



Skate Vancouver

V A N C O U V E R S K A T I N G C L U B

GRASSROOTS 2 CHAMPIONS SEMINAR

March 17-20, 2009

North Shore Ice Sports, North Vancouver

Featuring US coaches: Audrey Weisiger & Chris Conte

VSC is facilitating this fantastic opportunity for our skaters to experience two of the best Coaches from the United States. Audrey Weisiger is a World and Olympic Coach and Chris Conte is an expert in Dartfish and choreography. Topics of the seminar will be jump development, body alignment and creating “the total package” skater. Dartfish will be used to analyze and speed the learning process. Registration is limited and will be on a “first come, first serve” basis. This seminar is being marketed to all of BC, Alberta and the Pa-

cific Northwest region of the USA and we are anticipating that this seminar will fill quickly! Registration forms, program information and schedules are being emailed to our members. If you do not receive it, please download the information from our website or contact Lori Oxland. Deadline is March 6th



OUR SENIOR COACHES:

- **Lorna Bauer**, Sport Science Director
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- **Tina Leininger**, Competitive Skating Director (Jr/Int Programs)
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- **Deneen Sokolowski**, Jumpstart & Artistic Director
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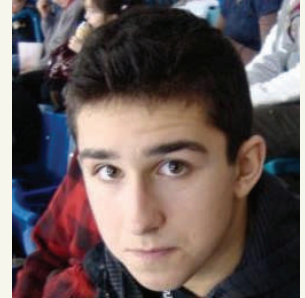
A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS

VSC is home to 2 brothers who both happen to be National Competitors. Liam, 16, and Shane, 14, share a love of skating and competing. Liam recently returned from Senior Nationals, where he competed at the Junior Level and made his mark in his first year at this level. Shane is just returning from Junior Nationals, competing in Pre-Novice and left a big impression on the judges in Calgary. Both boys train full time at the Agrodome and Ice Sports and are coached by Lorna Bauer and the VSC team. Lorna reflects: "Liam

LIAM FIRUS: JUNIOR

has had a very good year. He has made the huge jump from Novice to Junior Men very well. He qualified for Canadians, the only Novice Man from last year to qualify, and competed as one of the 2 youngest boys in the country in this category. He has acquired 2 more triples and a triple/triple combination since last year in his jump arsenal, but also has improved tremendously in his presentation, and speed. Liam worked very hard this

season earning 2nd place at Sectionals, 3rd place at Western Challenge, and 10th place in Canada. He will work hard this spring and summer looking to earn himself a trip to represent Canada at a Jr. Grand Prix International Assignment, something he is very capable of accomplishing. Liam's dedication to his training and commitment has been exceptional. His drive to be the best he can be will take him very far in this sport".



"An exciting moment was getting my personal best score in the short program this season and skating on the same ice as Patrick Chan and Vaughn Chipeur. My personal goal was top ten and I achieved that".

-Liam Firus

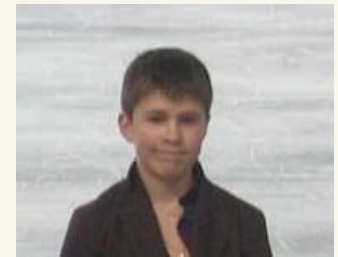
SHANE FIRUS: PRENOVICE

Lorna joined Shane in Calgary and has this to say: "Shane is very motivated to attend his first ever National championships in Calgary. He has been exceptional in his consistency this season earning personal best scores at Sectionals and placing 3rd in Pre-Novice Men. This entitled him to a trip to Western Challenge where with 2 clean performances he placed 5th. He heads into Calgary very excited for a first time experience, as well as hopeful to finish

his year with personal best performances. Shane has learned a lot this season, as well as gained a lot of confidence. He has a passion for performing that is really quite exceptional and makes the audience truly enjoy him".

NOTE: As of printing: Shane placed 10th at his first Junior Nationals Competition.

Congratulations, Shane!



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Fundraising is an ongoing and challenging project for VSC and we wish to thank all our members and friends who continually support our efforts.

This Christmas we introduced QSP Readers Digest Magazine Renewal and/or New Subscriptions. The top sellers so far:

Gold: **Madison & Nicole Heidema** (\$388.00)

Silver: **Brianna Centanni** (\$174.00)

Bronze: **Sofia Bonato** (\$126.00)

This fundraiser is ongoing and

you can still help out by renewing or purchasing new subscriptions online at www.qsp.ca. You will save up to 70% off the cover price and there are over 700 magazines to choose from. Best of all- VSC gets 40%! Use our VSC code **#32034** when ordering. It's Easy!

Scoops Cookie Dough, which we sold over the Christmas holidays was a delicious hit: Everyone loves these gooey treats. Thanks to everyone who sold or bought. Our top sellers are:

Gold: **Kaya Radjah** (\$128.00)

Silver: **Madison Heidema** (\$64.00)

Bronze: **Angela White & Lynne Wik** (\$48.00 each)

Penny Reid, our fundraising coordinator, wishes to thank everyone for their support and asks our readers for fundraising ideas for future endeavors. If you have any ideas, please contact Penny at: plreid@telus.net



Your magazine subscription can earn VSC money—check it out!
www.qsp.ca #32034

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



High School Musical-VSC version

Our young VSC skaters were invited to a private session with the creative professionals from the "High School Musical on Ice" Tour.

On November 27th, at the PNE Agrodome, the skaters were treated to a special lesson in choreography. They also got an inside look at how the major production was put together and were able to meet some of the performers. The skaters had a great time and also received some souvenirs to remember their exciting day.



BC WINTERSKATE COMPETITION (STARSKATE QUALIFIER)

Our skaters have been busy at yet again another competition. Our starskaters attended this qualifier, which entitled the top skaters in our section to compete against the top skaters in the west at Pacific Skate from March 5-9th in Surrey, BC. VSC was very fortunate to have talented skaters, who qualified to this event. Results TBA

Elementary

Leina Dueck,
Natara Wong,

Pre-Preliminary

Sofia Bonato,
Gina Gavin,
Sonya Tesanovic,
Madeleine Battisti,

Preliminary

Isabella Bardua,
Lindsay Marshall-White,
Kayla Oxland,
Annika Ng,
Tasha Johansen-Lanthier,
Emily Lim,
Jared Hughes,

Junior Bronze

Marina Pecchia,
Brianna Battisti,
Courtney Whittred,
Elizabeth Hughes,

Senior Bronze

Brianna Centanni, Gold Medal
Zara Ward, Silver Medal
Madison Heidema,
Amanda Mastronardi,
Mikayla Wong,

Junior Silver Skating Skills

Elizabeth Hughes,

Bronze Interpretive

Brianna Centanni, Bronze Medal

Pre-Juvenile (non qualifying)

Paige Cooper,
Amy Webb,

5 VSC Skaters qualified to Pacific Skate in March. Congratulations to Brianna Centanni, Zara Ward, Annika Ng, Jared Hughes & Elizabeth Hughes



Brianna Centanni-Gold Medalist

VSC CHRISTMAS GALA



An extra special thank you to Holly Coupey for organizing this event and to her team of volunteers who set up the food tables, decorated the arena and manned the registration desk. All the work was appreciated by the skaters and families.

Our Christmas Gala was held Saturday, December 13th at KM Arena in North Vancouver. It was a fun ending to a successful year and our skaters enjoyed a well earned day off. Family, friends and skating enthusiasts enjoyed the performances by our talented skaters. For many of us, it was the first opportunity to see our Dance Teams in action and they were amazing. Special thanks to Allie-Hann McCurdy and Michael Coreno for performing and to all our skaters who worked hard entertaining us with their numbers. Thanks to the coaches who choreographed the group numbers and organized the production.



V S C D A N C E T E A M S

Vancouver Skating Club introduced an Ice Dance program in July of this year under the tutelage of coach Rod Mackie. The skaters dedicated an additional 5.5 hours a week towards their dance training and made their debut at the BC/YT Regional Championships in October. **Caelen Dalmer** and **Shane Firus** are our Juvenile Dance Team and they brought home a Bronze Medal at their first competitive event. **Michelle Fitzgerald** and **Qwynn Dalmer** along with **Chloe Hill** and **Troy Shindle** round off our Pre-Novice Dance Teams. Michelle and Qwynn brought home the Gold Medal at the Regional Championships with fellow team mates, Chloe and Troy bringing home the Silver. It was a great start for the Dance Program with even brighter results to follow. The teams entered the BC/YT Sectional Championships where they would compete against other dance teams across the province. Caelen and Shane came in 4th place and had their work praised by Ted Barton, our BCYT High Performance Director. Michelle and Qwynn earned Silver Medals at Sectionals and Chloe and Troy brought home the bronze. Both of our Pre-Novice Teams qualified to skate at Western Challenge in Mississauga, Ontario in December. That too was a grand success. Chloe and Troy placed 6th overall followed by team mates Michelle and Qwynn at 7th place. Both teams earned a berth at Junior Canadians in Calgary, Alberta in February of 2009.

Regarding the Pre-Novice teams, Rod Mackie states: "Both teams have a great look and strong skating skills and several people commented on that fact back at Challenge including Ted Barton". He also noticed how much they have improved since Sectionals. "Being such new dance teams-setting hard goals is difficult, but for Junior Nationals, they would like to continue improving their overall skating and performing abilities as well, increase the level of difficulty with some of the elements in their free programs. This year was all about learning and as far as results are concerned, they have all exceeded expectations!"

Caelen was excited about performing for the first time and said that she was not as nervous as she is when competing in singles. "It is great to be out there with another person" Qwynn agrees with Caelen and enjoys dance "because you get to share the excitement and nerves with someone else". Troy finds it more difficult than singles as you have to "move as one across the ice". Michelle says "I think it is important that you are good friends and look similar. You really have to get along with each other. Qwynn and I have similar personalities and work ethics, so it is just a matter of putting in the work together."

Our Pre-Novice Dance teams competed in Calgary last week. Michelle & Qwynn placed 13th and Chloe and Troy placed 15th at Junior Nationals. What a great Start!



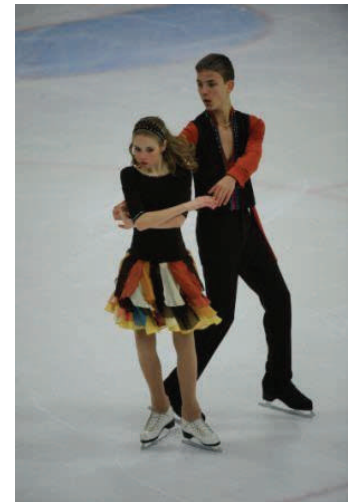
Caelen & Shane on ice



Michelle & Qwynn in action



Caelen & Shane on the podium



Chloe Hill & Troy Shindle

UPCOMING TEST DAYS

Low Tests

Mar 7th 12:00-4:45pm @ KM

Centralized/High Tests

Feb 20 @ Aldergrove, Kensington

Feb 23 @ Newton

March 1 @ Pacific Coliseum

Blank test forms can be downloaded from the VSC website



Chloe Hill & Troy Shindle, Michelle Fitzgerald & Qwynn Dalmer BC/YT Provincial Team Members, 2009 Junior National Qualifiers

BC COAST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Vancouver Skating Club sent a large contingent of skaters to the Regional Championships, which were held at Fleetwood Arena in Surrey. Skaters across the BC Coast region competed for titles and personal bests.

Our Skaters fared well and many medals were brought home. Congratulations to all who competed.

Full Results below:

Junior Competitive

Jade Lam, Bronze Medal
Mandolyn Houriet, 5th Overall
Brooke Johansen, 4th Overall

Novice Competitive

Amelia Austin, 11th Overall
Qwynn Dalmer, 5th Overall
Michelle Fitzgerald, 20th Overall
Charlotte Flannery, 14th Overall
Sarah Mae Hooker, 12th Overall
Maria Saraceno, 13th Overall
Larissa Van As, 8th Overall
Angela White, 16th Overall

Pre-Novice Competitive

Caelen Dalmer, 7th Overall
Stefan Dawydiak, 5th Overall
Shane Firus, 4th Overall
Michelle Fitzgerald, 20th Overall
Angela Gargaro, 14th Overall
Kristin Heuer, 21st Overall
Nikita Heuer, 17th Overall
Chloe Hill, 11th Overall (AM)
Beverley Horler, 33rd Overall (AM)
Lisa Nakajima, 5th Overall (AM)
Troy Shindle, 6th Overall

Pre-Novice Competitive Dance

Michelle Fitzgerald/Qwynn Dalmer,
Gold Medal

Chloe Hill/Troy Shindle, **Silver Medal**

Juvenile Competitive

Emily Nakajima, Bronze Medal (AM)
Zara Ward, 8th Place

Juvenile Competitive Dance

Caelen Dalmer/Shane Firus,
Bronze Medal

Pre-Juvenile

Paige Cooper, 13th Place
Alexander Lawrence, Gold Medal
Amy Webb, 12th Place

Bronze Interpretive

Brianna Centanni, Bronze Medal

Senior Bronze

Brianna Centanni, 8th Overall,
 2nd Place (Group 1)
Madison Heidema, 8th Place (G2)
Jessica Kwan, 6th Place (G3)
Mikayla Wong, 8th Place (G3)

Junior Bronze

Marina Pecchia, 16th Place
Courtney Whittred, 6th Place

Preliminary

Tasha Johansen-Lanthier,
 9th (Final), 3rd Place (Group 3)
Annika Ng, 4th Place (Final)
 2nd Place (Group 2)
Kayla Oxland, 9th Place (Final)
 6th Place (Group 2)
Alanna Padula, 5th Place (G1)

Pre-Preliminary

Sofia Bonato, 5th Place
Amanda Padula, 9th Place

Elementary

Leina Dueck, Bronze Medal
Katrina Young, 4th Place

TRIPLE GOLD MEDALIST



Congratulations to Maria Saraceno, for being the latest VSC skater to achieve TRIPLE GOLD status. Maria completed her Gold Dances along with Gold Freeskiate and Gold Skills. Great job Maria.

V S C TEST RESULTS

Senior Bronze Freeskiate

Madison Heidema
 Zara Ward

Junior Bronze Freeskiate

Brianne Battisti
 Elizabeth Hughes

Silver Interpretive

Amara Miles

Bronze Interpretive

Brianna Centanni

Senior Silver Skills

Kaya Radjah

Junior Silver Skills

Elizabeth Hughes

Junior Bronze Skills

Julia Wynne

Preliminary Skills

Tasha Johansen-Lanthier
 Lindsay Marshall-White

DANCES

Silver Samba

Maria Saraceno

Rocker Foxtrot

Elizabeth Hughes

American Waltz

Marina Pecchia

Fourteenstep

Brianne Battisti
 Isabel Heikkila
 Jared Hughes
 Julia Wynne

European Waltz

Brianne Battisti

Willow Waltz

Madeleine Battisti
 Karlee Kent
 Alanna Padula

Fiesta Tango

Madeleine Battisti
 Karlee Kent
 Katrina Young

Canasta Tango

Natalie Barthel
 Kelsey Fitzpatrick
 Lisa Kirby
 Jessica Leng
 Sarah Lyall
 Jennifer Malkin
 Lauren Noble
 Matteo Pecchia
 Katerina Stephan
 Kirsten Ulveland

Dutch Waltz

Natalie Barthel
 Kelsey Fitzpatrick
 Lisa Kirby
 Jessica Leng
 Sarah Lyall
 Katie Macrae
 Jennifer Malkin
 Lauren Noble
 Kirsten Ulveland

Baby Blues

Kelsey Fitzpatrick
 Jennifer Malkin
 Matteo Pecchia
 Katerina Stephan

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO? "CATHERINE MOORE"



This special feature will introduce Vancouver Skating Club members from the past. What are they doing now? What are their memories of skating? The first story introduces Catherine Clarke (nee Moore) a VSC member since 1958 Catherine writes

After retiring from active skating in 1978, I moved north to Pink Mountain BC to join my future husband, a guide outfitter.

This life style was definitely not for the faint of heart but in the 30 + yrs that I have lived in the 'bush' I can say truthfully I have never been bored!

From the ranch to the trap line and back on a seasonal basis we seemed to leap from one 'crisis' to another in the process of day to day living. Horses escaping, pigs attacked by wolves, hawks after the chickens and kids in the river! Not to mention creeks and rivers flooding.

Everyday basics just took a little longer and removed any need for a gym membership! Born and raised in Vancouver (Little Mountain area) I was used to an endless supply of good water. We now hauled our water in 5 gallon pails from the nearby creek. (nearby being 300 yards) One gallon of water weighs 10 lbs, more or less. The last 50 feet it was 'more'!

Nowadays the water is brought in by more modern methods. I phone the water truck from Pink Mountain and they bring 3000 gal-

lons at a time for our camp and house!

Wood still has to be cut, thrown in the truck or horse drawn wagon, hauled home varying distances from a few hundred yards to 20 miles. Thrown out of the truck or wagon, split and then piled in the wood shed. Then it is packed into the house and piled in the wood box for use in the wood heater and wood cook stove.

I have learned to use a wood cook stove and would not part with it for anything. Nice even heat and different areas of the stove have just the right intensity for all day soup making or to boil the kettle for tea!

For 20 years my husband, Brian, and I raised horses, wild pigs, dogs, Highland cattle and two wonderful sons. We have been guide outfitters, trappers, business people and farmers.

The previous ten years have kept us busy operating a small road maintenance company that services the oil and gas industry. Brian operates Bobcats, backhoes, the grader and 4 wheel drive tractor maintaining and repairing an extensive road system. These roads provide access to natural gas wells. Our crew ranges from 2 hired men up to 8 operators and labourers. I do the books, cook meals, clean crew quarters, laundry, fight with the computer and still have time for our 5 Jack Russell dogs, five more assorted 'yard guard' dogs and the infrequent canoeing and camping trips with our oldest boy, Terrence and his girlfriend. Our youngest son, Kevin, has branched out on his own, now driving truck for one of the larger oilfield service firms. He lives with his wife and her 2 girls and their little fella, Logan, near Fort St John. (Our nearest big 'city') Terrence and Willow live in Edmonton when not working- he at being a survey technician and she in clothing and textiles.

After skating 24/7 for more than 20 years, and judging for an additional 20 years throughout the province I have finally hung up my clipboard and now put all my efforts into the dogs and our business. I still skate on occasion, weather permitting.

I miss the skating in lots of ways. There is a connection in skating - no matter where you live or even visit in the entire world you will have something in common with other skaters and athletes.

A short message to the younger people coming up through the ranks: enjoy your skating, learn as much as you can, strive to do your best every time you skate, be a humble winner and a good loser, and above all -give back. Give back to those who helped you out give back to the little ones just starting out; repay parents and supporters by always doing your utmost on and off the ice. It's a great feeling!

Jack Boyle, Alec Fulton, Pat Ganske, Jean Westwood, Bryce Swetnam and Richard Madden were my coaches through the years. Brian Power taught us off ice stretch classes.

Almost passed my Gold figures, attained Gold Canadian Dance, Gold American Dance, Junior Ladies competitor at Section Level, many Club wins from Senior Dance with my Dad in the mid sixties to Ladies pairs with my sister, Evelyn, in early seventies. Lots of 'also ran' results as well. Competitions were a social event too!

Coached Can Skate, volunteered at all club sessions, choreographed carnival numbers, partnered thousands of dance tests for local clubs. Skating was wonderful! Wouldn't have missed it for the world! Thanks, Mom!

**SPRING FLING
COMPETITION
UPDATE**

Vancouver Skating Club has won the honour of hosting this years Spring Fling competition. The event will take place at the KM arena from March 13-15 and we are aiming to make it the best competition of the year!

We encourage all our VSC skaters to compete and have the "home ice" advantage! Registration is open online at www.skatinginbc.com.

Sponsors are needed, so if you have a company or know anyone who can help either financially or by donating a product (for the goodie bags or auction), please contact Lori Oxland.

WANTED: Jaime is still collecting stuffed animals (good condition only) as a fundraiser for this competition. Many thanks to the parents and skaters who already donated "bags" of lovely plushies!

**BC/YT SUB SECTIONALS &
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The BC/YT section has it's annual championships every November. This year the competition was held in Nanaimo, BC and all our competitive skaters attended. Full Results Below:

Sub Sectionals (Qualifying Round)

The top 12 skaters qualified to BC/YT Sectionals.

Pre-Novice Ladies

- Caelen Dalmer, 2nd Place
- Michelle Fitzgerald, 7th Place
- Angela Gargaro, 23rd Place
- Beverly Goh, 25th Place
- Kristin Heuer, 16th Place
- Nikita Heuer, 12th Place
- Chloe Hill, 4th Place
- Beverly Horler, 26th Place
- Lisa Nakajima, 9th Place (AM)

2009 BC/YT Sectional Results

Pre-Juvenile

- Paige Cooper, 34th Place
- Alexander Lawrence, **Gold Medal**
- Amy Webb, 11th Place

Congratulations to Alexander as he is the 2009 BC/YT Pre-Juvenile Men's Champion

Juvenile

- Emily Nakajima, 7th Place (AM)

Juvenile Dance

- Caelen Dalmer/Shane Firus, 4th Place

Pre-Novice

- Caelen Dalmer, 9th Overall
- Stefan Dawydiak, 13th Overall
- Shane Firus, **Bronze Medal**
- Michelle Fitzgerald, 22nd Overall
- Nikita Heuer, 23rd Overall
- Chloe Hill, 11th Overall (AM)
- Lisa Nakajima, 13th Overall (AM)
- Troy Shindle, 9th Overall

Pre-Novice Dance

- Michelle Fitzgerald/Qwynn Dalmer, **Silver Medal**
- Chloe Hill, **Troy Shindle, Bronze Medal**

Novice

- Amelia Austin, 12th Overall (AM)
- Qwynn Dalmer, 5th Place (BC Team Alternate)
- Sarah Mae Hooker, 26th Overall (AM)
- Maria Saraceno, 11th Overall
- Larissa Van As, 18th Overall
- Angela White, 20th Overall

Junior

- Liam Firus, **Silver Medal**
- Mandolyn Houriet, 8th Place (AM)
- Brooke Johansen, 7th Place
- Jade Lam, 9th Place

Senior

- Sarah Metcalfe, 4th Overall (AM)

Congratulations to our great group of competitors. Based on the results of the BC/YT Sectionals, the following skaters advanced to the Western Challenge in Mississauga, Ontario.

Western Challenge Results

Pre-Novice

- Shane Firus, 6th Place

Pre-Novice Dance

- Michelle Fitzgerald/Qwynn Dalmer, 7th Place
- Chloe Hill/Troy Shindle, 6th Place

Junior Men

- Liam Firus, **Bronze Medal**

Senior Ladies

- Sarah Metcalfe, 27th Overall (AM)

Congratulations to all our skaters who made it this far in their skating journeys. Based on the results, we are proud to announce that the following skaters will advance to the Canadians Championships held later in the new year. We are especially proud that both our Pre-Novice dance teams advanced in their first year of competing. Great Job!

Junior Nationals

- Shane Firus, 10th
- Michelle Fitzgerald & Qwynn Dalmer, 13th
- Chloe Hill (AM) & Troy Shindle, 15th

Senior Nationals

- Liam Firus

Senior Nationals

Liam Firus represented VSC at Senior Nationals in Saskatoon late January where he placed an impressive 10th place. This is Liam's first year competing at this level and he can be proud of his achievement!

Allie Hann-McCurdy and Michael Coreno represented VSC and placed an impressive 6th place in Senior Dance.

Great job skaters!

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The Best Kept Secret in Vancouver



4 Continents Opening Ceremonies & Gala Exhibition
with VSC skaters: Alexander Lawrence (2nd from left), Caelen Dalmer (3rd from left) & Shane Firus (far right)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 20	BCC High Tests, Location: TBA
March 1	BCC High Tests, Location: PNE Coliseum, Vancouver, BC
Mar 5-8	Pacific StarSkate Championships, Surrey, BC
Mar 13-15	Spring Fling Competition, KM Arena (VSC hosted)
Mar 17-20	VSC sponsored "Grassroots 2 Champions" seminar, NSIS, North Vancouver, BC
Mar 23-Jun 5	VSC Spring Skating School (details & registration forms online)
Apr 17-19	VISI Competition, Port Alberni, BC

DID YOU KNOW?

Shane Firus, Caelen Dalmer & Alexander Lawrence participated in a group number for the opening ceremonies and Gala at the "Four Continents Figure Skating Championships" last week. Amy Webb, Emily Nakajima & Alexander Lawrence were also on the ice doing flower retrieving and more VSC skaters could be seen patching the ice: Did you see Stefan Dawydiak, Stephanie Marshall-White & Lisa Nakajima?