



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HEADLINE: SKATERS COMPETE FOR SPOT AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**OAKLAND ICE CENTER, 519 18TH ST, OAKLAND, CA 94612
NOVEMBER 19-23, 2013**

Two hundred and nine skaters from eleven Western States are in Oakland November 19-23 to compete for a chance to go the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. This year's top skaters at the National Championships will be vying for a chance to go to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Now there's a chance to see some potential national champions in action right here in the Bay Area. Tickets are \$20 per day and \$55 for an all event pass and will be available starting Tuesday, November 19th, at the registration desk in the lobby of the Oakland Ice Center. Please see our website for more information: <http://2014pacificcoastsectionals.org/>.

SOME FEATURED SKATERS

The 2010 National Figure Skating Champion **Rachael Flatt** will be skating in Oakland this week for the chance to compete again on the national stage. Flatt, who is a student at Stanford University, qualified for the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships by winning the Senior Ladies Central Pacific title in October in Vacaville. Flatt will skate in the Senior Ladies events on Friday and Saturday Nov. 22-23. Flatt represented the U.S. at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, where she came in 7th.

There's even a **Stanford-U.C. Berkeley** rivalry within the Senior Ladies event. **Laney Diggs**, is a double major in media studies and sociology. Diggs, who started skating at the age of 5, finished right behind Flatt at the Central Pacific Championships to earn her 7th trip to the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships. For Diggs, training hard, taking lessons, and bonding with her coach helps her survive the full course load at her university. The 5 time national competitor enjoys performing in front of an audience and hopes her love for the sport can help inspire other young children just as others did for her. She is one of 14 skaters competing against Flatt for the Senior Ladies title.

Xylina Rusit (16), a Fairfield/Suisun City local, has been skating since she was 5 years old and has been in love with the sport all her life. She practices in Vacaville five days a week and in Oakland the other two. Rusit is currently a junior at Armijo High School and is in the International Baccalaureate program in

which she is taking all high level classes. Not only does she seek to thrive in the classroom, Xylina is also on the varsity golf and math teams and is a brown belt in Karate. However, skating has been and always will be her primary passion.

Chelsea Yim of San Ramon is taking the next step towards winning a national figure skating title. She is competing at the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships in Oakland this week. Chelsea earned a berth in this prestigious competition by placing 4th in Junior Ladies at the Central Pacific Regional Championships competition, held earlier this year. She trains at Dublin Iceland, Oakland Shark Ice and Fremont Shark Ice and is scheduled to skate against twelve other girls on Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23rd.

Sixteen-year-old **Kevin Shum**, an honor student at Piedmont High School, will be competing in the Junior Men's group. Shum was the 2008 United States Juvenile Boys Champion. He started skating at the Oakland Ice Center at the age of six and is excited to compete in his home rink. He will be skating to a rendition of Coldplay's "Clocks" by 2Cellos and selections from the *Lone Ranger* soundtrack by Hans Zimmer.

Oakland's own **Mark Sadusky** will be representing his hometown and home skating club when he competes at the Pacific Coast Sectional Championship at the Oakland Ice Center this week. 15-year-old Mark earned his spot at this prestigious competition by placing 3rd in the Intermediate Mens event at the Central Pacific Regional competition in October. Mark trains at the Oakland Ice Center and skates for the St. Moritz Ice Skating Club, which is hosting the event. He is scheduled to skate against 11 other young men in the short program on Wednesday, November 20 at 1:10pm and in the freestyle program on Thursday, November 21 at 12:20pm. The full Sectional Championships, which include over 30 competition events, run from Tuesday, November 19 through Saturday November 23 at the Oakland Ice Center, 519 18th St., Oakland, CA 94612.

Nina Ouellette of San Francisco will be competing this week at the Pacific Coast Sectional championships at the intermediate level. She qualified in mid-October by becoming the intermediate ladies Central Pacific regional champion. Nina trains in Oakland, California and will be trying to earn a spot for the US National championships in Boston. She will compete against the top competitors in her level on the west Coast.

Alice Yang of San Ramon is taking the next step towards winning a national figure skating title. She is competing at the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships in Oakland this week. Alice earned a berth in this prestigious competition by placing 2nd in Intermediate Ladies at the Central Pacific Regional Championships competition, held earlier this year. She trains at Dublin Iceland and is scheduled to skate against eleven other girls on Wednesday and Thursday, November 20th and 21st.

Nozomi Hallberg of Petaluma is taking the next step towards winning a national figure skating title. She is competing in two events at the Pacific Coast Sectional Championships in Oakland this week. Hallberg earned a berth in this prestigious competition by placing 3rd in Juvenile Girls at the Central Pacific competition, held earlier this year. She trains at the Oakland Ice Center and Redwood Empire Ice Arena and is scheduled to skate against eleven other girls on Saturday, November 23rd. She is also competing in the Juvenile Pairs event on Friday, November 22nd. There are over 20 other competition events with skaters ranging in age from 11-25. The Sectional Championships run from Tuesday, November 19th through Saturday November 23rd at the Oakland Ice Center, 519 18th St., Oakland, CA 94612.

HOST CLUB

The organization hosting the competition is the **St Moritz Ice Skating Club**. The club is the oldest skating club in California and has been in the Oakland Area for over 75 years. The top four finishers in each event will move on to the 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston in January where the U.S. Olympic team for the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi will be chosen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The St. Moritz Ice Skating Club is **looking for volunteers** to help with the competition at the Oakland Ice Center. Volunteers are needed to make sure skaters are on the ice at the right time, judges and other officials can get a hot cup of coffee and snack, check credentials and patch holes in the ice. In addition to getting a backstage look at the skaters as they prepare, you'll earn a one-day pass to enjoy the competition on the day of your choice. No experience is necessary and all training will be provided. Just volunteer for 1 three-hour shift (Nov. 19-23 from 7 am to 10 pm (hours vary) and receive your free pass. Volunteer for multiple shifts and receive an all event pass. The only requirement is wanting to help some of our best local skaters as they prepare for one of their biggest competitions of the year. Contact: Jean Fahmie at jffskate@yahoo.com.

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