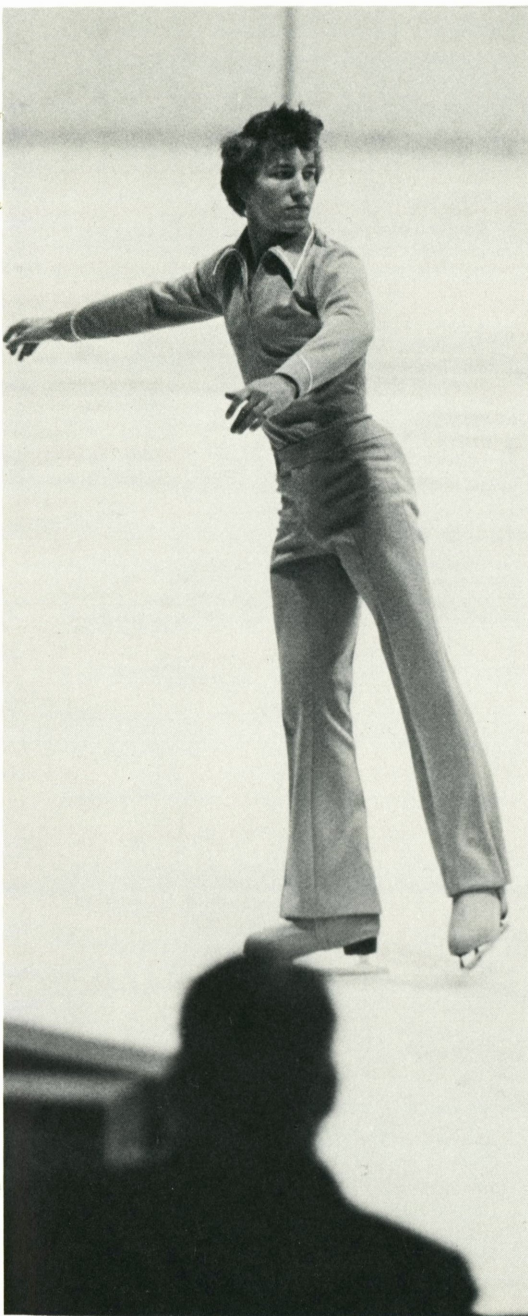


# PACIFICS

by Gloria Williams

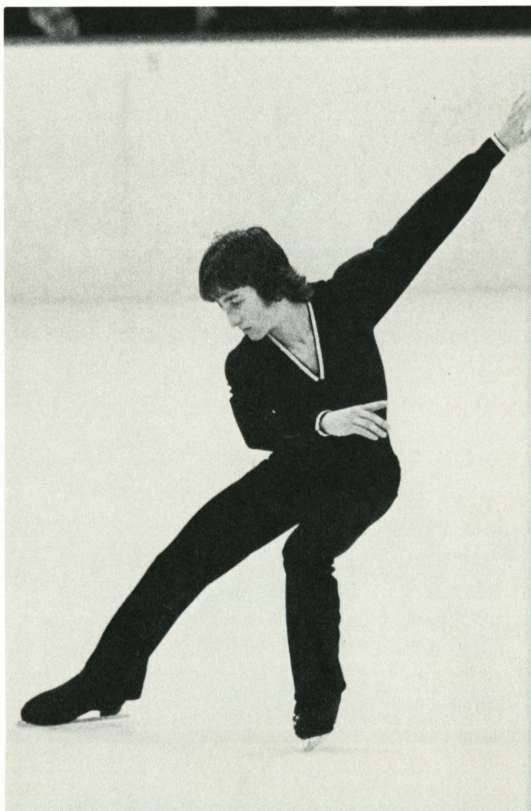


With a World Team pair, National Dance and Pair bronze medalists and ten national title winners in all competing, there was no way the 1975 Pacific Coast Championships were going to be dull! Unforeseen elements, however, also added drama to the meet that was enthusiastically hosted by a warm, sunny San Diego for the first time since 1952, with USFSA President Benjamin T. Wright participating.

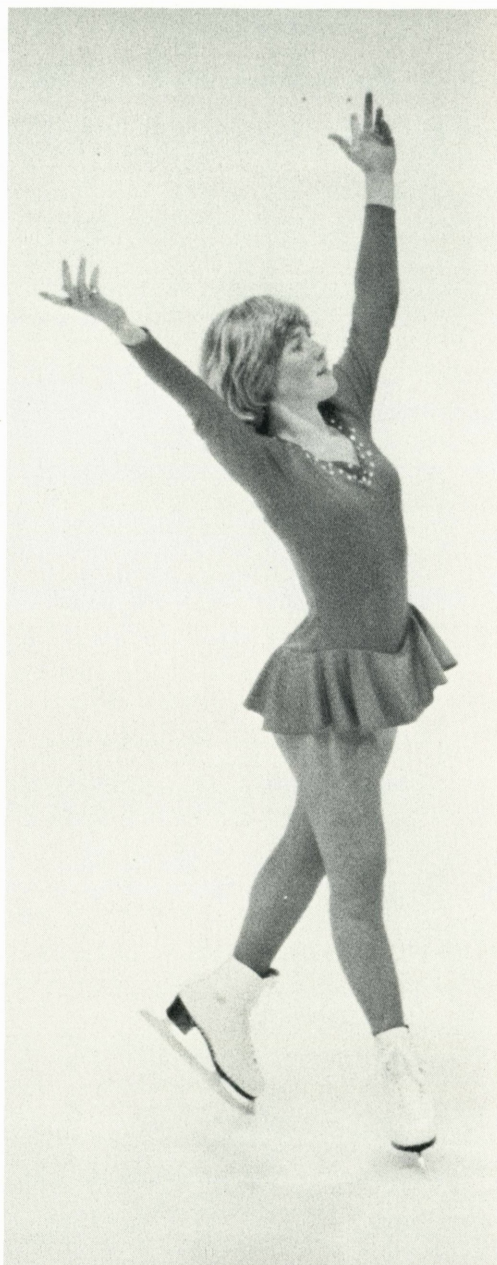
*The Ladies*—San Diego's only representative, Cindy Moyers, emerged with an exciting, up-from-second victory in Intermediate Ladies to give the host club a big thrill and its first Sectional singles title in over a decade. Figure leader Leigh Ann Davis finished second, and Jill Sawyer, who gamely attempted a double Axel, pulled from fourth to third even though she didn't land the jump.

The Novice Ladies' competition was marred

*The champions: Senior Man Ken Newfield (left) and Junior Man Perry Jewell.*



Photocraft by Alberto



Top photos: J. Keith Williams; bottom: Photocraft by Alberto

*Clockwise, from left: Senior Man Johnny Carlow, Jr.; Junior Man Hal Marron; Senior Ladies' champion Barbie Smith; Senior Lady Linda Fratianne; Novice Ladies' champion Carrie Rugh; and Junior Ladies' champion Jeanne Chapman.*



## *Pacific Coasts*

when Lisa Church, ranked first after figures, took a bad spill in the free skating warm-up and had to withdraw. Subsequently, tiny Carrie Rugh with her great spin combinations (camel/sit/camel for one) pulled from third to first. Robin Levi held second, and Vicki Heasley skated a strong, nearly perfect program to win the free skating and pull from eighth to third.

Jeanne Chapman's fantastic figures were the highlight of the Junior Ladies' event. Observing her nearly perfect bracket, one coach was overheard to say, "She makes figures exciting!" Jeanne, 1974 U.S. Novice Ladies' champion, supported her figure lead with enough grace and skill in free skating to stay on top. Tammy Gambill skated well and pulled from third to second. Lisa Allen, who performed a soaring double Lutz, won the free skating and pulled from sixth after figures to third. Lisa wore what many judged to be the most beautiful dress in the meet—a luscious cerise exploding with brilliant jewellery around the neck, across the shoulders and down the outside center of each sleeve.

The eagerly awaited match-up between the defending Senior Ladies' champion, Wendy Burge, and the 1974 National Junior winner, Barbie Smith, unfortunately was muddled by yet another unforeseen circumstance. Leading Barbie after both the figures and the short program, Wendy had final position in the long program skating order, just after Dawn Wieburg. Due to a problem between Dawn's record and the music equipment (which had also cropped up during the short programs), about 40 minutes elapsed between the warm-up and Wendy's program. How much effect, if any, the delay





had was everyone's favorite guessing game at the awards banquet, as Wendy definitely skated below her form and dropped into second place overall.

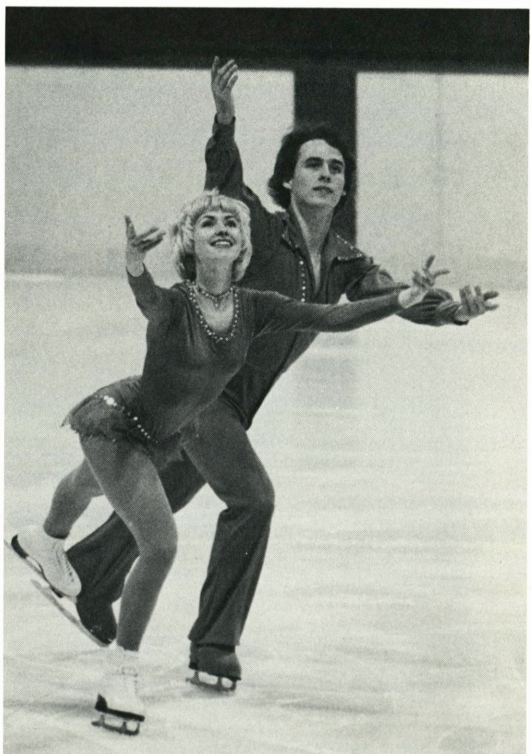
Barbie, who had skated an excellent, difficult program, opening with a triple Salchow, emerged on top. Linda Fratianne, who included both a triple Salchow and a triple toe-loop in her long program, finished third.

*The Men*—Jeff Davis of Palo Alto, who pulled from third after figures to first in Intermediate Men with a strong free program that featured some unusual body positions, earned the distinction of being the only entry from outside the Southwest Pacific Region to win an event. Eric Greedy went from first to second, and Jim White pulled up from sixth to third.

In the Novice Men's competition, Mark Cockerell parlayed a second in figures and a third in free skating into a win via an accountant's brain teaser, made all the more complicated when Scott Prussack, who was seventh in figures, won the free with a dynamic performance. Figure leader Robert Wagenhoffer did a triple Salchow and toe-loop and an unusual double Walley, finishing second in free skating and overall. Barry Hagan held onto third despite Prussack's challenge.

Perry Jewell skated an exciting and polished free program with excellent spins and combinations to pull up from second to claim the Junior Men's title over figure leader Hal

*Cindy Moyers, below, gave the host club's fans something to cheer about by winning the Intermediate Ladies' title. Above: Novice Lady Robin Levi; below right: Senior Pair Erika Susman & Tom Huff. Opposite page, top: Senior Pair Tai Babilonia & Randy Gardner successfully defended their title; and although finishing last, Novice Pair Heather Hoffinger & John McKibben, below, won the hearts of the audience.*







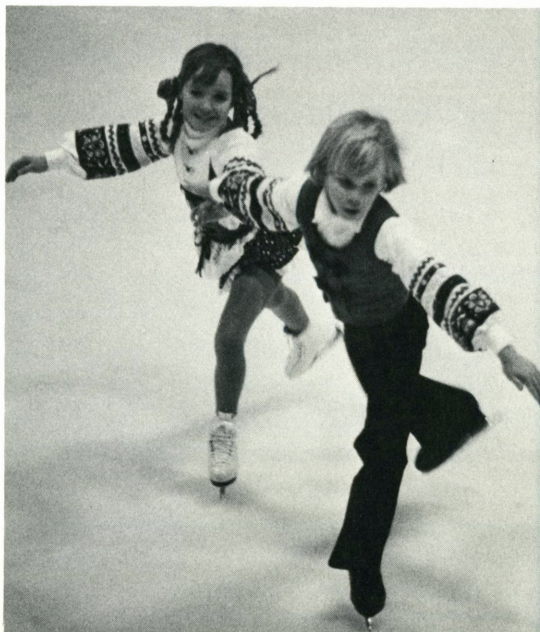
Marron. Marron, with a much improved free program, finished second—one of three qualifications for Nationals he picked up in the meet!—and Scott Carson pulled from fourth to third over Patrick Page.

The Senior Men's competition found Ken Newfield taking friendly revenge on Randy Gardner, who overtook Newfield for the National Junior Men's title last year. Ken's also much improved free skating technique, evidenced by a strong triple Salchow, supported his early figure lead for a win. Randy, who was skating his third program of the day, still had enough energy to win the long free, as he had the short, and pull up to second over John Carlow, Jr.

*The Pairs*—Novice Pairs was won by the mature, nearly Junior class pair, Suzette Rose and Lawrence Schrier, who displayed strong lifts and good unison. Beth and Ken Flora finished second, and Danelle Porter and John Maddison, third. The crowd's vote, however, went to the last placed pair, tiny Heather Hoffinger and John McKibben in enchanting Tyrolean outfits, who brought down the house with their throw waltz jump!

Junior Pairs wound up in a virtual dead heat among three entries for the top spots. When the computer unscrambled the marks, the new match of Lori Mills and David Kirby—almost unbelievably improved since Southwest Pacifics—were second, sandwiched between

two veteran sister-and-brother teams. Lyndy and Hal Marron earned the title, and, though they had trouble completing their spins in unison, they skated well overall and got gasps from the audience for a soaring throw Axel. Tracy and Scott Prussack, who now have some strong lifts even though they are still almost the same height, finished third.







Debuting their new, week-old long program, 1974 U.S. World Team members Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner successfully defended their Senior Pair title in an exciting match-up with two other nationally seasoned pairs. Tai and Randy's program has been enriched by several new elements, including double Axels, a throw double loop, a double twist lift and a breathtaking tabletop lift. The 1974 U.S. Pair bronze medalists, Erika Susman and Tom Huff, wowed the audience with their new step-through Baier (developed by Maxi Herber and Ernst Baier, 1936-39 World Pair champions). They skated well overall in the long program, pulling up to second over last year's National Junior Pair champions, Lisa Carey and Douglas Varvais.

*The Dancers*—The Bronze Dance event was won by Lisa Stillwell and Tor Carson, a good looking couple who must have worked very hard to pull ahead of Susan DeRosa and Thomas Howard, who topped them in Southwest Pacifics but finished second this time. The third spot went to Michelle Dornan and Alan Wardin.

In Silver Dance, Jo Ann Schneider and







*Clockwise, from above: Silver Dance champions Jo Ann Schneider & Richard Griffin; Silver Dancers Sharon Parker & Mickey McCann; and Bronze Dance champions Lisa Stillwell & Tor Carson. Opposite page: Gold Dancers Sara Hill & Paul Steiner (top) and champions Michelle Ford & Glenn Patterson.*

Richard Griffin, who achieve excellent edges and body positions in spite of a considerable height difference, topped Sharon Parker and Mickey McCann and Cathy and Hal Marron. The original set-pattern waltzes were amazingly varied and crowd-pleasing.

The influence of Michelle Ford and Glenn Patterson's innovations last year was definitely evident in the original set-pattern blues of the Gold Dancers and in some of the free dance programs as well. Nevertheless, the free dance of the 1974 National Dance bronze medalists, not much changed from last year, was the much-anticipated highlight of the event. Michelle and Glenn qualified for Nationals by virtue of their third-place finish last year, so three other couples at Coasts also earned the right to compete in Oakland. Second-ranked Debbie Ganson and Gerry Lane, skating together for the second season, were followed by two new matches—Sara Hill and Paul Steiner and Dee Oseroff and Craig Bond.

Hosting Pacific Coasts was a long awaited dream come true for San Diego, and it now seems, in retrospect, just that—a wonderful, exciting, never-to-be-forgotten dream!

