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LOCAL SKATERS CELEBRATE SUCCESS AT THE 2013 U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Simsbury, CT (01/30/13) – The 2013 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships were held January 20-27 in Omaha, Nebraska. More than 370 figure skaters competed at the juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior and senior levels for 20 U.S. titles in ladies, men's, pairs and ice dancing. Rachel Gart, Maxim Naumov, Daniel Petrenko and Emilee Zhang represented the Charter Oak Figure Skating Club, and Matthew Rosenthal represented The Skating Club of Novi. All five skaters train at the International Skating Center of Connecticut in Simsbury.

The road to the U.S. Championships each year, and to the Olympic Winter Games every four years, begins with the U.S. Figure Skating qualifying structure of regional and sectional events. The structure is comprised of nine regional events and three sectional events. Skaters who place in the top four at a regional competition qualify for the Sectional Championships; skaters who place in the top four at a sectional competition qualify for the U.S. Championships.

Maxim Naumov, a sixth grader at Central Elementary, placed first and earned the title of **2013 U.S. Figure Skating Juvenile Boy's National Champion**. The juvenile boys event was a tight match, with less than 1 point separating the top 3 skaters. Max had a final score of 46.59 for his program, which included two double axels and two double lutztes. He was awarded a bronze medal at the Eastern Sectional Championships which earned him a spot at the National Championships. He is also the reigning **2013 U.S. Figure Skating Juvenile Boy's Regional Champion**. Max is coached by World Champions Vadim Naumov and Evgenia Shishkova.

Emilee Zhang, a seventh grader at Henry James Junior High, competed in the Juvenile Girls event and placed 10th overall. She was awarded a silver medal at the Eastern Sectional Championships, qualifying her for the U.S. National Championships. She placed first at the New England Regional Championships and earned the title of **2013 U.S. Figure Skating Juvenile Girl's Regional Champion**. Emilee is coached by International Level coaches Vladimir and Elena Petrenko.

Rachel Gart, a ninth grader at Miss Porter's School, and her partner **Matthew Rosenthal**, an 11th grader at Avon High school, competed at the Intermediate Dance level. They placed 10th in both of their preliminary dances, 8th place in the Free Dance final, and finished 10th overall. Rachel and Matthew were awarded the pewter medal at the Midwestern Sectional Championships, allowing them to advance to the National Championships. They are coached by International Level coach and choreographer Mathew Gates.

Daniel Petrenko, a ninth grader at Simsbury High School, competed at the Novice Men's level and placed 10th in both the short program and free skate, and placed 10th overall. Daniel was awarded a bronze medal at the Eastern Sectional championships which earned him a spot at the National Championships. Daniel was awarded a first place finish at the 2013 New England Regional Championships and is the reigning **2013 U.S. Figure Skating Novice Men's Regional Champion**. Daniel is coached by International Level coaches Vladimir and Elena Petrenko.

"The Charter Oak Figure Skating Club is extremely proud of all of its skaters," states Amy Fairchild, President. "This is a very prestigious and important event to participate in, and is the culmination of a lot of hard work and dedication. The U.S. National Championships represents the best skaters in the country, and the fact that we have so many skaters who placed in the top 10 of the country at their level, one of whom is a National Champion, is pretty amazing. We congratulate all of them on a job well done."

U.S. Figure Skating is the national governing body for the sport of figure skating in the United States as recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union. U.S. Figure Skating is comprised of more than 700 member clubs, collegiate clubs, and school-affiliated clubs and over 900 registered Basic Skills skating schools representing approximately 170,000 members. U.S. Figure Skating is charged with the development of the sport on all levels within the United States including athletes, officials, sanctioning of events and exhibitions, and establishing the rules and guidelines by which the sport is governed.



Maxim Naumov

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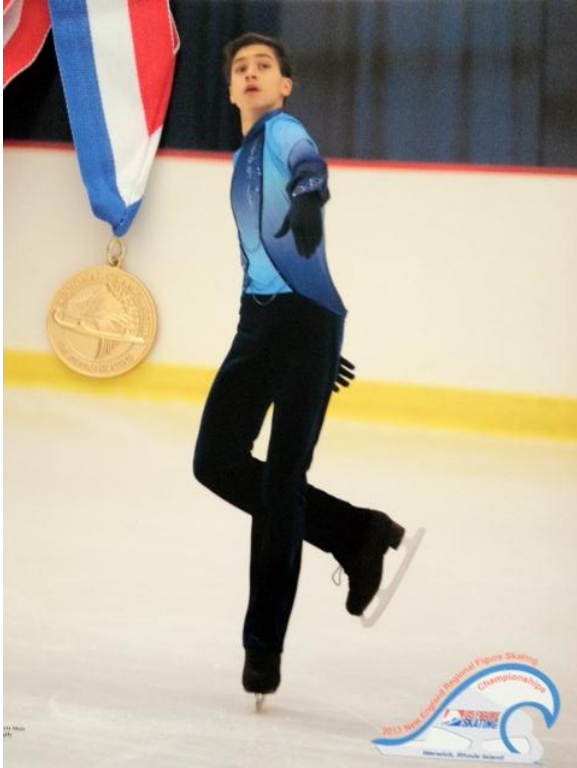
Emilee Zhang

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Rachel Gatt and Matthew Rosenthal

Graphic Backman



Daniel Petrenko

2013 New Zealand Figure Skating Championships
Wendy, Shari, John