



Hayden Synchronized Skating Teams
Lexington, MA

PRESS RELEASE

HAYDENETTES IMPRESSIVE IN OPENING OF FIGURE SKATING SEASON

Lexington, MA, December 2, 2007 – The Haydenettes, U.S. Figure Skating's 2007 Synchronized Champions, kicked off the figure skating season with impressive Gold medal performances in the 2007 Porter Classic competition held December 1-2nd in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Porter Classic competition is named after Dr. Richard Porter who is credited with founding the sport now known as synchronized skating more than fifty years ago. With more than 450 competitive teams in the U.S. and a sanctioned World Championship by the International Skating Union, many people believe 'synchro' is the next "big-thing" in competitive figure skating and a potential future Olympic sport. Our local Haydenettes team and the three younger feeder teams that practice out of the Hayden rink remain at the top of the sport here in the U.S.

The Porter Classic competition was the kick-off event for the Haydenettes competitive season after two months of appearances at a number of skating exhibitions. The team's appearances included Evening With Champions, a Jimmy Fund Benefit and Skate America a Grand Prix Competition where the team performed in the champions skating exhibition. The team also made two appearances at Bryant Park, a seasonal ice facility in the heart of mid-town Manhattan. The team has appeared each of the last three years at the opening of the Bryant Park ice arena. This year the team was invited for a second appearance at the annual tree lighting event with Broadway stars and skaters from the Stars On Ice show. Both Bryant Park events were televised by CBS-TV.

This is the second year the Haydenettes have ventured to the Midwest to compete in the Porter Classic which is becoming the important kick-off competition. All the top U.S. teams from coast-to-coast have competed in the past two years and the top Canadian teams are also competing. The competition marks a prelude to local and sectional competitions that lead up to the National Championships, which this year will be held in Providence during late February.

The Haydenettes captured Gold medals in both the short program and the free skate also known as the long program. The team was clearly in great form for the short with an almost flawless performance that showed speed, athleticism, strong choreography and deep defined skating edges, the true hallmark of elite skating. The panel of judges obviously recognized the team's excellence as the team out-pointed both the U.S. entries and the Canadians teams that captured second and third place.



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“This was a strong and focused effort by our skaters,” commented Saga Krantz, Director of synchronized skating and the team’s head coach and former World Silver medalist. “I think the appearances in the past couple of months before both knowledgeable skating audiences and on live TV gave the skaters extra confidence for this competition. They have put in the hard work from last spring when I began the choreography and they continued with that focused effort when we picked up again in August,” noted the coach.

“This year we have a strong core group of returning skaters and that experience and maturity is showing but we have more work to do. Now that we have the basic programs completed and with success in a competition, we need to focus on interpreting our music and our presentation to the audience and judges. The European teams we hope to compete against have been much better in presentation and we have to match that in order to reach our goal of a World Medal ,” noted Krantz.

The Haydenettes core group includes returning high school and collegiate skaters. The team is anchored by five current LHS seniors this year. They include Lauren Petroff, Olivia Samia, Amanda Ting, Kate Wilson and Tracey Daniels. Daniels moved to Lexington from Downers Grove, Illinois to specifically tryout and skate with the Haydenettes. It is not uncommon for skaters to relocate in order to skate with the Haydenettes, more typical however, are college students who find the draw of Boston’s many colleges and universities and the opportunity to skate with the Haydenettes to be the ideal college and skating experience.

Fans of the Hayden teams and other local skaters have the opportunity to watch the great strides in figure skating coming out of the Hayden rink this coming Saturday December 15th when the annual Hayden Holiday Ice Show is presented at the Worthen Road facility. The FREE event is open to the public with all of the synchro teams performing plus many of the excellent skaters that train and participate in Hayden’s programs. The Holiday Show begins at noon with the teams offering refreshments as part of their fund-raising efforts. For more information on the Haydenettes and all the synchro teams visit www.haydenettes.com