



LOCAL COMPETITORS

SENIOR MEN

ELIOT HALVERSON

Born: November 8, 1990 – Bogota, Colombia

Height: 5'7"

Level: Senior

Home Club: St. Paul FSC, Inc.

Hometown: St. Paul, Minnesota

Training Town: St. Paul, Minnesota

Coaches: Ted Engelking & Ann Eidson

Choreographer: Svetlana Kulikova

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Midwestern Sectional, Senior – 4th
- 2007 World Junior Championships – 10th
- 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, Junior – 1st
- 2007 Midwestern Sectional, Junior – 1st
- 2007 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Junior – 1st
- 2006 Junior Grand Prix (Netherlands) – 3rd
- 2006 Junior Grand Prix (Hungary) – 3rd
- 2006 State Farm U.S. Championships, Novice – 1st
- 2006 Midwestern Sectional, Novice – 2nd
- 2005 Triglay Trophy, Novice – 1st
- 2005 State Farm U.S. Championships, Novice – 4th
- 2005 Midwestern Sectional, Novice – 3rd
- 2005 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Novice – 1st
- 2004 North American Challenge Skate, Novice – 2nd
- 2004 U.S. Junior Championships, Intermediate – 1st
- 2004 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Intermediate – 1st
- 2003 U.S. Junior Championships, Juvenile – 3rd
- 2003 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Juvenile – 1st

Personal:

- When the 1998 World Championships were held in Minneapolis, his mom took him out of first grade all week and they watched every event. After that, he asked his parents if he could have private lessons
- Selected in 2003 to be on a nationally televised PBS show, DragonFly-TV, for a special segment on the scientific effects that figure skating spins have on balance/eye movement
- He and his brother, Ian, 17, were born in Bogota, Colombia, while his sister was born in Asuncion, Paraguay. All three were adopted separately as infants, and his parents spent numerous weeks in Colombia awaiting a judge's signature for his adoption papers
- Saturday, April 21, 2007, was declared "Eliot Halverson Day" by the city of St. Paul

ROHENE WARD

Born: June, 28 1983 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Height: 5' 9"

Level: Senior

Home Club: Starlight Ice Dance Club of Minneapolis

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Training Town: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Coach: Page Lipe

Choreographer: Rohene Ward

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Midwestern Sectional, Senior – 2nd
- 2008 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Senior – 1st
- 2007 Golden West Freeskating Championships, Senior – 4th
- 2007 Skate Detroit, Senior – 2nd
- 2007 Midwestern Sectional, Senior – 6th
- 2007 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Senior – 1st
- 2006 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Senior – 17th
- 2006 Midwestern Sectional, Senior – 3rd
- 2005 Midwestern Sectional, Senior – 5th
- 2005 Midwestern Sectional, Senior – 6th
- 2004 State Farm U.S. Championships, Senior - 16th
- 2004 Midwestern Sectional, Senior - 3rd
- 2004 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Senior - 1st
- 2003 Midwestern Sectional, Senior - 5th

Personal:

- He has competed for Puerto Rico and is the 2004 Puerto Rican National Champion
- He also works as a coach and choreographer and coaches Kirsten Olson
- Can jump and spin in both directions

JUNIOR MEN

ALEX JOHNSON

Born: May 15, 1990 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Height: 5' 9"

Level: Junior

Home Club: Braemar-City of Lakes FSC

Hometown: Minnetonka, Minnesota

Training Town: Edina, Minnesota

Coach: Joan Orvis

Choreographers: Sebastien Britten & Joan Orvis

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Midwestern Sectional, Junior – 1st
- 2007 Junior Grand Prix (Bulgaria) – 4th
- 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, Novice - 2nd
- 2007 Midwestern Sectional, Novice – 2nd
- 2006 North American Challenge Skate – 2nd
- 2006 State Farm U.S. Championships, Novice
- 2005 Upper Great Lakes, Intermediate – 1st
- 2005 U.S. Junior Championships, Intermediate
- 2005 Upper Great Lakes, Intermediate Men's & Juvenile Pairs (Chelsey Jernberg) – 1st
- 2004 U.S. Junior Championships, Intermediate Men's & Juvenile Pairs (Chelsey Jernberg)
- 2004 Upper Great Lakes, Intermediate Men's & Juvenile Pairs (Chelsey Jernberg) – 1st

- 2003 U.S. Junior Championships, Juvenile
- 2003 Upper Great Lakes, Juvenile – 2nd

Personal:

- Started skating in 1997 when his dad flooded the backyard
- Straight 'A' student – No. 10 in his class of 707 at Hopkins High School
- Grand Marshall of 2006 Winter Carnival Parade along with Kirsten Olson and Matt Birk

SENIOR LADIES

ANGIE LIEN

Born: January 16, 1981 – Duluth, Minnesota

Height: 5'6"

Level: Senior

Home Club: Duluth FSC

Hometown: Superior, Wisconsin

Training Town: Colorado Springs, Colorado & Duluth, Minnesota

Coaches: Damon Allen, Zoe Hill, Heather Seyfer, & Kathy Johnson

Choreographer: Tom Dickson

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Midwestern Sectional, Senior – 4th
- 2008 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Senior – 2nd
- 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, Senior – 20th
- 2007 Midwestern Sectional – 3rd
- 2007 Upper Great Lakes Regional- 1st
- 2006 Midwestern Sectional – 6th
- 2006 Upper Great Lakes Regional – 3rd
- 2005 State Farm U.S. Championships – 15th
- 2005 Midwestern Sectional – 4th
- 2005 Upper Great Lakes Regional – 1st
- 2004 Midwestern Sectional – 8th
- 2004 Upper Great Lakes Regional – 4th
- 2003 U.S. Collegiate Championships – 3rd
- 2003 World University Winter Games – 2nd
- 2003 Midwestern Sectional – 3rd
- 2003 Upper Great Lakes Regional – 2nd

Personal:

- Skated in the closing ceremonies for the 1998 World Championships in Minneapolis, MN
- Was the only senior lady at the 2003 Midwestern Sectional to land a triple lutz/double toe loop combination in the short program
- In 2006, graduated from the University of Minnesota – Duluth with a degree in exercise science

MOLLY OBERSTAR

Born: November 12, 1988 – Duluth, Minnesota

Height: 5'8"

Level: Senior

Home Club: Duluth FSC

Hometown: Duluth, Minnesota

Training Town: St. Paul, Minnesota

Coaches: Ann Eidson, Zoe Hill & Heather Seyfer

Choreographers: Sebastien Britten & David Wilson

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Midwestern Sectional, Senior - 1st

- 2008 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Senior - 1st
- 2006 JGP Budapest, Junior - 7th
- 2006 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Junior - 6th
- 2006 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Junior - 1st
- 2005 State Farm U.S. Championships, Junior - 7th
- 2004 State Farm U.S. Championships, Novice - 11th
- 2004 Midwestern Sectional, Novice - 3rd
- 2004 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Novice - 2nd
- 2005 JGP Croatia Cup, Junior - 5th

Personal:

- She started skating when she was five- inspired by a family friend that figure skated
- She loves to fashion, shopping and singing
- She is trying to inspire young skaters by teaching choreography

JUNIOR LADIES

KIRSTEN OLSON

Born: October 20, 1991 – Burnsville, Minnesota

Height: 5' 3"

Level: Junior

Home Club: Starlight Ice Dance Club

Hometown: Savage, Minnesota

Training Town: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Coach: Rohene Ward

Choreographer: Rohene Ward

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Midwestern Sectional, Junior – 2rd
- 2008 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Junior – 1st
- 2008 Minnesota State Championships, Junior – 1st
- 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, Junior – 9th
- 2007 Midwestern Sectional, Junior – 3rd
- 2007 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Junior – 1st
- 2005 State Farm U.S. Championships, Novice – 5th
- 2005 North American Challenge Skate, Junior – 1st
- 2005 Minnesota State Championships, Novice – 1st
- 2005 Midwestern Sectional, Novice – 2nd
- 2004 North American Challenge Skate
- 2004 Upper Great Lakes Regional, Intermediate – 4th
- 2003 Minnesota State Championships, Juvenile – 1st

Personal:

- Played "Nikki the Jumping Shrimp" in the Disney movie "Ice Princess" starring Joan Cusack and Kim Cattrall
- Won the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence
- Enjoys acting, knitting, reading, her many pets and shopping
- Would like to one day write a book

NOVICE LADIES

SAMIERA ABOU-NASR

Born: November 20, 1991 (Omaha, Nebraska)

Height: 5'3"

Level: Novice

Home Club: Yellowstone Valley FSC

Hometown: St. Paul, Minnesota

Training Town: St. Paul, Minnesota

Coach: Tom Incantalupo

Choreographers: Oleg Epstein & Tom Incantalupo

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Pacific Coast Sectionals, Novice Ladies - 2nd
- 2008 Northwest Pacific Regionals, Novice Ladies – 1st
- 2007 Upper Great Lakes Regionals, Novice Ladies
- 2006 Upper Great Lakes Regionals, Intermediate Ladies
- 2005 Southwestern Regionals, Intermediate Ladies

Personal:

- Plays multiple instruments including piano, guitar and drums
- Loves to attend acting camps during the summer

SENIOR PAIRS

MARK LADWIG

Born: May 6, 1980 – Fargo, North Dakota

Height: 5'10"

Level: Senior

Home Club: Red River Valley FSC

Hometown: Moorhead, Minnesota

Training Town: Ellenton, Florida

Partner: Amanda Evora

Coaches: Kerry Leitch, Jim Peterson, Lyndon Johnston & Alison Smith

Choreographers: Jim Peterson & Christine Sweeny

Skating Achievements:

(with Evora)

- 2007 Skate America - 4th
- 2007 Nebelhorn Trophy - 3rd
- 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships - 4th
- 2007 Eastern Sectional - 1st
- 2006 State Farm U.S. Championships - 7th
- 2005 Skate Canada - 8th
- 2005 Skate America - 9th
- 2005 Four Continents Championships - 5th
- 2005 State Farm U.S. Championships - 5th
- 2005 Eastern Sectional - 1st
- 2004 Nebelhorn Trophy - 5th
- 2004 State Farm U.S. Championships - 10th
- 2003 Golden Spin of Zagreb - 1st
- 2003 State Farm U.S. Championships - 12th
- 2003 Eastern Sectional - 3rd

Personal:

- Mark and Amanda have been competing together since 2003
- Began skating at age 5 on an man-made outdoor rink behind his house
- Married his wife Janet (Eagan native) on August 4th, 2006
- Also works as a full-time bartender/waiter besides his training
- Supporter of March of Dimes for Premature Children
- Proud member of the Eagle Scouts

JUNIOR PAIRS

MICHAEL CHAU – (PARTNER IS TRACY TANOVICH)

Born: November 28, 1990 – Oakdale, Minnesota

Height: 5' 3"

Level: Novice

Home Club: Southwest Florida FSC

Hometown: Oakdale, Minnesota

Training Town: Ellenton, Florida

Coaches: Kerry Leitch, Jim Peterson, Lyndon Johnston & Alison Smith

Choreographers: Jim Peterson & Christine Hough

Skating Achievements:

- 2008 Eastern Sectional, Junior - 1st
- 2007 State Farm U.S. Championships, Junior - 1st
- 2007 Eastern Sectional, Novice - 2nd
- 2007 South Atlantic Regional, Novice - 1st
- 2006 North American Challenge Skate, Novice - 1st
- 2006 State Farm U.S. Championships, Novice - 3rd
- 2006 Eastern Sectional, Novice - 4th
- 2006 South Atlantic Regional, Novice - 2nd
- 2005 U.S. Junior Championships, Juvenile - 9th
- 2005 South Atlantic Regional, Juvenile - 2nd

Personal:

- Moved away from his parents and home in Minnesota at age 12 to train
- Biggest life-defining moment was winning the U.S. Championships at the junior level
- After skating he would like to go to culinary school, perform, and coach