

MIAMI UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

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SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

2001-02 Schedule/Results

December **Finish**
1-2 Dr. Porter Classic 1st

January
19-20 Mid-America Competition 1st

February
7-10 French Cup International 8th
28-2 U.S. National Championships 2nd

April
12-13 World Synch. Skating Championship —

Miami Quick Facts

Address 230 Millett Hall
Location Oxford, OH 45056
Population 18,937
Founded 1809
Enrollment 14,500
Nickname RedHawks
Colors Red and White
Affiliation NCAA 1-A
President Dr. James Garland
Athletic Director Joel Maturi
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 Mickey Brown
SID Office (513) 529-4327
SID Fax (513) 529-6729

Skating Quick Facts

First Season 1977
Home Arena Goggin Ice Arena (2,200)
2000-01 U.S. Ranking Second
Letterwinners Returning/Lost 12/8
Head Coach (Years) Vicki Korn (18 yrs.)
Assistant Bonnie Grosel (7 yrs.)
Athletic Trainer Francie Calgareo
Strength Coach Sarah Tiedeman
Equipment Manager Andy Geschan
Equipment Manager Jeff Hucke
Secretary Ronda Strunk
Synchronized Skating Phone Numbers
Office/Rink (513) 529-3343
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On the 'Net

www.MUredHawks.com

MIAMI SYNCHRONIZED SKATING at I.S.U. WORLD SYNCHRONIZED CHAMPIONSHIPS April 12-13, 2002 • Rouen, France

MIAMI TO REPRESENT U.S. AT WORLD SYNCHRONIZED CHAMPIONSHIPS: With a silver-medal finish at February's Chevrolet U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships, held in Lake Placid, N.Y., 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 fourth time in five years.

Miami, which will be making its fifth overall appearance at the World Synchronized Championships since 1996, garnered the honor by finishing second to the two-time defending U.S. Champion Haydenettes.

The Red and White led off with a strong showing in the short program, meriting seven second-place and two third-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 5.9 in the program while capturing five second-place, three third-place and one fourth-place ordinal in the final event.

MIAMI VERSUS THE WORLD: Miami's synchronized skating team made its first appearance in world competition in 1996 and is making its fifth 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 season's competition in Helsinki, Finland, drew a total of 21 teams from 16 nations. This year's competition is going to upstage that mark with 24 teams.

MAKEUP OF A WORLD CONTENDER: Miami's 2001-02 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 six natives competing, while Michigan has five representing its 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, while Miami-specific results will be linked at Miami's website, www.MUredHawks.com.

LOOKING AT THE 2001-02 SEASON: Head coach **Vicki Korn** and assistant **Bonnie Grosel** have guided Miami to two first-place finishes this season, including this weekends' berth at the world championships.

The Red and White opened the season with a dominant win at the seventh annual Dr. Richard Porter Classic in Ann Arbor, Mich. Miami finished in front of seven of the top teams in the U.S., including four which compete on the international circuit.

The month of January also was fruitful for Miami as it claimed another first-place showing, this time at the Mid-American Competition in Dearborn, Mich. The RedHawks won the event, hosted by the Dearborn Figure Skating Club, by finishing second in the short program and dominating the long program.

From there, Miami endured its lowest finish at its first international competition of the season, placing eighth at the French Cup International in Rouen.

After its disappointing performance in France, Miami concluded its season on American soil at the Chevrolet U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships in Lake Placid, N.Y. The RedHawks qualified for their fourth world championship appearance with a second-place showing at the U.S. Championships. Also representing the U.S. in Rouen, France are the Haydenettes.

In all, Miami returns 12 skaters from last season's team team that earned the silver at the U.S. Championships. The entire team, including its five newcomers, has attained gold-medal classification in at least one realm of the figure skating structure.

OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN: Taking over the captain duties this season for the RedHawks is a triad of accomplished skaters in senior Carla DeGirolamo (North Royalton, Ohio/Holy Name), junior Sarah Danielson (Princeton, N.J./Princeton Day) and sophomore Heather Paige (Lake Zurich, Ill./Lake Zurich). DeGiralomo is serving her second term as captain, while both Danielson and Paige are captaining for the first time in their Miami careers.



Jr. Sarah Danielson

Sr. Carla DeGirolamo

So. Heather Paige

HEAD COACH VICKI KORN: **Vicki Korn** is entering her 18th season as head coach of the nation's first collegiate senior-level synchronized skating program.

Now in her 18th year at Miami's Goggin Ice Arena, Korn, who served as Miami's skating director for a number of years, started her synchronized skating program at the club-level, then led the team to a national championship at the junior level and two bronze medals at the senior level.

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 has 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., 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 the figure skating realm. 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-level team has gone unbeaten through the first four years of its existence.

Last season, Korn and Bonnie Grosel directed Miami's Collegiate Synchronized Skating team to its fourth national championship in the past five years and its first appearance at the ISU World Synchronized Championships in Helsinki, Finland. 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 13-year old daughter, Ashley.

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, 2002 — 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 pin-wheels 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.

