



Silver Blade Tours December News

Dear Skating Friends,

We would like to thank all of you who have traveled with us this season! It has been our pleasure to continue to offer tours to the best skating events. Over the years, it has been great to continue to see repeat customers and also to meet new customers. I enjoy meeting everyone and it is nice to put a face to the name! My father and I hope you continue to enjoy going with Silver Blade Tours and look forward to seeing you again!

We wish you peace and joy in celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

All the best,

Claudyne Cassella Hutchinson

Victor F. Cassella

Tour Announcements

2010 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships

I will notify you by email when tickets and itineraries will be mailed for Nationals in Spokane. Confirmation of optional sightseeing tours to Coeur d' Alene, winery, and chocolate tours will also be emailed. If you are still interested in the optional tours offered mid-week, please contact Claudyne as soon as possible.

2010 World Figure Skating Championships

If you are interested in attending Worlds in Turin, Italy, please contact claudyne@silverbladetours.com

2011 AT&T US Figure Skating Championships

We are accepting deposits for Nationals in Greensboro, NC. Tour price will be announced later this month. Our seats are located in Section 124 Rows 1-4. I am happy that Nationals will be held on the East coast again!

Postcard from 2009 Care.net Skate America

Our journey started at Bradley Airport in Hartford as Sue Ann, Gayle, Val, and I rode up to Lake Placid, NY. It was a lot of fun to catch up with them and we made good time arriving into Lake Placid around sunset. Everyone enjoyed our group luncheon at the Cottage in Mirror Lake Inn. It was a nice short walk from our hotel The Golden Arrow Lakeside Resort.

The 1980 Olympic Arena was within walking distance and we were fortunate to have wonderful weather while in Lake Placid. The town boasts unique shops and a nice variety of restaurants.

The event was exciting as we watched the return to competition by Chinese pairs Xue Shen and Hongbo Zao who won the Pairs event. US champions Keauna McLaughlin and Rockne Brubaker lead the US skaters and finished off the podium in 4th place, with Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig in 5th place and Brooke Castile and Ben Okolski in 6th place.

Evan Lysacek won the Men's event and was so gracious thanking fans for their support at the USFS Friends of Figure Skating breakfast. Ryan Bradley took the silver medal and also

mentioned that “he thrives off of the audience response”. Brandon Mrov placed 11th.

Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto skated beautifully for their second Grand Prix win. It certainly will be interesting at Nationals to see who will win the dance event, as both Charlie White and Meryl Davis won their two Grand Prix events! Veterans Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre placed 5th and newcomers to the Senior Grand Prix, Madison Chock and Greg Zuerlain finished in 6th place.

The crush of Korean fans was evident, as spectators crowded around the Kiss and Cry area to get a glimpse of Kim Yu Na, Ladies Champion. Busloads of avid fans arrived to watch Kim Yu Na and they promptly left the arena after her performance. Some of our clients were more interested in watching Brian Orser at the boards, performing along while Kim Yu Na skated. Rachel Flatt finished 2nd, Emily Hughes 7th and Alexes Gilles in 10th place.

Postcard from 2009 Homesense Skate Canada

Homesense Skate Canada in Kitchener, just west of Toronto was the last Grand Prix event of the season. Our group got together for dinner at Del Dente’s adjacent to our hotel the day before the event started. We shared bus transfers and a city tour of Kitchener/Waterloo area with Colonial Travel.

Our seats were located just above the skaters’ entrance, so we had the opportunity to see the coaches and skaters up close. Our US skaters did acknowledge both tour groups, as we waved our US flags and cheered for them.

The 2009 World Champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy won the Pairs event. US pairs silver medalists, Caydee Denny

and Jeremy Barrett placed 5th. Caitlin Yankowskas and John Coughlin finished 7th.

Jeremy Abbot 2009 US Men’s Champion won the Men’s event while Stephen Carriere came in 8th place and Armin Mahbanoozadeh in 9th place. Our group and Colonial Travel’s group were very proud to stand and sing our national anthem. Good job everyone! Not many US spectators traveled to this event but we made our presence known!

Canadians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir skated to their gold medal win in Ice Dance. Our US teams Emily Samuelson and Jason Bates placed 5th while the brother/sister team of Madison Hubbell and Keiffer Hubbell finished 6th. Who will earn the third spot in dance for the Olympic team at Nationals?

Canada loves their skaters and it was evident when Joannie Rochette won the Ladies event. 2009 US Ladies Champion Alissa Czisny was as elegant as ever on the ice and won our hearts and the silver medal. Mirai Nagasu who won Nationals in 2008 finished just off the podium in 4th place and Caroline Zhang placed 8th.

UPCOMING TOURS

2011 AT&T Nationals-Greensboro, NC

2011 Worlds-Nagano, Japan

2012 AT&T Nationals-San Jose, CA

2012 Worlds-Nice, France

FACEBOOK

For updated photos of recent competitions you can also visit my Facebook page under Claudyne Cassella Hutchinson.

