

# MIAMI UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

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Norma McClure, Sr. Program Asst.



## SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

### 2002-03 Schedule/Results

December	Finish
6-7 Dr. Richard Porter Classic .....	1st
January	
30-1 Midwestern Championships .....	1st
February	
20-22 Neuchatel Trophy .....	3rd
March	
6-8 U.S. National Championships .....	2nd
April	
3-5 World Synch. Skating Championship .....	—

### Miami Quick Facts

Address .....	230 Millett Hall
Location .....	Oxford, OH 45056
Population .....	18,937
Founded .....	1809
Enrollment .....	16,300
Nickname .....	RedHawks
Colors .....	Red and White
Affiliation .....	NCAA 1-A
President .....	Dr. James Garland
Athletic Director .....	Brad Bates
Exec. Assoc. AD .....	Karen Womack
Assoc. AD .....	Steve Cady
Asst. AD/Compliance .....	Ken Peters
Asst. AD/External Affairs .....	Mike Haris
Associate SID .....	Angie Renninger
Asst. SID/Pub. Coord. ....	Vince Frieden
Asst. SID .....	Ryan Erb
Intern .....	Matt Toy
SID Office .....	(513) 529-4327
SID Fax .....	(513) 529-6729

### Skating Quick Facts

First Season .....	1977
Home Arena .....	Goggin Ice Arena (2,200)
2001-02 U.S. Ranking .....	Second
Letterwinners Returning/Lost .....	16/8
Head Coach (Years) .....	Vicki Korn (19 yrs.)
Assistant .....	Bonnie Grosel (8 yrs.)
Athletic Trainer .....	Kevin Morley
Strength Coach .....	James Carsey
Equipment Manager .....	Andy Geshan
Equipment Manager .....	Jeff Hucke
Secretary .....	Ronda Strunk
Synchronized Skating Phone Numbers	
Office/Rink .....	(513) 529-3343
Fax .....	(513) 529-6988

### On the 'Net

[www.MURedHawks.com](http://www.MURedHawks.com)

## MIAMI SYNCHRONIZED SKATING at I.S.U. WORLD SYNCHRONIZED CHAMPIONSHIPS April 3-5, 2003 • Ottawa, Ontario

**MIAMI TO REPRESENT U.S. AT WORLD SYNCHRONIZED CHAMPIONSHIPS:** With a silver-medal finish at March's U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships, held in Huntsville, Ala, Miami University's synchronized skating team has earned the right to represent the United States in the International Skating Union's World Synchronized Championships for the fifth time in the last six years.

Miami, which will be making its sixth overall appearance at the World Synchronized Championships since 1996, garnered the honor by finishing second to the three-time defending U.S. Champion Haydenettes. Five times the RedHawks have placed second at the U.S. Championships, and their last national title was in 1999.

The Red and White led off with a strong showing in the short program, meriting nine second-place ordinals from the panel of nine judges to finish close behind the Haydenettes. The Haydenettes garnered all nine first-place ordinals in the short program.

Despite a solid performance in the free program, Miami could not overcome a stellar performance by the Haydenettes that netted all nine first-place ordinals in the long program, completing a perfect showing at the competition. Miami, which has finished in the top three at every U.S. Championship since 1994, netted scores ranging from 5.6 to 5.7 in the program while capturing all nine second-place ordinals yet again. Team Elan from the Detroit Skating Club finished third behind the Haydenettes and Miami.

**MIAMI VERSUS THE WORLD:** Miami's synchronized skating team made its first appearance in world competition in 1996 and is making its sixth appearance overall. Miami cracked the top 10 for the first time in 1998 with an eighth-place finish at Bordeaux, France, and earned its highest finish in 1999 when it placed sixth in the world at Goteborg, Sweden.

Miami is the only varsity college team competing at the senior level and the only college team to compete in the world championships. Last year's competition set the standard with a total of 24 teams competing for the championship.

**MAKEUP OF A WORLD CONTENDER:** Miami's 2002-03 synchronized skating team is a diverse group that has united to form what is arguably one of the best teams in the program's history. In all, 11 different states, ranging from as far south as Florida, as far west as California and as far east as Massachusetts, are represented on Miami's roster. Ohio is the most well-represented state on the RedHawk roster with five natives competing, while Michigan and Illinois have five representing their borders.

**WHERE TO FIND RESULTS?:** The RedHawk faithful can find results of this weekend's ISU World Synchronized Championships on two sights on the World Wide Web. Complete results are available at [www.isu.org](http://www.isu.org), while Miami-specific results will be linked at Miami's website, [www.MURedHawks.com](http://www.MURedHawks.com).

**LOOKING AT THE 2002-03 SEASON:** Head coach **Vicki Korn** and assistant **Bonnie Grosel** have guided Miami to two first-place finishes this season, including this weekend's berth at the world championships.

**Dr. Richard Porter Classic**—The RedHawks opened their season with a very strong showing at the Dr. Richard Porter Classic in early December by running away with the title. Miami was flawless on the ice, receiving all first-place ordinals from the judges in the short-program only competition. The victory marked the second straight year that the Red and White have won the Porter Classic.

**Midwestern Championships**—After a one-year setback from the Midwestern Championships, the RedHawks returned to the competition in 2003 with a dominant first-place finish. In similar fashion to its performance at the Porter Classic, Miami scored all first-place ordinals in both the short and long program to run away with the title. In the long program of the competition, the RedHawks did something that had not achieved since 1999 by recording two perfect 6.0 scores.

**Neuchatel Trophy**—In their first true international competition of the season, the senior team travelled to Neuchatel, Switzerland to compete in the Neuchatel Trophy. After a third-place showing in the short program on the first day of the competition, the Red and White responded with another strong performance in the free skate to hold onto its third-place finish.

**U.S. National Championships**—With their third-straight world championship appearance on the line in Huntsville, Ala., the RedHawks delivered with two strong performances to finish second in the nation. Yet again, Miami played second fiddle to the Haydenettes who received every first-place ordinal in the competition. However, both teams will represent the U.S. in April's World Championships being held in Ottawa, Ontario.

**HEAD COACH VICKI KORN:** **Vicki Korn** is entering her 19th season as head coach of the nation's first collegiate senior-level synchronized skating program. Korn, who served as Miami's skating director from 1984-2001, started her synchronized skating program at the club-level in 1984. She led the team to a national championship at the junior level in 1993, and two bronze medals at the senior level (1994-95).

Since her program was upgraded to a varsity sport during the 1995-96 season, Korn has guided Miami's senior-level synchronized skating team to a U.S. National Championship in 1999 and three World Challenge Cup appearances between 1996 and 1999. The Miami squad has finished in the top three nationally at the senior level every season since it attained varsity status.

During the landmark 1998-99 campaign, Miami captured the first international medal in its history, earning the bronze at the Canada International in Mississauga, Ontario. After capturing its first U.S. National Championship in Tampa, Fla. later that year, Miami advanced to its second consecutive World Cup Challenge, capturing an impressive sixth-place finish.

Korn was honored as the 1998-99 U.S. Synchronized Skating Coach of the Year by the Professional Skaters Association, following the spectacular season in which Miami captured its first national championship in any team sport.

A Chicago-area native, Korn has been active at the national and regional levels in figure skating. She has served on the board of directors of both the United States Figure Skating Association and the Ice Skating Institute.

During a stint as the USFSA Collegiate Chairperson, Korn was instrumental in forming the Midwest Collegiate Figure Skating Conference, in which Miami's collegiate team has gone unbeaten through the first four years of its existence.

Last season, Korn and Bonnie Grosel directed Miami's Senior Synchronized Skating team to a second-place finish at its national championship, and a ninth-place finish at the ISU World Synchronized Championships. Miami also won the first U.S. National Collegiate Conference Championship in 1999-00.

Korn and her husband, Mitch, who serves as the director of Miami's Goggin Ice Arena, reside in Oxford with their 14-year old daughter, Ashley.

**THE CHOREOGRAPHER BEHIND THE SCENES:** Miami's synchronized skating team is looking to improve on its ninth-place finish at the 2002 World Championships, and its first step in that process was working with renowned ice skating choreographer **Sarah Kawahara**. Kawahara's resume is a "Who's who" list in the figure skating world.

For the first time in her acclaimed career Kawahara is working with a synchronized skating team. Just prior to her arrival in Oxford, Kawahara accepted an Emmy Award, her second, for her choreography of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. She earned her first Emmy Award for Disney's production of Scott Hamilton's "Up Side Down".

Another project on Kawahara's docket in 2002-03 is the Scott Hamilton and Friends TV Special, which was being taped in October. She also is serving as the choreographer for the Champions on Ice 25th Anniversary tour, which opens in December and tours into 2003.

Kawahara has worked with some of the brightest stars in the figure skating world. Most recently she choreographed Michelle Kwan's long program for the 2001-02 season and the 2002 Winter Olympics. Also on her list of soloists are Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, Victor Petrenko, Oksana Baiul, Elvis Stokko, Dorothy Hamill and Robin Cousins, to name a few.

The United States' Figure Skating Association "Choreographer of the Year" in 1993, Kawahara, also has done several television specials. Kawahara served as the primary choreographer for Michelle Kwan's TV Special in 2001, as well as Disney's 75th Anniversary Special in 1999. In addition to these specials, she also choreographed the Nancy Kerrigan Special, the "Wizard of Oz", Toller Cranston's Christmas Special and three specials of the Ice Capades.

"This is the first time that the synchronized skating world has had a choreographer of this caliber work within its ranks," head coach **Vicki Korn** says. "It's nice to see Miami University setting the tone for collegiate skating by bringing in such a highly respected choreographer."

## The Battle of Fire and Ice

### Sarah Kawahara's Concept of the Senior Team's Free Program

#### DISCOVERY:

As the program begins, the team portrays angular ice shards that glisten like crystals in a Geode. As light reflects and bounces off the ice shards, the Earth tremors and is cracking and splitting open, allowing the waves of heat to shoot up, dancing out of the Earth. The Jete lifts signify the heat waves, building into flames of fire, leaping out of the earth only to be cooled, calmed and tamed by the ice shards in the death spiral circle.

#### FUSION:

As the ice shards multiply and crystallize into new forms, the no-point intersection represents the smoldering fire inside the newly formed crystal. All at once, during the "Develope Spirals", the flames of fire explode through the crystal. Using a visual technique made famous by noted dance choreographer, Alvin Ailey, the flames take over the crystal geode. As fire is thrust aside by the ice shards, the next series of intersections represent the ice shards cutting through the fire. Fire then makes a play (comeback) by dancing on top of the ice shards in a straight line. As the battle culminates, mountains of glaciers (spread-eagle pyramids) blaze through the frozen landscape only to encounter fire (split jumps) crashing through a mountain of ice. In the silence, a gust of wind suspends the fire and blows it out... calm before the storm. The smoke swirls the embers (spins) as the wind dies down.

#### CONCLUSION:

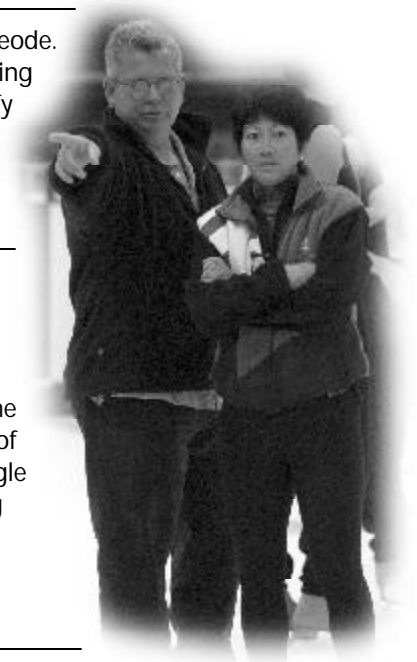
The birth of a new day (lifts) depicts mist and light as it refracts across the frozen landscape. In the end, the embers celebrate and explode like fireworks (skydives, lifts, stars, back-flips). The fire is frozen in midair and the ice shards reign supreme as they transform fire into ice.



**MIAMI'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:** Instead of selecting captains this season, the senior synchronized skating team adopted a leadership council. The six members of this year's leadership council, who act very much the same as captains do but without the same authority, are seniors **Sarah Danielson (Princeton, N.J.)**, **Christine McElwain (Orlando, Fla.)**, **Katie Niemczura (Cleveland, Ohio)**, **Marsha Snyder (Kittanning, Pa.)** and **Jessica Vieth (Armherst, N.Y.)**, and junior **Heather Paige (Lake Zurich, Ill.)**.

**OFFICIAL SEND OFF SET FOR MONDAY, MARCH 31:** The Miami senior synchronized skating team will have an official send off for its World Championship showing on Monday, March 31, at 5 p.m. at Goggin Ice Arena. There will be an on-ice exhibition at 5 p.m., and refreshments will be served in the lobby of the rink following the exhibition at 5:45 p.m.

#### The 2003 Senior Synchronized Skating Team



# MIAMI SKATING HIGHLIGHTS



**August 1977** — Goggin Ice Arena starts the first club precision skating team and names Wendy Taylor the first coach.

**April 1979** — The precision skating team performs with skating-legend Scott Hamilton in the annual ice show.

**November 1980** — Miami takes part at its first competition in school history at the Tri-State Precision Team Championships in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

**October 15, 1984** — Vicki Korn is hired at Miami as the skating director and coach of the precision skating teams.

**February 22-23, 1991** — Miami finishes in sixth place at the Midwestern Precision Championship in Fraser, Michigan and qualified for its first U.S. National competition.

**January 24-25, 1992** — Miami earns its first medal in competition at the Mid-America Precision Championships in Fraser, Michigan.

**April 8-12, 1992** — The team finishes in fifth place in its first appearance at the U.S. National Championships in Portland, Maine.

**April 1-3, 1993** — The Miami precision skating team, competing in just its second U.S. National Competition, captures the gold medal in the junior division.

**January 29, 1994** — Miami garners the bronze medal at the Mid-America Championships in its first-ever event in the senior division.

**April 6-10, 1994** — The team finishes third at the U.S. Nationals in Providence, Rhode Island.

**December 27, 1994** — The precision skating team takes part in its first international competition in Toronto, Canada.

**June 1995** — The Miami University Board of Trustees approves a motion to make precision skating a varsity sport.

**September 15, 1995** — Miami adds a collegiate precision skating team to handle the demand for precision skating on campus.

**February 22-24, 1996** — At the Midwestern Sectional in Fraser, Michigan, the team posted its first gold medal at the senior level in a qualifying competition.

**March 28-30, 1996** — Miami qualifies for the first World Challenge Cup with a silver-medal finish at the U.S. National Precision Championships.

**April 8-12, 1996** — Miami finished fourth at the 1996 Spring Cup in Milano, Italy. The competition was the programs' first overseas.

**March 8, 1997** — Miami is named one of six teams to be part of Project 2000. The program was created to help prepare the United States for the 2000 Worlds in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**April 8-12, 1998** — The team finishes eighth at the World Challenge Cup in Bordeaux, France.

**January 15-17, 1999** — At the Synchronized Skating Canada International, Miami earns the first international medal in school history, finishing third overall.

**March 10-13, 1999** — Miami takes home the gold medal at the U.S. National Precision Championships in Tampa, FL.

**April 8-10, 1999** — The team captures sixth place at the World Challenge Cup in Goteborg, Sweden. This is the highest ranking of any team from the United States.

**March 3-4, 2000** — Miami medaled for the seventh-consecutive season at the national senior level, capturing the bronze medal at the U.S. National Championships in Detroit.

**Feb. 23-25, 2001** — The Red and White earns its first international gold, capturing the 2001 Prague Cup International.

**March 7-10, 2001** — The RedHawks earned the silver medal at the U.S. National Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo. and made their first appearance at the ISU sanctioned World Synchronized Championships in Helsinki, Finland.



# WHAT IS SYNCHRONIZED SKATING?

Combine the grace, style, and magic of competitive figure skating with the team work and split-second coordination required of up to 20 skaters - and you have the fastest growing sport on ice. Synchronized skating, originally referred to as precision skating, is team figure skating, involving 12 to 20 skaters on the ice at one time. Teams skate successions of intricately - choreographed, rapidly-changing maneuvers and are judged for speed, footwork, difficulty and precise teamwork. Routines and formations are as variable and creative as can be imagined. Each routine, however, contains a variety of elements. These elements include:

- **Blocks** - skating in a closely packed multiple line formation across the ice surface.
- **Circles** - skating in a round formation using various types of footwork which can remain stationary or move across the ice surface.
- **Lines** - skating in one long, straight line. The line must stay straight and connected.
- **Rotating Maneuvers** - rotating lines or pinwheels which can be stationary or move across the ice surface.
- **Intersecting Maneuvers** - lines or packs passing through each other creating an illusion of collision.

There are seven levels for synchronized skating teams within the USFSA National, Sectional, and Regional Championship structure. They include: juvenile, intermediate, novice, junior, senior, collegiate and adult. Team competitions may include preliminary and introductory level teams in addition to those mentioned previously. These levels are based on age and number of skaters allowed to skate.

The USFSA has instituted five team precision tests ranging in level from First Class-Gold to Fifth Class-White. These tests highlight maneuvers used in precision and will help develop the skill level of a team. This testing is not required for a team to compete but with the growing demands to accelerate the difficulty and intricacy of the sport, the more pertinent the need for tests to ensure level of skill, especially with the progression of teams to compete at the World and Olympic level.

The senior and junior levels of precision are required to have a short program, similar to singles and pairs events, and a free skating program which contains numerous maneuvers linked together by a variety of transitions. This consists of five required



maneuvers to music of a team's choice, but it may only have one rhythm. All other teams compete in a free skate program only. All teams are allowed to select their own music and theme for their program.

The emphasis of the free skate is on unison, accuracy of formations and synchronization of the team. No lifts of any variety are allowed and jumps with more than one revolution is prohibited. As in the short program, two marks are given - one for technical merit and the second for presentation.

Synchronized skating is the fastest growing form of figure skating in the world. It has been in existence for more than 17 years. In the United States, there are more than 300 teams competing in local, regional, and national competitions. Around the world, there are teams in an estimated thirty countries. Eighteen of the top teams in the world competed in Boston at the first ISU World Challenge Cup in April, 1996. The first World Championship is scheduled for the year 2000 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The sport of synchronized skating hopes to become an Olympic event in the 2002 Olympics in 2002.

The above was written by the Colonial Figure Skating Club in their distribution at the 14th Annual Colonial Precision Open.

