



Loop Dreams: Catching Up With Lee Barkell

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Our Greatest

Skating

Memories Revisited

**WINTER
2011**

The Season Finale

Worlds Wraps Up In Moscow

and much more

The 2010/11 skating season ended in cliffhanger fashion.

A devastating tsunami in March took thousands of lives in Sendai, a coastal town in northern Japan. The disaster triggered earthquakes, massive aftershocks, and nuclear power stations to destabilise. Tokyo moreover, was to have hosted the World Figure Skating Championships in less than a week from the initial disaster. Within days, it was decided by both the Japanese Skating Federation and the International Skating Union (ISU) to indefinitely postpone, if not cancel the championships for the 2010/11 season.

Had they been shelved, it would have been exactly 50 years since the same thing happened in Czechoslovakia. That decision was made out of respect to the United States Figure Skating Association, when their 18 - strong team, coaches and accompanying families, all died in a plane crash en route to Prague.

As the Japanese struggled to rebuild, TV rights, sponsorship deals, tourist

dollars, not to mention the skaters themselves who had worked for months towards this moment, would all be put in limbo.

Soon, ISU representatives including Canada, Finland, Italy and the U.S.A. offered their support to host instead.

The eventual winner was Moscow, Russia, with an agreement to shift the championships to late April. Given that organisers are normally allowed two years advance planning, the city had less than five weeks to get ready. Congratulations must be given to Moscow and the Russian Federation for producing a seamless, smooth - running event under such strenuous circumstances.

Along with Worlds, **aussie SKATES** covers the Junior World and Four Continents Championships.

With special thanks to the California - based photographer, Robin Ritoss, for providing us with this issue's images, please enjoy our championship season photo gallery.

In this edition, we also interview Lee Barkell, who recently visited Sydney to run a week - long seminar. Lee is the coach of Jeffrey Buttle, the Canadian 2008 World Men's Champion. He also assists singles' skaters Mark Webster and Jessica Kurzawski (both from NSW) with their ongoing training.

Former Victorian champion, Taya Sedgman is also profiled, as she reflects on her time competing in the sport.

Finally, thanks to the wonders of Youtube, our cover story pays tribute to skaters past and present with a look at some of the best in Australian skating.

aussieSKATES always welcomes your feedback. Please email us via: contact@aussieskates.com

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4 - Time National Senior Ice Dancing Champions, Danielle O'Brien & Gregory Merriman strike a pose in Moscow.

Cover: Cheltzie Lee, during the ladies' short program at this year's World Championships.

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LOOP DREAMS

CATCHING UP WITH LEE BARKELL



Lee Barkell is the longtime trainer of Jeffrey Buttle, guiding the young Canadian to victory at the 2008 World Figure Skating Championships. Among his other students are Nobunari Oda of Japan, Canada's Anabelle Langlois & Cody Hay, Jacinthe Lariviere & Lenny Faustino, Brittany Jones and Kurtis Gaskill, Joey Russell, and Australia's own Mark Webster.

He is the director of pair skating at the Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, coaching up to and including athletes at the elite Olympic level.

When Barkell conducted a week long training seminar in Sydney last May, aussieSKATES caught up with him for this profile.

Skating is a huge national pastime in Canada. So, it comes as no surprise that at the ripe old age of two, Lee Barkell's mother took him to an outdoor arena to learn how to skate.

Soon thereafter, he started watching the sport on TV. Lee also attended local skating shows with his parents, his interest developing further from seeing a cousin perform in these carnivals. Then, on the days she was taking a skating test, Lee would go to the rink and watch her.

Like many boys in North America, Lee started taking lessons at the local club to improve his skating skills for hockey. Up until the age of 12, Barkell did both sports at once.

However, the chance to attend a Summer skating camp away from home proved to be a significant turning point. Observing athletes there who were training at a much higher level, Lee decided that figure skating was what he really wanted to do.

Growing up, Lee's first idol was Robin Cousins. Barkell not only remembers how high the British Olympic Champion jumped, but also that Cousins always looked like he was enjoying what he was doing.

Barkell was fortunate enough to train in the same rink as Brian Orser, the two – time Olympic silver medallist. Lee was always amazed at how easy Orser made his jumps look, high light and fluid Brian was on his skates.

Barkell also looked up to the 1984 World Pairs' Champions from Canada, Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini. While Lee enjoyed their thrilling tricks and speed, that, mixed with their on – ice chemistry, made them very special. The couple's shared interaction really set Underhill and Martini apart from other teams competing at the time.

Perhaps because of this admiration, Barkell made his competitive mark as a pair skater with Melanie Gaylor. Together, they were the junior champions of Canada, and winners of the Nebelhorn Trophy in 1986.

After retiring from the amateur scene, Lee moved into coaching. Even as a youngster, Lee knew he wanted to stay involved with skating in one form or another.

“There needs to be a trust between myself and my students. They need to know that I have their best interest at heart, and they need to know they can talk to me if something is on their mind.”

As a competitive skater, Lee was exposed to some of the best coaching Canada had to offer. He also attended many camps and seminars around the world.

Through these workshops, Lee became interested in the technical aspect of the sport. More significantly, it was studying how each trainer applied, harnessed and maximized their individual students' potential that caught Barkell's attention.

Two key factors eventually steered Lee towards training other athletes. Barkell enjoyed working with people,

and it was a way to give back to the sport he loved so much.

Establishing himself as a coach, Lee wanted to lead by example. His philosophies included working hard, being on time, staying ethical, and remaining a good sports person both in winning and losing.

Barkell's role is to always encourage his students, providing them with a safe and positive training environment. It is from this platform that Lee helps his athletes to become self - motivated, driven and focused.

“There needs to be a trust between myself and my students. They need to know that I have their best interest at heart, and they need to know they can talk to me if something is on their mind.”

For Lee and his students, setting goals is a key part of achieving results. Any plan needs to be specific, realistic and time – oriented. Most importantly, is taking action and committing to it.

Sometimes, Lee needs to remind his pupils that what they are doing is very special. Training as a competitive skater is not something to take for granted. Irrespective of results, these athletes are learning invaluable skills which will help them later on in life. Skating teaches them self – discipline, the ability to process both positive and negative feelings, as well as adapting outside their comfort zones.

Each day is a new experience, so Barkell always encourages his students to embrace the process fully. To help his students deal with the pressure of competition, Lee likes to simulate this atmosphere on a daily basis. No detail is left to chance.

Lee is always amazed, particularly in skaters at the developmental level,

when he hears them say that they skated badly. A lot of times he will reply, that they skated like they did at home. An athlete cannot realistically compete well on a consistent basis, if they are not skating like that daily.

Skaters need to keep a positive mind-set in check, and this can start as soon as they walk into the rink. Doing so is a key part of their off and on ice warm – up. Elite skating is about staying in control of your emotions, concentrating on the task at hand with few distractions (if any) as possible.

Simply put, by practicing and re-enforcing excellence, once competition day arrives, the skater should be able to switch into auto pilot. Being ready and prepared, means that the skater can trust and rely upon their training.

When it comes to practising sections and run – throughs of any program, Lee believes that a skater needs to be confident, physically and mentally prepared. As a trainer, Barkell has his students do a combination of both sections and full programs. In doing a full program, Lee expects the skater to complete every step from start to finish, irrespective of mistakes.

There are clear differences between working with beginners and high level athletes. For the latter, training sessions are physically and mentally more intense.

Elite skaters have higher expectations. With success, there is the pressure to stay there. There are also outside influences like public appearances, shows and sponsorship contracts, etc. This is all good, but it does make time for training more difficult.

It is also important to monitor the athlete, to make sure they're not

becoming fatigued or unfocused. An elite athlete's training schedule is based on peaking at the right time for important competitions during the season, thereby achieving good results. In this sense you are also a manager as well as the coach.

With a skater in development, as their teacher the focus is more on learning new skills, building consistency, instilling responsibility and creating good training habits.

For skaters at the elite or Olympic level, Barkell has a set regimen for each skater or team in the lead – up to competition. Lee asks them to do one run of either their short program or free skate daily, meanwhile training sections of the other. In order to allow the athletes to pace themselves, this routine tapers off in the week prior to and during any championship.

As a coach to both singles skaters and pair teams, Barkell says the soloist has greater freedom in that they are ultimately responsible for themselves.

With a couple, all decisions have to be made for benefit of the team. Teaching a pair also means dealing with two personalities. Often, skaters are at different skill levels, primarily in jumping. Therefore, it is Lee's job to adapt to this difference, mask any weaknesses and instead, showcase their strengths.

Barkell enjoys teaching both disciplines. The variation creates a nice balance and change during day to day training.

In today's skating world, on any given day there is a now a group of athletes that could win. Unlike previous generations where there may have been three or four potential medallists at most, that gap in technical prowess between them

and the rest of the field is not what it used to be.

Stressing the importance of mental preparation, winning comes down to who can perform under pressure when it counts. Positive mind-set is something that, along with refining and improving upon technique, must be practiced on a daily basis. Crucial to success, Barkell believes such preparation must be introduced at a young age so that skaters can acquire the proper skills to practice.

Barkell doesn't employ a cookie cutter approach to competition. Every skater is different, and it can be a matter of getting to know their personality and how they have been training.

By keeping everything in perspective, sometimes it is a matter of reviewing key words. Often issues are more emotional than technical, so by slowing them down to relax, Barkell helps them to their ideal arousal level which should allow the skater to perform.

The athlete should be prepared, so it is up to Lee to reinforce the positive. Reassure them that they can do the job at hand, because the skater does it every day in practice otherwise.

When competition is over, Lee always meets with the skater regardless of their level and the result. He and his student(s) will discuss what was good, bad, and what could be done the same or differently next time.

Usually, Barkell will sit down with them the next day and again, when they are back home. For Lee, it is important that his students can learn from every experience, good or bad.

When **aussieSKATES** asked Lee his thoughts on the International Judging

System or IJS, he believes that marking is much better than it used to be under the 6.0 format.

The technical side (or technical elements score) is very black and white. The second mark (or program components score) is still somewhat subjective. He doesn't think there has to be that much change with new rules being implemented every year.

With IJS, there has been a lot of criticism claiming that no one is pushing boundaries, and everyone is playing it safe. For Barkell however, he is definitely seeing more (and not just the elite) skaters producing both innovative and creative programs.

In order to achieve high levels, this makes programs physically demanding. It has taken time for the skaters to adapt to this standard. However, seeing them figure it out, Barkell predicts that in the lead up to the next Olympics, more athletes are going to be including difficult tricks combined with great skating skills. Barkell believes that the skater with the overall package will win the Olympics. Victory should never be based on one jump alone.

Barkell trains the current men's national champion, Mark Webster, on a part-time basis. This year in May, Lee had the opportunity to work with Australian skaters in Sydney at the NSWISA seminar.

We also asked Lee what his thoughts were on Australian skating. How different or similar is our approach to training in Canada and Japan?

Barkell thinks Australia's method is very similar to both countries. The main difference is the number of ice rinks and ice time available.

Figure skating is very popular in North America and Japan.

Particularly in the latter country, where athletes are treated like movie stars.

What sets them apart from Australia, is the number of high level skaters. That depth, especially in men's and ladies' singles, means the skaters are constantly pushing each other to be better. Barkell believes that it is very difficult to train and improve if you don't have others around to drive

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Finally, aussieSKATES asked Lee what his fondest memories and achievements are to date.

For Barkell, he has many to choose from, and each one is different. These range from watching a young student land an axel, to seeing a charge hit their first triple axel or quadruple jump. When Nobunari Oda won the World Junior title in 2005, with a newly-acquired triple axel under

his belt, it was like watching a kid in a candy store.

Another proud moment, was seeing the pair team of Anabelle Langlois and Cody Hay make the 2010 Canadian Olympic team. The couple did this after missing the entire competitive season, because Annabelle had broken her ankle. There were doubts as to whether she would ever skate again. At times, the trio were so close to giving up, seeing Langlois and Hay achieve this goal made the experience all that more rewarding.

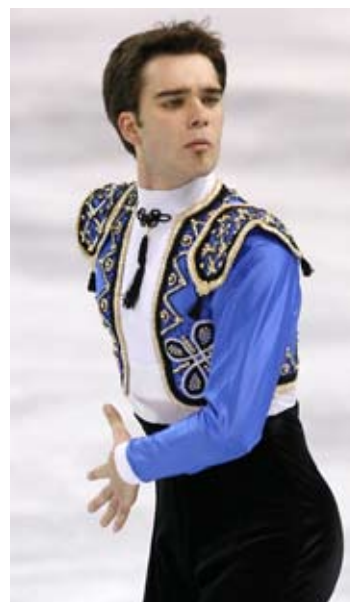
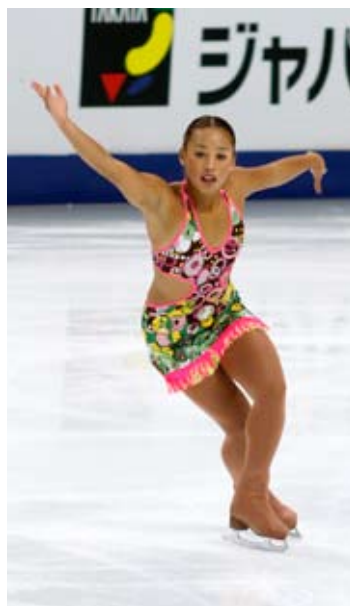
Possibly Barkell's proudest achievements are from working with Jeff Buttle.

It was exciting to watch Jeff win his first Canadian Men's title in 2005. This followed the skater's devastation over not making the World team in 2004.

Another highlight was seeing Jeff stay focussed and determined in the latter part of the 2008 season. This was after competing poorly on the Grand Prix circuit, then losing his National Crown to Patrick Chan.

Buttle went on to win the World Championship, winning both the short program and the free skate. Watching someone Lee coached for 18 years, along with the ups and downs that went with it, go on to achieve his dream and skate the way he did would have to be Barkell's proudest moment.

For tips on skating skills, Lee is also a contributor to the website www.myskatecoach.com



OUR GREATEST SKATING MEMORIES REVISITED

In part one of a new interactive series, aussieSKATES remembers key competitive performances showcasing both Australia's skating talent and their place in the sport.

MacDonald & Clarke / Free Dance 1988 Olympic Winter Games

Monica MacDonald and Rodney Clarke are Australia's first and only dance team to skate at the Olympics. This young team trained with Clarke's mother, as well as stints with Roy Calloway, the husband of Betty Calloway (who coached Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean to global fame.)

Continuing the tradition, MacDonald now coaches the current national dance champions, Danielle O'Brien and Greg Merriman, as well as her own children, Brendan and Chantal Kerry, both national junior singles champions.

Cameron Medhurst / Free Skate 1988 Skate Canada

A veteran on the international scene, Cameron Medhurst developed both the technical ability and a classical style appreciated by the public and judges alike. His breakthrough competition was the 1988 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Landing a difficult triple lutz combination for the first time in a short program, Cameron finished tenth with an eventual 11th place overall.

In the 1988/89 season, Medhurst was invited to Skate Canada, a prestigious international competition. Interestingly, Cameron used a different free skate from the one here at the 1989 World Championships in Paris. Choreographed by Christopher Dean, it helped earn Medhurst a top ten global finish for the year.

Click [here](#) to watch Cameron's program.

Carr & Carr / Short Program 1992 Olympic Winter Games

Competing on the international senior circuit since 1985, the financial strain of training and travelling forced this brother and sister pair combination to often coach themselves.

Twice missing nomination to the Olympics, Danielle and Stephen were not going to be beaten a third time. Taking their training regimen to a new level, the Carrs added tricks necessary to their routines to align themselves with the top teams in the World. Veteran coach, Ron Ludington, claimed that Danielle would never get the solo double axel. Such was the team's determination however, by Albertville she and Stephen were including the jump in both the short program and their free skate.

Click [here](#) to watch Danielle's & Stephen's program.

Anthony Liu / Short Program 2001 Goodwill Games

Always a prodigious jumper, Liu is the only Australian man to complete a quadruple jump in both national and international competition. At the 1999 Four Continents Championships, Anthony upped the ante and landed the quadruple toe loop combined with a triple toe loop. Later that season, he broke into the top ten at the World Championships in Finland.

In 2001, Liu's home town of Brisbane was chosen to host the Goodwill Games. Skating both a solid short program and free skate,

Anthony finished the competition in fourth place, decimal points from a medal.

Click [here](#) to watch the Anthony's program.

Stephanie Zhang / Short Program 2001 Goodwill Games

At the 1998 National Championships in Melbourne, a then 13 year old Zhang entered the junior division and blitzed the field. With five of the six triples already under her belt, Zhang was an immediate force to be reckoned with.

When the Goodwill Games visited Australia, Zhang was in top form. Skating in front of a home crowd, Stephanie wowed the capacity audience with her pleasing style and an easy command of the more difficult triples. Later that season, she placed second in the short program at the World Junior Championships, the best result ever for an Australian woman.

Click [here](#) to watch Stephanie's program.

Miriam Manzano / Short Program 2004 World Championships

Competing as a teenager, Canberra's Miriam Manzano used to be tough on herself and saw everything as a huge obstacle. Starting to lose track of why she began skating in the first place, Manzano eventually took time away from the sport. Upon her return, Miriam not only enjoyed skating more, everything felt easier too. This was evident when Manzano included the difficult triple flip and triple lutz in her routines, jumps she never landed in her youth.

2003/04 was a watershed season for the Australian. Prior to the World Championships in Munich, Germany, Manzano skated a solid six triple jump free skate at the Finlandia Trophy, sharing the podium with veteran Finnish skaters, Alisa Drei and Suzanna Poykio.

Click [here](#) to watch Miriam's program.

Joanne Carter / Short Program 2005 Four Continents Championships

In 1997, Joanne Carter made her senior World Championships debut, finishing an impressive 11th. The next year at the same event, she became the second woman in the World after the 1998 Olympic Champion, Tara Lipinski of the U.S.A, to land the rare triple loop / triple loop in competition. However, when a severe knee injury during the 1998/99 season put her on the sidelines for some time, Carter was unable to capitalise on her momentum.

By 2005, fully fit and determined, Carter reinforced her comeback with a solid fourth place in the short program at the Four Continents Championships in Korea. As the top finisher of the three Australian women sent to that event, Joanne continued her return to form with a flawless free skate at the World Championships in Moscow, Russia.

Click [here](#) to watch Joanne's program.

Sean Carlow / Short Program 2007 World Championships

Sean Carlow was destined to be a skater.

His mother, Liz Cain, competed at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in the pairs event with her brother, Peter. Cain's former husband, John Carlow, was a popular show skater she met when he toured Australia with Torvill & Dean in 1984.

Skating to the soundtrack from the film, "Strictly Ballroom", Sean demonstrates how to combine solid technical content with seamless presentation.

Click [here](#) to watch Sean's program.

O'Brien & Merriman / Original Dance 2008 World Championships

In their senior debut at the World level, this young pair made the World stand up and take notice with a very original dance. That year, the skaters were assigned a themed dance with a difference. They could skate a folk dance which embraced their national heritage. In doing this, O'Brien and Merriman presented a traditional Aboriginal koroboree. This brought back memories of the brother and sister, Isabelle and Paul Duchesney's famous Savage Rights, one of the highlights from the 1988 Olympic Winter Games.

For the 2010 Olympic season, the folk or national dance was selected again. O'Brien and Merriman became a centre of attention when the World Champions, Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shabalin, also presented an Aboriginal dance. The Russian team was highly criticised for their lack of research. Instead, the Australians' version was held up as a way to present theming in better taste, and certainly more respect.

Click [here](#) to watch Danielle's & Greg's program.

Cheltzie Lee / Short Program 2010 World Championships

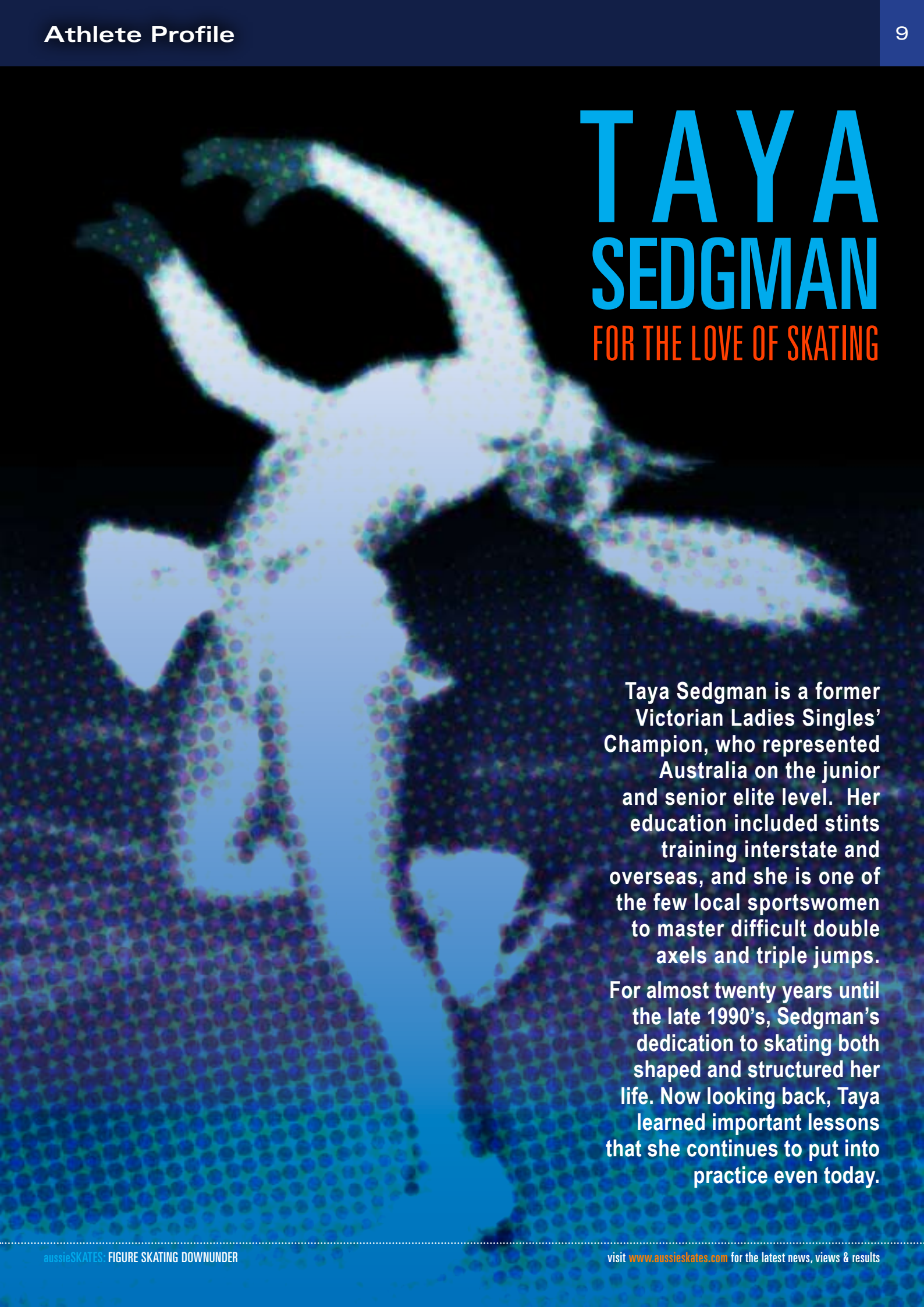
Cheltzie Lee showed tremendous promise as a junior, skating extremely well on the international circuit. Making a quick leap to the senior level however, Lee struggled at her first World Championships in Los Angeles, U.S.A.

Her path to the Olympics the following season, meant she would have to skate at a pre-qualifying event in Europe first. Six spots were up for grabs, but Lee's nerves prevailed. As the third alternate, she would need to have three of the ladies in front of her turn down their invitations to skate in Vancouver. Lee's chances were slim, but as the Games drew closer, two of the skaters dropped out. Then, when Israel felt their entrant wasn't strong enough to represent them, Cheltzie was given the go ahead.

This time, leaving nothing to chance, the NSW teenager skated lights out. Cheltzie left Canada, earning her highest short program score to date.

At the World Championships in Torino, Italy, Lee skated with the same confidence she demonstrated in Canada.

Click [here](#) to watch Cheltzie's program.



TAYA SEDGMAN

FOR THE LOVE OF SKATING

Taya Sedgman is a former Victorian Ladies Singles' Champion, who represented Australia on the junior and senior elite level. Her education included stints training interstate and overseas, and she is one of the few local sportswomen to master difficult double axels and triple jumps.

For almost twenty years until the late 1990's, Sedgman's dedication to skating both shaped and structured her life. Now looking back, Taya learned important lessons that she continues to put into practice even today.

Taya Sedgman was, in her own words, 'quite a competitive little thing'. At seven months of age, Sedgman advanced from crawling to running, evidence even before her earliest memories that she was competing with herself to achieve more. Taya would later climb to the vantage point at a playground, or get stuck in trees, satisfying her need to go further and higher.

Recalling when she was four or five, Taya watched Torvill & Dean dance on TV. Telling her mum that it looked easy, Mrs Sedgman took her daughter to a rink shortly thereafter to prove to Taya it actually wasn't.

Looking back, Sedgman isn't entirely sure how that one day of skating turned into 19 years. What Taya does remember however, is that she was soon hooked. Begging and pleading to go again, the sport became a regular activity in her life from then on.

Soon, Taya started taking group lessons, training with a Scottish lady called Enid Campbell. Campbell instructed most of the little kids at the rink who were beginners also. One of Taya's strongest memories of Enid, was that her coach wore snow boots that made her feet look like they belonged to Chewbacca from the blockbuster movie, Star Wars.

Prior to her very first competition, entered at around the age of six or seven, Taya lay awake at night listening to her Mum sew together a baby blue Lycra skating outfit. Sedgman presumes that with this contest, she would have been pretty serious about doing better than her best, even then.

Showing early promise, Taya advanced to private lessons, and a seven year working relationship with Wayne Caldwell. Prior to coaching, he and his wife Christine travelled the world show skating together.

Wayne wasn't without his quirks, either. When Caldwell used to pick Taya up after school to take her skating, he would belt out Italian opera in full voice. Sedgman can still hear his singing in her head. Back then, she used to be embarrassed by it. Now, Sedgman smiles and does the same thing herself. Along with this fond recollection, Taya adds that Wayne was a treasured coach and friend, who recently passed away in August 2009.

As part of her regimen, whenever Taya competed interstate, or went to the ACT to continue training (during the months Melbourne's skating rinks were closed), she would work with Reg Park. Park was also the longtime coach of Miriam Manzano (the 6 – time National Senior Ladies' Champion). According to Sedgman, no one moved across the ice like Manzano; her skating was graceful and effortless, oozing class. Miriam may have been light as a feather, but boy, could she jump. Taya likened her to the Roger Federer of local skating, namely because Manzano dominated the sport here for so many years.

According to Taya, Manzano also showed integrity both on and off the ice. So, it is not surprising to learn when asked to name her favourite Australian skater, Miriam was and still is, Sedgman's absolute idol.

Back in Melbourne, Taya also had lessons with Billy Shober (a former National Men's Champion and Winter Olympian) at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl on weekends. To this day, Billy remains a huge advocate for the sport in Victoria, encouraging young and old alike to get involved.

Taya's time training rapidly increased with her improvement. By the age of twelve, Sedgman was going to the rink three or four times a week. Off - ice activities included ballet classes, other forms of dance, aerobics competitions, and gym sessions. She also developed

her musical ear with singing, piano, flute and piccolo lessons.

Soon, Taya's talent and dedication took her overseas to train in Denver, Colorado. There, she worked with Norma and Wally Sahlin. They had previously trained Charlie Tickner, the 4 – time U.S. Men's National and 1978 World Champion. Earlier too, the Sahlins helped one of Sedgman's other idols, the 2 – time Australian ladies' champion, Tamara Heggen.

Whilst in the United States, Sedgman was also introduced to the concept of training before and after school. Each day at the North Western University rink, Taya was on the ice by 5am.

Following her return home, the Ringwood Skating Arena opened nearby and Taya took the opportunity to train with Andrei and Galina Paschin, working with them for four years.

Even during her VCE, Taya continued to practise hard. During any week, skating and the off – ice training that went with it, would take up to 20 or 30 hours of Taya's free time.

When it came to choosing music for her programs, Taya was always involved in the selection and editing process. She would pick out pieces very carefully, works she felt contained both a motivating and emotional connection. Showcasing music with strong story lines, beautiful lows and powerful highs, from Spanish themes and the Blues, classical to poetic, Sedgman loved to challenge herself with every new routine. Music also represented the emotional growth she was feeling during those intense developmental stages of life.

Taya had definite ideas about choreography and developing her own style, too. At school, Sedgman created aerobics routines for competitions with her classmates, even managing details like designing the costumes. One year

when Taya was 14 or 15, she was the assistant dance director for their annual Christmas show.

Still, the skater was open to the suggestions and contributions others made. 'Sometimes people have better ideas than you have for yourself. It's good to challenge yourself to grow and change, adapt to new ideas, to evolve as a skater, a woman (and) a human.'

To Taya, skating has been her most accurate source of self – expression. How she moved was very emotive to who she was at the time, or who she wanted to be. When the music started there was a blank canvas, and a dead silence that epitomized the moment, the 'now'. If she wanted to be truthful to herself, Taya knew that she had to play a significant part in authentically creating and expressing her 'now'.

By her own admission, Taya felt she wasn't that good a competitor. Self – doubt often plagued her routines. Though she achieved a lot in the sport, Sedgman always felt she should have done more.

Her rivals always seemed to have a stronger handle on their nerves. Nevertheless, she rarely watched anyone before her skate; Sedgman didn't want their performances to influence what she did or didn't do.

Once, when she landed a triple salchow in the National Novice Ladies' final, Taya was so shocked she fumbled everything else. This outcome she feels, came from not believing in her true ability.

Ironically, Sedgman always skated high - risk programs, even when the pressure was on. Others may have expected a lot from Taya, and while she never watered down her performances, the young athlete was determined only to skate for herself.

(When **aussieSKATES** asked Taya if she had any advice for kids and their parents who were considering taking

up skating as an after school activity or competitive sport, her answer was the same now as it was growing up. Skate for yourself. No one else.)

When skating her absolute best, she often won. Being a perfectionist though, Sedgman can't remember many times being satisfied with her performance.

Working with a sports psychologist however, helped formulate a routine. Whether it was which skate to put on first,

'Sometimes people have better ideas than you have for yourself. It's good to challenge yourself to grow and change, adapt to new ideas, to evolve as a skater, a woman (and) a human.'

or wearing lucky underwear, listening to music helped Taya to isolate herself and focus on the task ahead.

Against top skaters from Germany, South Africa and New Zealand, a career highlight was winning bronze for Australia at the Summer Trophy International in 1995.

Yet away from the stress of competing, Sedgman's favourite memory was performing at the Melbourne Flower & Garden Show. Skating beneath the Exhibition Building's magnificent dome, she recalls thousands of people watching her. It was a moment both

surreal and inspirational.

Citing the 1960 U.S. Olympic Champion and coach, Carol Heiss, Taya agrees that skating has the ability to teach young athletes strong lessons in preparation for life ahead. Setting goals, building determination, understanding self value and acceptance, accountability, and the quest for improvement all form part of the many positives skating has to offer. Not without negatives either like dealing with criticism and defeat, it is up to the individual as to how they process each challenge skating gives them.

Skills learned through her experiences skating have helped Taya achieve success in study (graduating in August, 2011 with her second Masters Degree), career and life choices. When she hung up her skates, Sedgman said to herself, "Right. Next challenge," and proceeded to start her own company.

Having tasted that satisfying sense of achievement early, enabled Taya to tackle bigger personal challenges in other areas. For example, Sedgman's skating accomplishments helped to influence and obtain investment opportunities as well. Her business partner once said, "(Success is) ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration." Something, she's sure all elite athletes will agree with.

Of her skating career, business opportunities and university studies, Taya would like to thank her parents, Helen and Dale Sedgman.

"I owe everything I've done and everything I am to them. Their love, their kindness, generosity, support, patience and for everything they've sacrificed.... I'm so blessed to have such positive role models and best friends to share my life with in them".

(Article image courtesy of Taya Sedgman)



2010/11 CHAMPIONSHIP SKATING SEASON WRAP-UP

This year a mix of seasoned veterans and fresh new faces represented Team Australia at the Four Continents, Junior and Senior World Championships. In the lead up to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, our skaters continue to gain valuable experience on the international competitive circuit.

Four Continents Event Overview

From February 15 - 20, the massive 15,000 seat Taipei Arena in Taipei City, Taiwan played host to the 13TH annual ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships.

Skaters from Japan, China, the United States and Canada dominated the podium, with Japan and the U.S.A. taking home four medals each. Australia sent a team of two men, two ladies, and two dance couples. It should be noted that singles' skaters, Brendan Kerry and Jaimee Nobbs, were both making their competitive debuts at the senior international level.

For Team Australia, our national association named this competition as official selection for the upcoming World Championships. Thus, the top place getter or team in each category would be sent to compete in Moscow, Russia.

The Men's Event

20 men contested this competition. On that basis alone, all of the athletes would qualify for the free skate.

In the short program, quite by chance both our current senior and junior men's champions, Mark Webster and Brendan Kerry respectively, performed to Hans Zimmer's sound track from the film, Sherlock Holmes.

Drawing first of the two, Kerry stepped out of the triple lutz. Brendan also lost points for execution on the level 1 flying camel and a shaky landing on the triple loop / double toe loop combination.

Webster has increased his jump content since the 2010 season. For example, at the National Championships in Melbourne last December, he included a triple axel in his free program for the first time in competition. Here, Mark had problems with the solo triple loop out of steps, but otherwise did a good skate.

In his free to music by Edwin Marton and Paul Schwarz, Kerry planned an ambitious program containing six triple jumps. Though he received several negative values for each jumping pass, it is important to remember that with each competition, a skater's comfort level will eventually increase.

Webster skated to selections by Danny Elfman and Hans Zimmer, landing a triple axel right off the bat. Mark went on to add two double axels and three other triple jumps, doubling a fourth (the flip).

2011 Four Continents Championships: Men's Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	SPR	SPP	FSR	FSP
1	Daisuke Takahashi	JPN	244.00	1	83.49	1	160.51
2	Yuzuru Hanyu	JPN	228.01	3	76.43	3	151.58
3	Jeremy Abbott	USA	225.71	2	76.73	4	148.98
4	Takahiko Kozuka	JPN	223.52	6	66.25	2	157.27
5	Adam Rippon	USA	210.01	4	72.71	5	137.30
6	Guan Jinlin	CHN	201.98	9	64.68	6	137.30
7	Armin Mahbanoozadeh	USA	200.67	5	66.40	9	134.27
8	Wu Jialiang	CHN	199.78	10	63.30	7	136.48
9	Song Nan	CHN	195.13	12	60.47	8	134.66
10	Shawn Sawyer	CAN	192.94	7	65.71	10	127.23
11	Kevin Reynolds	CAN	191.55	8	65.47	11	126.08
12	Misha Ge	UZB	182.06	13	58.60	12	123.46
13	Abzal Rakhimgaliev	KAZ	180.75	11	60.95	13	119.80
14	Joey Russell	CAN	171.18	14	57.67	15	113.51
15	Kim Min-Seok	KOR	168.59	15	53.67	14	114.92
16	Mark Webster	AUS	143.54	16	48.26	16	95.28
17	Jordan Ju	TPE	134.33	18	44.37	17	89.96
18	Brendan Kerry	AUS	125.64	17	45.45	19	80.19
19	Wun-Chang Shih	TPE	120.96	19	40.36	18	80.60
20	Stephen Li-Chung Kuo	TPE	117.96	20	37.82	20	80.14

2011 Four Continents Championships: Ladies' Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	SPR	SPP	FSR	FSP
1	Miki Ando	JPN	201.34	1	66.58	1	134.76
2	Mao Asada	JPN	196.30	2	63.41	2	132.89
3	Mirai Nagasu	USA	189.46	4	59.78	3	129.68
4	Rachael Flatt	USA	180.31	3	62.23	4	118.08
5	Alissa Cizsny	USA	168.81	5	58.94	5	109.87
6	Cynthia Phaneuf	CAN	163.14	7	55.65	6	107.49
7	Akiko Suzuki	JPN	162.59	6	57.64	7	104.95
8	Kwak Min-Jeong	KOR	147.15	8	50.47	8	96.68
9	Amélie Lacoste	CAN	137.48	9	50.06	9	87.42
10	Cheltzie Lee	AUS	127.90	10	48.72	10	79.18
11	Myriane Samson	CAN	121.20	11	46.33	11	74.87
12	Yun Yea-Ji	KOR	111.86	12	39.37	12	72.49
13	Geng Bingwa	CHN	104.58	13	39.20	16	65.38
14	Zhu Qiuying	CHN	102.38	16	35.08	15	67.30
15	Lejeanne Marais	SAF	101.90	19	31.99	13	69.91
16	Kim Chae-Hwa	KOR	101.79	17	33.76	14	68.03
17	Victoria Muniz	PUR	99.40	15	35.45	17	63.95
18	Melinda Wang	TPE	96.15	14	36.51	18	59.64
19	Mimi Tanasom Chindasook	TLD	91.54	18	33.73	20	57.81
20	Jaimee Nobbs	AUS	89.93	20	31.94	19	57.99
21	Crystal Kiang	TPE	86.60	21	31.89	21	54.71
22	Mericien Venzon	PHI	84.17	22	30.64	22	53.53
23	Melanie Swang	TLD	82.08	23	29.50	23	52.58
24	Chaochih Liu	TPE	78.28	24	28.52	24	49.76
Did not advance to free skating							
25	Tiffany Packard Yu	HKG		25	27.51		
26	Brittany Lau	SIN		26	26.61		
27	Taryn Jurgensen	TLD		27	26.28		
28	Reyna Hamui	MEX		28	23.73		
29	Mary Ro Reyes	MEX		29	22.22		

2011 Four Continents Championships: Pairs' Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	SPR	SPP	FSR	FSP
1	Pang Qing / Tong Jian	CHN	199.45	1	71.41	1	128.04
2	Meagan Duhamel / Eric Radford	CAN	181.79	3	59.92	2	121.87
3	Paige Lawrence / Rudi Swiegers	CAN	171.73	2	59.98	4	111.75
4	Caitlin Yankowskas / John Coughlin	USA	166.97	4	55.25	5	111.72
5	Kirsten Moore-Towers / Dylan Moscovitch	CAN	166.22	5	54.41	3	111.81
6	Amanda Evora / Mark Ladwig	USA	157.30	6	52.23	6	105.07
7	Narumi Takahashi / Mervin Tran	JPN	152.63	8	50.25	7	102.38
8	Mary Beth Marley / Rockne Brubaker	USA	144.46	10	45.60	8	98.86
9	Zhang Yue / Wang Lei	CHN	138.93	7	50.61	10	88.32
10	Dong Huibo / Wu Yiming	CHN	135.10	9	46.41	9	88.69

2011 Four Continents Championships: Dance Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	SDR	SDP	FDR	FDP
1	Meryl Davis / Charlie White	USA	172.03	2	69.01	1	103.02
2	Maia Shibutani / Alex Shibutani	USA	155.38	4	62.04	2	93.34
3	Vanessa Crone / Paul Poirier	CAN	151.83	5	61.66	3	90.17
4	Kaitlyn Weaver / Andrew Poje	CAN	151.14	3	65.45	4	85.69
5	Madison Chock / Greg Zuerlein	USA	142.44	6	57.14	5	85.30
6	Huang Xintong / Zheng Xun	CHN	130.29	7	52.93	6	77.36
7	Yu Xiaoyang / Wang Chen	CHN	125.75	8	50.58	7	75.17
8	Guan Xueting / Wang Meng	CHN	106.26	9	42.77	8	63.49
9	Danielle O'Brien / Gregory Merriman	AUS	104.69	10	42.67	9	62.02
10	Corenne Bruhns / Benjamin Westenberger	MEX	88.55	11	40.68	10	47.87
11	Maria Borounov / Evgeni Borounov	AUS	72.23	12	28.52	11	43.71
WD	Tessa Virtue / Scott Moir	CAN	69.40	1	69.40	WD	-

Key	PRR / PRP = Preliminary Round Ranking / Preliminary Round Points	TP = Total Points
	SPR / SPP = Short Program Ranking / Short Program Points	SDR / SDP = Short Dance Ranking / Short Dance Points
	FSR / FSP = Free Skate Ranking / Free Skate Points	FDR / FDP = Free Dance Ranking / Free Dance Points

The Ladies' Event

Significantly improving upon her performances from the 2010 National Championships last December in Melbourne, Jaimee Nobbs landed a triple loop / double toe loop combination in both segments of the event. For the required solo jump in the short, Nobbs also attempted the triple salchow.

The West Australian skated to Spanish Buzz (from Toy Story 3) by Randy Newman and Spanish Guitar by Ottmar Liebert in the short, and Aram Khatchaturian's Spartacus Suite in the free program. Jaimee's program component scores ranged up to 4.25, reflecting good expression and interpretation.

In her first major competition since the 2010 World Championships, all eyes were on Cheltzie Lee. The 18 year old had been of action for most of the 2010/11 season with a knee injury. Therefore, petitioning to skate in Taipei City after missing the 2010 National Championships, how Lee performed in Taiwan would determine her place on Australia's World team.

With detailed choreography created by Robin Cousins (the 1980 Olympic men's champion from Great Britain) Lee sparkled in both programs. For her short, Cousins had Cheltzie skate to Chez Lez Ye Ye by Boogalox, and the sound track from Yentl in the free. Similar to the muscular style he designed for the Swiss World Ladies' Champion, Denise Biellmann, Lee more than rose to the challenge.

The Dance Event

For the 2010/11 season, significant structural changes were made to junior and senior competition. The compulsory and original dance rounds were retired, replaced with a combination of the two called a short dance.

Similar in concept to both the pairs' and singles short programs, dance couples also had to complete certain required elements, but to a set pattern. This year, it was a golden waltz. Teams could choose whether they wanted to skate to a single rhythm, either a waltz, foxtrot, quickstep and tango, or two in combination.

Danielle O'Brien & Gregory Merriman, the four - time National Champions, skated an excellent short dance to ...and Barry Manilow's Dancing Fool. The husband and wife teaming of Maria and

2011 World Junior Championships: Men's Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	PRR	PRP	SPP	SPR	FSR	FSP
1	Andrei Rogozine	CAN	200.13			3	67.27	2	132.86
2	Keiji Tanaka	JPN	196.98	1	128.56	6	64.06	1	132.92
3	Alexander Majorov	SWE	195.71			4	67.12	3	128.59
4	Keegan Messing	USA	195.07			1	72.58	7	122.49
5	Max Aaron	USA	193.92			5	66.96	4	126.96
6	Yan Han	CHN	187.49			8	60.89	5	126.60
7	Jason Brown	USA	185.44			7	62.64	6	122.80
8	Artur Dmitriev Jr	RUS	181.19	3	110.86	2	68.91	11	112.28
9	Gordei Gorshkov	RUS	177.34			14	56.37	18	120.97
10	Ryuichi Kihara	JPN	175.72	2	123.07	12	58.75	9	116.97
11	Zhan Bush	RUS	174.92			10	59.58	10	115.34
12	Abzal Rakimgaliev	KAZ	168.82			9	60.48	13	108.34
13	Jorik Hendrickx	BEL	166.53			13	57.89	12	108.64
14	Kento Nakamura	JPN	158.13			15	55.33	14	102.80
15	Stanislav Pertsov	UKR	154.48		84.34	11	58.79	18	95.69
16	Liu Jiaxing	CHN	153.56			16	54.88	16	98.68
17	Romain Ponsart	FRA	150.00			19	50.92	15	99.08
18	Viktor Romanenkov	EST	144.87	6	98.39	21	49.63	19	95.24
19	Petr Coufal	CZE	144.03	5	102.93	17	52.70	21	91.33
20	Liam Firus	CAN	144.03	4	108.25	24	46.90	17	96.36
21	Denis Wieczorek	GER	142.01			22	48.75	20	93.26
22	Bela Papp	FIN	138.63	8	97.60	20	49.77	22	88.86
23	Vitali Luchanok	BLS	138.27	13	86.02	18	51.27	23	87.00
24	Kamil Bialas	POL	133.44			23	46.93	24	86.51
Did not advance to free skating									
25	Tomi Pulkkinen	SWI		9	96.19	25	46.82		
26	Saverio Giacomelli	ITA		10	95.76	26	46.65		
27	Ondrej Spiegel	SWE		11	92.01	27	44.83		
28	Jordan Ju	TPE		12	87.85	28	43.95		
29	Francesc Palau	ESP				29	43.49		
30	Lee Dong-Won	KOR		7	97.99	30	42.25		
Did not advance to short program									
31	Boyito Mulder	NED		15	80.43				
32	Harry Mattick	GBR		16	79.32				
33	Brendan Kerry	AUS		17	76.62				
34	Vlad Ionescu	ROM		18	75.71				
35	Manol Atanassov	BUL		19	72.14				
36	Harry Hau Yin Lee	HKG		20	69.67				
37	Slavik Hayrapetyan	ARM		21	68.49				
38	Saulius Ambrulevičius	LTU		22	64.32				
39	Ryan Zhi Jwen Yee	MAS		23	59.57				
40	Engin Ali Artan	TUR		24	58.53				
41	Suchet Kongchhim	THA		25	53.34				
42	Armen Agaian	GEO		26	51.40				
WD	Girts Jekabsons	LAT							

2011 World Junior Championships: Dance Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	PRR	PRP	SDR	SDP	FDR	FDP
1	Ksenia Monko / Kirill Khaliavin	RUS	144.16			1	60.62	1	83.54
2	Ekaterina Pushkash / Jonathan Guerreiro	RUS	134.64			2	55.76	3	78.88
3	Charlotte Lichtman / Dean Copely	USA	133.36			3	55.28	4	78.08
4	Tiffany Zahorski / Alexis Miart	FRA	128.16			9	48.96	2	79.20
5	Nikola Višňová / Lukáš Csölley	SVK	126.07	2	66.67	4	52.00	6	74.07
6	Evgenia Kosigina / Nikolai Moroshkin	RUS	125.43			6	50.88	5	74.55
7	Anastasia Cannuscio / Colin McManus	USA	122.90			5	50.94	8	71.96
8	Nicole Orford / Thomas Williams	CAN	122.22			8	49.81	7	72.41
9	Sara Hurtado / Adrià Díaz	ESP	120.41	3	64.42	10	48.84	10	71.57
10	Irina Shtork / Taavi Rand	EST	117.50	4	62.55	7	50.09	12	67.41
11	Lauri Bonacorsi / Travis Mager	USA	117.26			11	48.63	11	68.63
12	Gabriella Papadakis / Guillaume Cizeron	FRA	115.56	1	74.27	15	43.97	9	71.59
13	Anastasia Galyeta / Alexei Shumski	UKR	112.11			12	48.45	14	63.66
14	Ramona Elsener / Florian Roost	SWI	110.39	8	57.34	13	47.20	15	63.19
15	Kelly Oliveira / Jordan Hockley	CAN	109.66			14	45.14	13	64.52
16	Dominique Dieck / Michael Zenker	GER	102.68			16	42.35	17	60.33
17	Karina Uzurova / Ilias Ali	KAZ	101.98	7	58.41	17	41.70	18	60.28
18	Charlotte Aiken / Josh Whidborne	GBR	101.42			18	40.96	16	60.46
19	Maria Nosulia / Evgen Kholoniuk	UKR	96.35	5	59.23	19	39.36	19	56.99
20	Sofia Sforza / Francesco Fioretti	ITA	89.36			20	38.73	20	50.63
Did not advance to free dance									
21	Zhang Yiyi / Wu Nan	CHI		6	58.93	21	38.06		
22	Baily Carroll / Peter Gerber	POL		10	53.37	22	37.21		
23	Viktoria Kavaleva / Yirri Bieliaiev	BLR		9	54.02	23	36.68		
24	Kristina Tremasova / Dimitar Lichev	BUL		11	52.13	24	32.56		
WD	Karolina Prochazkova / Michal Ceska	CZE							
Did not advance to short dance									
26	Olesia Karmi / Max Lindholm	FIN		12	51.91				
27	Teresa Vellrath / Aleksandr Pirogov	LTU		13	50.50				
28	Misato Komatsubara / Kokoro Mizutani	JPN		14	48.87				
29	Ekaterina Bugrov / Vasilii Rogov	ISR		15	48.75				
30	Cagla Demiral / Berk Akalin	TUR		16	48.42				
31	Ksenia Pecherkina / Aleksander Jakushin	LAT		17	48.28				
32	Kimberley Hew-Low / Cameron Hemmert	AUS		18	36.48				
33	Ayesha Yigit / Shane Speden	NZL		19	36.25				

Evgeni Borounov skated a dramatic interpretation of Waltz Masquerade by Aram Khatchaturian.

In the free dance portion, O'Brien and Merriman moved from tenth to ninth with a season best skate to selections from the film, The Informant. The Borounovs maintained 11TH place, dancing to Leelo's Tune by Maksim Mrvica.

World Junior Championships Event Overview

Gangneung in South Korea hosted the World Junior Figure Skating Championships, from February 28 - March 6. 201 athletes from 48 countries participated in the event.

Australia was represented by Brendan Kerry and Brooklee Han in men's and ladies' singles, with Kimberley Hew-Low & Cameron Hemmert in dance. New Zealand sent Madelaine Parker, and dancers Ayesha Yigit & Shane Speden.

Though she was only second to Chantelle Kerry at the 2010 Australian National Championships, Han was selected for this event on the basis of her stronger international record. Han also added the triple loop to her technical repertoire for this event. Learning the loop proved particularly hard; it was this year's required solo jump for the short program. In both the preliminary free skating and short program rounds, Han successfully qualified through each phase, ending the overall competition in 21ST place.

World Championships Event Overview

Moscow's cavernous 14,500 seat MegaSport Arena played host the 2011 World Figure Skating Championships. Official competition ran from Monday April 25 to Saturday April 30, with the Champions' Gala on Sunday May 1.

This year, a new format was created to determine which skaters or teams would make the main short program and short dance draws. Nations which placed outside the top 18 in 2010, had to skate a pre - qualifying free program. These rounds were held in the men's, ladies' and dance divisions. Since there were only 22 teams in total competing, no pre - qualifying round was held in the pairs' event.

2011 World Junior Championships: Ladies' Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	PRR	PRP	SPR	SPP	FSR	FSP
1	Adelina Sotnikova	RUS	174.96			1	59.51	1	115.45
2	Elizaveta Tuktamysheva	RUS	169.11			2	58.60	2	110.51
3	Agnes Zawadzki	USA	161.07			5	53.17	3	107.90
4	Christina Gao	USA	155.27			3	56.80	6	98.47
5	Risa Shoji	JPN	151.27	2	89.24	7	51.49	5	99.78
6	Courtney Hicks	USA	150.92			10	49.98	4	100.94
7	Polina Shelepen	RUS	149.93			4	56.58	8	93.35
8	Miyabi Oba	JPN	148.62	1	91.84	6	51.82	7	96.80
9	Li Zijun	CHN	139.81	3	89.10	8	51.00	10	88.81
10	Ira Vannut	BEL	133.51	5	79.93	18	41.12	9	92.39
11	Yretha Silete	FRA	128.60			9	50.24	11	78.36
12	Yuki Nishino	JPN	121.14			11	46.09	15	75.05
13	Alice Garlisi	ITA	119.61	9	75.73	14	43.67	14	75.94
14	Romy Bühler	SWI	119.22			16	41.40	12	77.82
15	Gerli Liinamäe	EST	117.86			12	44.34	16	73.52
16	Juulia Turkila	FIN	115.78			21	39.54	13	76.24
17	Victoria Hübler	AUT	111.91	11	69.65	20	39.69	17	72.22
18	Monika Simančíková	SVK	109.53	7	76.81	19	39.71	19	69.82
19	Isabel Drescher	GER	109.48			22	38.62	18	70.86
20	Patricia Glešič	SLO	107.16	10	72.77	17	41.39	22	65.77
21	Brooklee Han	AUS	106.98	12	68.49	23	38.28	20	68.70
22	Nicole Schott	GER	106.54			15	41.41	23	65.13
23	Lee Ho Jung	KOR	105.92	4	81.27	24	38.12	21	67.80
24	Isabelle Olsson	SWE	104.54			13	43.69	24	60.85
Did not advance to free skating									
25	Alexandra Najarro	CAN				25	37.04		
26	Sila Saygi	TUR				26	36.77		
27	Alexandra Kamieniecki	POL		6	78.19	27	36.71		
28	Alina Fjodorova	LAT		8	75.82	28	35.99		
29	Anita Madsen	DEN				29	35.59		
30	Rebecka Emanuelsson	SWE				30	28.47		
Did not advance to short program									
31	Katie Powell	GBR		13					
32	Rimgailė Meskaite	LTU		14	64.65				
33	Anne Line Gjersem	NOR		15	62.70				
34	Alina Milevskaia	UKR		16	62.36				
35	Vanessa Granier	CAN		17	61.76				
36	Zhaira Costiniano	PHI		18	61.32				
37	Chelsea Rose Chiappa	HUN		19	57.56				
38	Joyce den Hollander	NED		20	57.55				
39	Marta Grigoryan	ARM		21	56.95				
40	Mimi Tanasorn Chindasook	THA		22	55.78				
41	Madelaine Parker	NZL		23	55.50				
42	Reyna Hamui	MEX		24	55.09				
43	Celia Robledo	ESP		25	53.42				
44	Margot Krisberg	ISR		26	51.71				
45	Nastassia Hrybko	BLR		27	51.45				
46	Daniela Stoeva	BUL		28	48.27				
47	Brittany Lau	SIN		29	47.39				
48	Nadia Geldenhuys	RSA		30	45.67				
49	Kristina Prilepko	KAZ		31	45.27				
50	Sumika Yamada	HKG		32	43.76				
51	Sandra Ristivojevic	SRB		33	42.89				
52	Jiajen Hsieh	TPE		34	36.75				
53	Maral-Erdene Gansukh	MGL		35	31.93				
54	Siau Chian Ching	MAS		36	29.42				

2011 World Junior Championships: Pairs' Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	SPR	SPP	FSR	FSP
1	Sui Wenjing / Han Cong	CHN	167.01	1	59.16	1	107.85
2	Ksenia Stolbova / Fedor Klimov	RUS	159.60	3	54.21	2	105.39
3	Narumi Takahashi / Mervin Tran	JPN	154.52	2	57.85	3	96.67
4	Ashley Cain / Joshua Reagan	USA	135.40	8	43.74	4	91.66
5	Natasha Purich / Raymond Schultz	CAN	129.97	4	47.33	6	82.64
6	Brittany Jones / Kurtis Gaskell	CAN	129.28	7	44.64	5	84.64
7	Kristina Astakhova / Nikita Bochkov	RUS	118.75	5	46.67	11	72.08
8	Klara Kadlecova / Petr Bidar	CZE	117.24	9	42.90	9	74.34
9	Cassie Andrews / Timothy Leduc	USA	117.11	11	40.16	7	76.95
10	Carolina Gillespie / Luca Dematte	ITA	116.44	12	39.93	8	76.51
11	Alexandra Vasilieva / Yuri Shevchuk	RUS	114.98	6	45.83	12	69.15
12	Anais Morand / Timothy Leemann	SWI	113.30	10	40.74	10	72.56
13	Anna Khnychenkova / Mark Magyar	HUN	106.99	13	38.35	13	68.64
14	Magdalena Klatka / Radoslaw Chruściński	POL	103.13	15	37.03	14	66.10
15	Julia Lavrentieva / Yuri Rudik	UKR	102.29	14	37.21	15	65.08
16	Stina Martini / Severin Kiefer	AUT	96.53	16	35.78	16	60.75
Did not advance to free skating							
17	Rachel Epstein / Dmitry Epstein	NED		17	35.53		
18	Maria Palyakova / Mikhail Fomichev	BLS		18	34.14		
19	Catherine Clement / James Hunt	GBR		19	25.15		

In singles, the top 12 athletes from each category advanced to the short program, and in dance, the top ten couples continued through to the short dance. The best 16 in pairs, 20 in dance, and 24 in singles qualified for the free skate thereafter.

For the first time in world championship history, none of the defending title holders successfully maintained their titles. In fact, both Daisuke Takahashi and Mao Asada, the 2010 Japanese singles' champions, challenged by separate struggles throughout the event, each failed to make the podium.

The pairs' competition would be a massive test for the new Russian national champions, Tatiana Volosozhar & Maxim Trankov. After splitting with their previous partners following the 2009/10 season, this new team had little competition experience together other than a qualifying event in Europe. Backed by impressive tricks and strong unison, Tatiana and Maxim embraced the rowdy Russian audience's cheers, winning silver over the defending World champions, Qin Pang & Jian Tong of China. Gold was won by Germany's Aliona Savchenko & Robin Szolkowy, earning them the highest ISU championship score for a pairs' free skate to date.

In men's singles, Patrick Chan of Canada created new world records in both segments of the championship, taking the title by a landslide. What set his victorious short program apart from the previous holder, Evgeni Plushenko, was that Chan won with only seven elements to the Russian skater's eight.

After a full year away from competition, Yuna Kim took first place in the short program, albeit with a flawed triple lutz (which was to originally have formed part of a triple lutz / triple toe - loop jump combination). Making several more errors in her free skate, the Korean Olympic Champion was beaten by Japan's Miki Ando. The Japanese skater claimed her second career world crown, a title which was particularly special, given her nation's current crisis situation. Kim, it should be noted, donated her prize money towards Japan's recovery, a remarkable gesture.

In dance, Meryl Davis and Charlie White became the first couple from the

2011 World Championships: Men's Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	PRR	PRP	SPR	SPP	FSR	FSP
1	Patrick Chan	CAN	280.98			1	93.02	1	187.96
2	Takahiko Kozuka	JPN	258.41	1	165.00	6	77.62	2	180.79
3	Artur Gachinski	RUS	241.86			4	78.34	3	163.52
4	Michal Březina	CZE	233.61	3	130.87	7	77.50	5	156.11
5	Daisuke Takahashi	JPN	232.97			3	80.25	6	152.72
6	Nobunari Oda	JPN	232.50			2	81.81	9	150.69
7	Florent Amodio	FRA	229.68			5	77.64	7	152.04
8	Brian Joubert	FRA	227.67			9	71.29	4	156.38
9	Richard Dornbush	USA	222.42			11	70.54	8	151.88
10	Javier Fernández	ESP	218.26			14	69.16	10	149.10
11	Ross Miner	USA	217.93			13	70.40	11	147.53
12	Tomáš Verner	CZE	216.87			8	75.94	13	140.93
13	Ryan Bradley	USA	212.71			12	70.45	12	142.26
14	Denis Ten	KAZ	209.99			10	71.00	14	138.99
15	Peter Liebers	GER	205.59	4	129.89	16	67.73	15	137.86
16	Anton Kovalevski	UKR	201.64			17	65.16	16	136.48
17	Kevin van der Perren	BEL	197.10			15	68.34	18	128.76
18	Samuel Contesti	ITA	196.40			18	64.59	17	131.81
19	Jorik Hendrickx	BEL	188.24	10	109.59	22	60.74	19	127.50
20	Kevin Reynolds	CAN	187.23			19	64.36	21	122.87
21	Paolo Bacchini	ITA	183.13	6	122.29	23	58.96	20	124.17
22	Song Nan	CHN	176.09			20	63.78	23	112.31
23	Kim Lucine	MGL	171.93	8	117.78	24	58.81	22	113.12
24	Joey Russell	CAN	168.73	7	118.37	21	61.69	24	107.04
Did not advance to free skating									
25	Adrian Schultheiss	SWE				25	58.41		
26	Viktor Pfeifer	AUT		5	123.22	26	56.68		
27	Kim Min-Seok	KOR		12	98.67	27	56.19		
28	Alexander Majorov	SWE		2	136.64	28	54.24		
29	Maxim Shipov	ISR		9	116.42	29	50.10		
30	Misha Ge	UZB		11	109.39	30	49.61		
Did not advance to short program									
31	Mark Webster	AUS		13	95.84				
32	Justus Strid	DEN		14	95.16				
33	David Richardson	GBR		15	93.20				
34	Tigran Vardanian	HUN		16	91.16				
35	Mikael Redin	SWI		17	90.79				
36	Kutay Eryoldas	TUR		18	86.60				
37	Stephen Li-Chung Kuo	TPE		19	85.71				
38	Bela Papp	FIN		20	83.47				
39	Harry Hau Yin Lee	HKG		21	82.39				
40	Vitali Luchanok	BLR		22	81.51				
41	Sarkis Hayrapetyan	ARM		23	77.25				
42	Georgi Kenchadze	BUL		24	73.72				

2011 World Championships: Dance Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	PRR	PRP	SDR	SDP	FDR	FDP
1	Meryl Davis / Charlie White	USA	185.27			2	73.76	1	111.51
2	Tessa Virtue / Scott Moir	CAN	181.79			1	74.29	2	107.50
3	Maia Shibutani / Alex Shibutani	USA	163.79			4	66.88	3	96.91
4	Nathalie Péchalat / Fabian Bourzat	FRA	163.54			3	70.97	6	92.57
5	Kaitlyn Weaver / Andrew Poje	CAN	160.32	1	87.22	7	65.07	4	95.25
6	Ekaterina Bobrova / Dmitri Soloviev	RUS	160.23			5	65.88	5	94.35
7	Elena Ilinykh / Nikita Katsalapov	RUS	154.50			6	65.51	10	88.99
8	Anna Cappellini / Luca Lanotte	ITA	153.77			8	64.12	9	89.65
9	Madison Chock / Greg Zuerlein	USA	151.86			9	61.47	7	90.39
10	Vanessa Crone / Paul Poirier	CAN	151.13			10	61.01	8	90.12
11	Nelli Zhiganshina / Alexander Gazsi	GER	140.95	2	83.67	12	55.53	11	85.42
12	Pernelle Carron / Lloyd Jones	FRA	140.86			11	57.68	12	83.18
13	Cathy Reed / Chris Reed	JPN	133.33			13	54.86	13	78.47
14	Isabella Tobias / Deividas Stagniūnas	LIT	131.01	3	77.63	14	53.16	14	77.85
15	Siobhan Heekin-Canedy / Alexander Shakalov	UKR	128.70	5	75.00	15	52.31	15	76.39
16	Penny Coomes / Nicholas Buckland	GBR	126.29			17	51.75	16	74.54
17	Huang Xintong / Zheng Xun	CHI	123.01	4	75.45	16	52.17	17	70.84
18	Allison Reed / Otar Japaridze	GEO	120.11	6	70.90	19	49.44	18	70.67
19	Charlene Guignard / Marco Fabbri	ITA	120.02			18	49.80	19	70.22
20	Louise Walden / Owen Edwards	GBR	116.52	9	68.58	20	46.73	20	69.79
Did not advance to free dance									
21	Dora Turoczi / Balazs Major	HUN					45.41		
22	Lucie Myslivečková / Matěj Novák	CZE		8	68.96		45.02		
23	Sara Hurtado / Adrià Díaz	ESP		7	70.26		44.98		
24	Brooke Frieling / Lionel Rumi	ISR					44.43		
25	Ramona Elsener / Florian Roost	SWI		10	67.94		41.58		
Did not advance to short dance									
26	Kira Geil / Tobias Eisenbauer	AUT		11	64.55				
27	Danielle O'Brien / Gregory Merriman	AUS		12	63.57				
28	Zsuzsanna Nagy / Máté Fejes	HUN		13	58.70				
29	Katelyn Good / Nikolaj Sorensen	DEN		14	57.04				
30	Corenne Bruhns / Benjamin Westenberger	MEX		15	55.51				
31	Kristina Tremasova / Dimitar Lichev	BUL		16	55.37				
32	Lesia Valadzenkava / Vitali Vakunov	BLR		17	54.43				

United States to take gold at a World Championship level. Skating their free dance to an elegant yet technically demanding tango, they overtook their team mates and training partners, Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, to claim the title. With a reputation for lyrical and romantic routines, this year Virtue and Moir broke convention and performed a sexy and dynamic samba, of the highlights of the championship.

Bronze went to Maia and Alex Shibutani, also from the United States. Capitalising on a freak fall by the French European Champions, Nathalie Péchalat / Fabian Bourzat, the rookie brother and sister combination moved from fourth place to third.

All three teams were coached by the same trainers, Igor Shpilband and Marina Zueva at the Detroit Skating Club in Michigan, U.S.A.

Team Australia in Moscow

Finishing as the top team members at the 2011 Four Continents Championships in Taipei City, Australia's team consisted of Mark Webster and Cheltzie Lee in singles, Danielle O'Brien and Gregory Merriman in dance.

Despite an early fall on the triple axel, Webster rallied back with a personal best free skate, missing short program qualification by one place. His continued improvement at the world level is encouraging, having climbed from 46TH in 2009, 36TH in 2010, and 31ST in 2011. Prior to this event, O'Brien and Merriman were training in Detroit, Michigan with Anjelika Krylova and Pasquale Camerlengo. With 17 couples entered in the pre - qualifying round, competition for a place in the short dance was tight. Despite earning a personal best score for their performance as well, a miss in their fourth element, 45° short on the rotational lift, cost the young couple valuable points, leaving them in 12TH spot.

Based on her 17TH place at Worlds in 2010, Cheltzie Lee pre - qualified for the main draw in Moscow. She skated a powerful short program, including a huge triple toe - loop / triple toe - loop, (one of only six ladies to achieve a triple / triple combination in this segment of the event). Though making several minor errors in the free skate, Cheltzie finished competition in 21ST overall.

2011 World Championships: Ladies' Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	PRR	PRP	SPP	SPS	FSP	FSS
1	Miki Ando	JPN	195.79			2	65.58	1	130.21
2	Yuna Kim	KOR	194.50			1	65.91	2	128.59
3	Carolina Kostner	ITA	184.68			6	59.75	3	124.93
4	Alena Leonova	RUS	183.92			5	59.75	4	124.17
5	Alissa Cizisny	USA	182.25			4	61.47	5	120.78
6	Mao Asada	JPN	172.79			7	58.66	6	114.13
7	Ksenia Makarova	RUS	167.22			3	61.62	9	105.60
8	Kanako Murakami	JPN	167.10			10	54.86	7	112.24
9	Kiira Korpi	FIN	164.80			9	55.09	8	109.71
10	Elene Gedevanishvili	GEO	156.24			15	51.61	10	104.63
11	Sarah Hecken	GER	155.83			12	52.73	11	103.10
12	Rachael Flatt	USA	154.61			8	57.22	14	97.39
13	Cynthia Phaneuf	CAN	152.78			13	52.62	12	100.16
14	Maé Bérénice Méité	FRA	150.44	1	98.88	11	53.26	15	97.18
15	Joshi Helgesson	SWE	149.08	2	91.70	16	50.25	13	98.83
16	Amélie Lacoste	CAN	144.76	5	87.04	14	51.98	18	92.78
17	Viktoria Helgesson	SWE	142.52			24	45.40	16	97.12
18	Bingwa Geng	CHI	140.78			19	47.89	17	92.89
19	Ira Vannut	BEL	138.28	4	90.29	17	49.34	20	89.05
20	Juulia Turkila	FIN	136.68	6	86.49	22	45.70	19	90.98
21	Cheltzie Lee	AUS	133.65			18	48.20	21	85.45
22	Elena Glebova	EST	124.78	9	76.13	20	46.28	22	78.50
23	Irina Movchan	UKR	123.15	10	75.96	23	45.68	23	75.77
24	Jenna McCorkell	GBR	121.76			21	45.99	24	75.77
Did not advance to free skating									
25	Sonia Lafuente	ESP		3	91.17	25	44.59		
26	Karina Johnson	DEN		7	78.52	26	42.19		
27	Bettina Heim	SWI		12	72.74	27	37.23		
28	Daša Grm	SLO		8	77.42	28	36.63		
29	Belinda Schönberger	AUT		11	75.85	29	35.73		
30	Viktória Pavuk	HUN				30	33.70		
Did not advance to short program									
31	Roberta Rodeghiero	ITA		13	71.83				
32	Sabina Märiutā	ROM		14	68.63				
33	Min-Jeong Kwak	KOR		15	67.75				
34	Birce Atabey	TUR		16	67.11				
35	Mericien Venzon	PHI		17	66.94				
36	Lejeanne Marais	RSA		18	65.99				
37	Hristina Vassileva	BUL		19	65.26				
38	Melinda Wang	TPE		20	63.32				
39	Clara Peters	IRE		21	60.94				
40	Taryn Jurgensen	THA		22	57.75				
41	Mary Ro Reyes	MEX		23	54.99				
42	Georgia Glastris	GRE		24	52.38				
43	Marina Seeh	SRB		25	52.20				
44	Tiffany Packard Yu	HKG		26	51.72				

2011 World Championships: Pairs' Results

Rank	Name	Nation	TP	SPR	SPP	FSR	FSP
1	Aliona Savchenko / Robin Szolkowy	GER	217.85	2	72.98	1	144.87
2	Tatiana Volosozhar / Maxim Trankov	RUS	211.73	3	70.35	2	140.38
3	Pang Qing / Tong Jian	CHN	204.12	1	74.00	3	130.12
4	Yuko Kavaguti / Alexander Smirnov	RUS	187.36	5	62.54	4	124.82
5	Vera Bazarova / Yuri Larionov	RUS	187.13	4	64.64	5	122.49
6	Caitlin Yankowskas / John Coughlin	USA	175.94	8	58.76	6	117.18
7	Meagan Duhamel / Eric Radford	CAN	173.03	7	58.83	7	114.20
8	Kirsten Moore-Towers / Dylan Moscovitch	CAN	163.17	10	56.86	8	106.31
9	Narumi Takahashi / Mervin Tran	JPN	160.10	6	59.16	10	100.94
10	Stefania Bertoni / Ondřej Hotáček	ITA	157.15	9	57.63	11	99.52
11	Amanda Evora / Mark Ladwig	USA	155.91	11	54.64	9	101.27
12	Maylin Hausch / Daniel Wende	GER	149.65	12	53.90	12	95.75
13	Zhang Yue / Wang Lei	CHN	147.38	13	52.25	13	95.13
14	Dong Huibo / Wu Yiming	CHN	137.75	14	49.29	14	88.46
15	Klára Kadlecová / Petr Bidař	CZE	132.51	15	45.20	15	87.31
16	Natalja Zabijako / Sergei Kulbach	EST	126.56	16	44.35	16	82.21
Did not advance to free skating							
17	Stacey Kemp / David King	GBR		17	44.14		
18	Adeline Canac / Yannick Bonheur	FRA		18	43.92		
19	Lubov Bakirova / Mikalai Kamianchuk	BLR		19	38.20		
20	Danielle Montalbano / Evgeni Krasnopolski	ISR		20	37.43		
21	Stina Martini / Severin Kiefer	AUT		21	35.34		
22	Alexandra Malakhova / Leri Kenchadze	BUL		22	30.10		



Danielle O'Brien & Greg Merriman / Preliminary Free Dance
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Brooklee Han / Short Program
2011 World Junior Figure Skating Championships



Danielle O'Brien & Greg Merriman / Free Dance
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



Cheltzie Lee / Free Skate
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Danielle O'Brien & Greg Merriman / Preliminary Free Dance
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Mark Webster / Short Program
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



Brooklee Han / Free Skate
2011 World Junior Figure Skating Championships



Maria & Evgueni Borounov / Short Dance
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



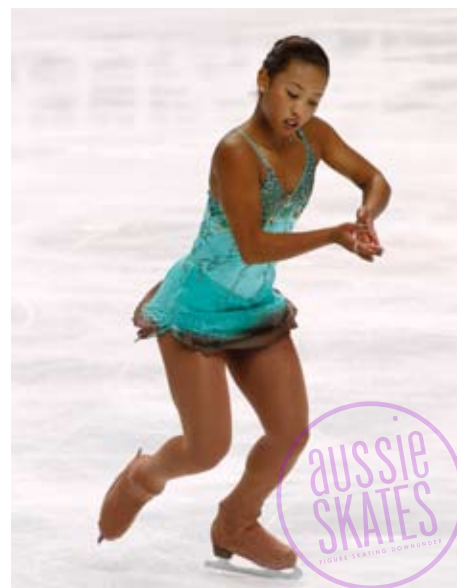
Brendan Kerry / Short Program
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



Brendan Kerry / Short Program
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



Danielle O'Brien & Greg Merriman / Short Dance
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



Cheltzie Lee / Free Skate
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Brooklee Han / Free Skate
2011 World Junior Figure Skating Championships



Maria & Evgueni Borounov / Short Dance
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



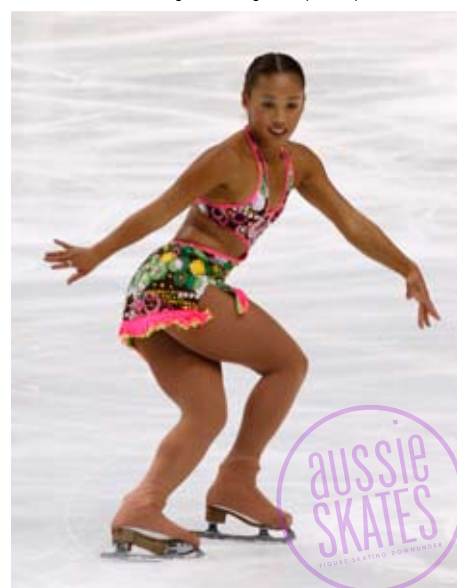
Mark Webster / Short Program
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



Danielle O'Brien & Greg Merriman / Preliminary Free Dance
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Cheltzie Lee / Free Skate
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Cheltzie Lee / Short Program
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Cheltzie Lee / Short Program
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Danielle O'Brien & Greg Merriman / Preliminary Free Dance
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Cheltzie Lee / Free Skate
2011 World Figure Skating Championships



Brooklee Han / Short Program
2011 World Junior Figure Skating Championships



Mark Webster / Short Program
2011 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships



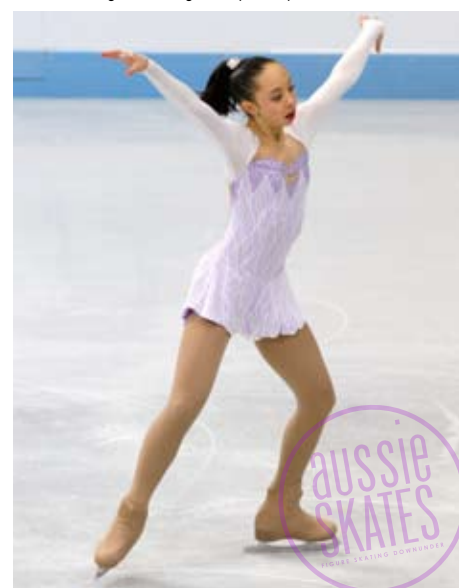
Cheltzie Lee / Short Program
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