests!

Congrats Sydney, the newest  
Double Gold Medalist



Sydney Ullman  
Senior Free Skating



Casi Reiser  
Senior Moves in the Field



Dani Reiser  
Senior Moves in the Field



Chelsey Henry  
Senior Moves in the Field

# UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

Testing Session – Rink 3

March 16

Rising Stars - Registration Deadline  
April 21, 2017

June 2 - 4

Northern Blades 2017 Annual Banquet

May 21

★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

December	January	February
Briana Odell, 12/2	Erin Darang, 1/12	Lyla Uhde, 2/13
Denise McNeff, 12/7	Makenna Leik, 1/16	Brenna Leik, 2/15
Erica Kolstad, 12/12	Emily McGlynn, 1/23	MaKayla Dostal, 2/22
Peyton Johnson, 12/15	Tessa Eilders, 1/29	
Olivia Romo, 12/16	Ava Hartvigsen, 1/31	
Claire Cotten, 12/20		
Kelly Jiang, 12/21		
Lily Engelke, 12/23		



If you did not get your photo taken at the Love to Skate event, contact the David Banks Studio at 763-571-2265 to get your picture taken. The deadline for getting the photo taken is February 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Fundraising News

Fundraising is so important to the continued success of the Northern Blades FSC. Congratulations to your top Wreath Sellers!

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Clare Cotten
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Makenna Leik
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Uhde Family



Future Fundraising Opportunities:

- Silent Auction
- Spring Flowers

# Coaches Corner



## Spotlight Coach Karen Olson

### Karen's Favorites



- **TV Show:** Chicago Fire
- **Music Genre:** Whatever is playing on the radio. I will sing anything (ask anyone on the ice 😊)
- **Food:** Buffalo Shrimp from Redstone
- **Quotes:** "Just do it" from Nike

Favorite memory from skating: "My mom was responsible for opening up the rinks on Saturday mornings and I was usually the first one on the ice and sometimes alone for an hour doing figures. It was incredibly calm, peaceful and quiet. I have other great memories of events and people but the serenity of those morning "patch" sessions is tops!"

My favorite thing about being a coach: "I love watching a newbie skater gain the grace and confidence on the ice to become a true figure skater. I love teaching technique and the "a ha" moment when a skater really understands a skill. Sometimes this takes years! The best part is being part of someone's life and having an impact on them and knowing the life lessons they are learning are skills that will carry them through the rest of their lives. Oh and the fact that I can dance and listen to music all day is just a added benefit:)"



### Volunteer Appreciation

- Thank you to Mel Berghuis for filling the vacant position on the Board!

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Planning is underway for the Silent Auction event. The committee could use your help. Sign up to donate at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c49aaae2e5-silent>
- Our 2017 Annual Banquet will be May 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact Tania Uhde.
- Do you love to plan a great party? The Club is looking for a fun group of parents to plan future events. If you are interested, please contact Tania Uhde.
- If you are interested in serving on the board and would like to be included on a ballot, contact Tania Uhde. Voting will take place at the 2017 Annual Banquet.



# SKATERS SECTION

*Northern Blades Senior Spotlight :*

***Lauren Kuchenmeister***



Lauren is a Senior at Forest Lake High School. Lauren's family includes her parents Randy and Tracy, along with her 14-year-old sister Morgan. Lauren says that without them, her skating career would have never been possible. She is so thankful for her parents support and willingness to fund her skating all of these years. Her family has continuously supported her to be the best she can be, and they've been her biggest fans! Lauren started skating in the third grade when she was 8 years old. Her skating career began when her parents enrolled her in the Learn to Skate program at NSC and it was then that she fell in love with the sport. Along with learning new skills and progressing quickly through the basic levels, she met some of her best friends who she was able to grow up with and is still very close to. Although she has many skating memories, Lauren says she will always remember her week long skating experience in Sun Valley, Idaho. Of course she will also forever remember the occasional dance parties during practice ice with friends during summer skating. There are many motivational statements that Lauren loves, but most recently she has kept this one in her mind, "Success is not built on success. It's built on failure. It's built on frustration. Sometimes it's built on catastrophe." Outside of skating Lauren enjoys spending time with friends and family, exploring the outdoors, shopping, or playing lacrosse. Following graduation she is planning to attend the University of Minnesota Duluth. In addition to skating, Lauren is an avid hockey fan, and therefore hockey cheerleading may be in her future.



# SKATERS SECTION

*Northern Blades Senior Spotlight :*



***Rachel Kraber***



"I started skating in the Learn to Skate classes when I was seven. Since then I have grown, made so many memories, and have accomplished many things I am proud of. My parents are very supportive of my skating and I wouldn't be on the track to completing my dreams without that support. My favorite skating memory was just this past year at Regionals. Despite the injury struggles I had been dealing with, I went to



Regionals ready to be on the podium. I will never forget looking at the results sheet to find my name at the top. I could not have accomplished that goal without the unconditional support from my parents, my coach - Ruthann Chapman, or my best friend - Erica Kolstad. Ruthann would always tell me that skating is 90% mental. If you've done it before, you can do it again. If you believe in yourself, there's nothing stopping you from achieving your goal. Besides individual skating, I have also been on a



synchronized skating team for the past 7 years. Some of my greatest memories come from being on a team. I am beyond excited to continue skating and synchro next year at Adrian College. Other than skating, I am enrolled as a PSEO student at Bethel University, and in Spring Lake Park High School I am a highly active band kid. I am a percussionist in the jazz band and Wind Ensemble, the highest-level concert band. I am excited to be traveling to Costa Rica with the band this spring break. I am also one of the section leaders for drumline this year in the Patriots Marching Band. I plan to continue marching band next year at Adrian College."







## 2016-2017 Officers & Board Members

President	Kendra Miller
Vice President/ Sanctions	Dennis Kraber
Secretary	Tania Uhde
Treasurer	Gordon Pietsch
Test Chairs	Mel Berghuis Melissa Giacomini Lori Giese
TCFSA Representatives	Dennis Kraber/ Gordon Pietsch
SafeSport Chair	Tina Nicholls
Rising Stars & Regionals Competition	Molly Fitzel Jane Schaber
Pro Liaison	Chanelle Schoonmaker
Fundraising	Melissa Lawrence
Hospitality	TBD
Membership	Leslie Greves
Newsletter	Tonya Rowe
Website	Dennis Kraber

### Stay Connected @

**Website:** [www.northernblades.org](http://www.northernblades.org)

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/129534150437701/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/129534150437701/)

**The Blade** is the official newsletter for the Northern Blades NSC Figure Skating Club. **The Blade** will be published several times a year, sent to members via email, posted to our website [www.northernblades.org](http://www.northernblades.org), and available on our bulletin board. We are always looking for pertinent information to include in our newsletter and welcome the submittal of ideas, information, and articles. Please submit information to Tonya Rowe at [TonyaRowe@comcast.net](mailto:TonyaRowe@comcast.net). All content is subject to editing and may be subject to approval by board members. No advertisements will be accepted.

## Board Member Spotlight:

Hi! My name is Mel Berghuis. I am currently on the Northern Blades Board and a Test Co-Chair. I have two children, Trystan and MaKayla Dostal.

Trystan is 14 and plays football and baseball. MaKayla is 11 and is in Freestyle 3. We live in

Blaine with our two dogs, Zoe and Tink. I am also a former skater myself, I skated in Hutchinson, MN for over 10 years both in freestyle and on the precision team. My favorite part of skating was performing, and now I get to watch my daughter do it. Skating brought so much fun, along with challenges and learning experiences, I really feel it has shaped my life in numerous ways. My favorite skating memories of my own really focus around the long days spent at the rink with some of the best of friends, and now I get to watch my kids make memories of their own in their respective sports. My all-time favorite memory of skating myself, was the year I was unable to skate due to having surgery, but I was able to be involved by riding out on the rink on the back of my uncle's Harley during the show! I work full-time at Wells Fargo in the Adjustments Department as an Operations Accounting Specialist, which is a fancy term for researching and fixing errors on Savings Bonds, checks, etc. I also run my own business as an Independent Scentsy Consultant. In my spare time, when I have any, I enjoy skating, cross-stitching, and crocheting (you may have seen me

crocheting at the rink while MaKayla skates). If your skater will be testing anytime soon, you will probably see me running around frantically, feel free to stop me and say hi!

