

COMMISSIONER OF OFFICIALS
REPORT
TO THE 1997 AMATEUR SKATING
UNION BOARD OF CONTROL
St. Louis, Missouri May 16-18

Prepared by: Anthony Arena,
Commissioner of Officials For the
Amateur Skating Union of the
United States

Commissioners Report

By: Anthony Arena; Commissioner of Officials

Another season is over and it is time to look at our successes and/or failures over the past season. As is always the case in a sport that requires volunteer Officials to run competitions criticism always overshadows praise. As the Commissioner of Officials whose job it is to evaluate officials it is not always an easy task. All things be as it may the ASU is very fortunate to have such a fine group of dedicated and knowledgeable Officials. Officials are only human and as such some things may be missed. Things are never purposely done or overlooked, and I find it very insulting for some to insinuate that the ASU allows its' Officials to run amok. The Officials at meets are very carefully selected for their positions. They must have knowledge and experience before being assigned and are judged and evaluated by the Commissioner of Officials and by their peers, as well as by skaters and coaches.

Another area of grave concern is the lack of new people, especially new parents and former skaters from getting involved in officiating. So often I have heard from former skaters that no way would I come back to help. Why does this attitude prevail? It is always nice to see former skaters out on the ice as officials without which the ASU or any amateur sport could run competitions.

Something needs to be done to encourage people to become officials. The sport of Speed

Skating is beginning to move into new frontiers and officials will be needed in these areas to run local as well as National Competitions. Lets not always let the other guy do it. It is easy to begin. Submit your name to your association secretary, who will then send the list to the National Office. The National Office will then send these lists on to the Commissioner. Tests will be sent and names will be sent to the Chief Officials for the various National meets and you are on the way.

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OFFICIALS CLINICS

Only one clinic is held. This was at Glen Ellyn on October 25, 1996 prior to their meet. Even though I had asked all of the Chief Officials who were going to work the meet to be at this clinic to go over and discuss their areas of expertise only 2 interested people showed up to listen. This was very disheartening not only to me, but to the presenters who took time out from their Friday night activities to be at this clinic.

I know there are other groups who want and will need Officials Clinics this next year. I will make every effort to accommodate these requests.

OFFICIALS TEST

One of my duties as Commissioner is to prepare and administer a written exam for Chief Officials and also Assistant Officials and others who would like to help officiate.

The object of this test is not to fail people there by excluding them from the list of qualified Officials, which we sorely need, but to get Officials to refresh in their own minds on the rules and regulations that govern speedskating. After a summer of fun and frolicking in the sun it is time to start thinking about skating again. No better way for our Officials to get ready to require them to read the rule book and take a test.

A new fill in the blank format was used this past year, and this will be continued. There is no controversy over answers as there can be in a true/false test. All one had to do was find the correct word or words from the rule book and insert them in the correct blank. The questions were taken directly from the rule book with certain words or sentences left out. Easy enough. No disputes over correct answers.

One thing that was upsetting to me was the fact that some Officials didn't take the time or make an effort to look up the correct answers. Some of the answers they put down were totally stupid. I can't believe that so called intelligent people would do this, but they did. I am keeping a record of these and when they request to be elevated to Chief status or to be assigned to work meets these things will be considered.

A total of 178 tests were sent out. This included 42 to Chief Officials. I am happy to report that all 178 officials returned their tests and all passed. It was not necessary to give any retests or extend the dead line. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.

Another thing that is included with the test is an RSVP sheet for Chiefs and Assistants who would be available to work the National and North American Meets. We have 42 Chief Officials in the various categories, but it was very interesting to see that the same few Officials checked to be at every meet. What is wrong with the rest of you. Perhaps those of you who have no desire to officiate any more place your name on the emeritus list and the ASU will start to looking for new Officials. Perhaps the Board of Control should look at removing some of the Officials who no longer want to work at meets either as a Chief or as an Assistant.

NATIONAL LONG TRACK

Lake Placid, NY

January 25 and 26 1997

My only criticism is that this was held on Super Bowl Sunday and many of us had to miss the super bowl parties and all the other "hoopla" after the "Packers whipped the Patriots".

To the matter at hand the competition seemed well organized and ran smoothly even in adverse weather conditions. There were only 125 skaters, but these skaters put on a good show with a lot of close exciting races.

Everything was run by the book. The officiating went well with very few DQ's, no skater DQed for false starts. The starters all worked well with a good pause for the most part and good control of the skaters at the start line with one exception. Medical personal were on hand and fortunately were not called upon for any serious injuries. Clerking went well and all the heats and semi finals seemed fairly set up.

Tom Miller did a good job as meet director and all the volunteers from NNY are to be congratulated. The judges did well working under adverse weather conditions-both rain and cold.

Finally kudos to our referees who were out there most of the time because of a lack there of.



AMATEUR SPEEDSKATING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

NATIONAL AND NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION REPORT

This report is to be completed by the Chief Referee and Meet Director and mailed to the National Office. A copy will subsequently be sent to the Vice President of Racing and the Commissioner of Officials.

DESCRIPTION:

Name of Event 1997 National Long Track Speed Skating Championships
Sponsoring Association Northern New York
Location Sheffield Olympic Oval
Date and Time Jan 25-26 9:00-4:00
Number of Participants - Male _____ Female _____
Report Submitted by Thomas Miller Position Comp. Dir.

FACILITIES:

Condition of Ice good to excellent due to weather changes
Maintenance during the Competition Resurfacing when needed
Dressing Rooms Olympic tunnel facilities
Medical Services 2 EMTs & 3 sports Trainers

Name of Headquarters Hotel Howard Johnson Resort
Quality Excellent
Proximity to Event 1/2 mile Air.port Albany Burlington

OFFICIATING:

Chief Referee Duane Riley
Assistants Ruth Moore, Steve Hallisey
Chief Starter Chuck Moore
Assistants Ted Klaiber, Mike Richards
Chief Clerk Kay Klaiber
Assistants Betsy Porter, Anne Cooley, Sue Brome
Chief Judge Carl Peaslee
Assistants Milt Weinstein, Shirley Yates

HOSTING:

Were the following a part of the competition?
Hospitality for Coaches, Parents and Officials During Fri Registration
Hospitality for Skaters During Fri Registration
Banquet YES Cost? 15.00 Was there a medals awards program? YES
Welcoming message from association president or ASU representative? ASU President
Concession at rink or association-provided snacks for skaters? Donated water & power bars
Transportation to and from the airport? NO
Transportation from hotel to arena? NO

PROTOCOL:

Opening Ceremony? Announcement of officials & National Anthem
Closing Ceremony? Awards Ceremony
Medal/Medallion presentation? YES
Was there an official printed program? YES
Were results distributed following the event? if needed.

PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

Was a press conference held prior/during the competition? NO
Was an area available for the media? YES
Was an individual assigned to the media? YES
Was there an official poster or other promotional item? NO

EQUIPMENT:

Was electronic timing used? YES Algo Systems
Was photo finish equipment used? NO
Were there adequate safety mats? YES
Were ASU safety rules followed? YES
Were results posted quickly? YES but mostly finals.
Were results distributed quickly?
Were results computerized? YES

SPECTATORS:

Was there an admission charge? NO Were there many spectators present? NO-Weather
Was the competition marketed effectively prior to the event? NO
How was the quality of the announcing - did the spectators know what was happening on the ice? YES
Were spectators provided with a schedule of event? NO had no access to spectator.

SPONSORSHIP:

Were sponsors visible and recognized through posters, announcements or participation at official ceremonies? YES

GENERAL COMMENTS:

DISPUTED CALLS:

PLEASE INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.



AMATEUR SPEEDSKATING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

NATIONAL AND NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION REPORT

This report is to be completed by the Chief Referee and Meet Director and mailed to the National Office. A copy will subsequently be sent to the Vice President of Racing and the Commissioner of Officials.

DESCRIPTION:

Name of Event NATIONAL LONG TRACK
Sponsoring Association NNY
Location LAKE PLACID
Date and Time 1-25 / 1-26
Number of Participants - Male 78 Female 75
Report Submitted by TONY GRENF Position COMMISSIONER

FACILITIES:

Condition of Ice WET
SOFT ON SAT COLD ON SUN - GOOD ICE
Maintenance during the Competition OK
Dressing Rooms YES ADEQUATE
Medical Services ON SITE

Name of Headquarters Hotel HOWARD JOHNSON
Quality GOOD
Proximity to Event OK Air port NO AIRPORT IN PLACID

OFFICIATING:

Chief Referee DUANE RILEY
Assistants RUTH MOORE STEVE HALLISEY JOEL WILLIAMS
Chief Starter CHUCK MOORE
Assistants TED KLAIBER, DAN FLING, MIKE RICHARDS
Chief Clerk KIM KLAIBER
Assistants BETSY PURTER, ANN COOLEY
Chief Judge CARL PERSELEE
Assistants LARRY CLEVER

HOSTING:

Were the following a part of the competition? Yes
 Hospitality for Coaches, Parents and Officials Yes
 Hospitality for Skaters Yes
 Banquet YES Cost? 15:00 Was there a medals awards program? YES
 Welcoming message from association president or ASU representative? No
 Concession at rink or association-provided snacks for skaters? YES
 Transportation to and from the airport? No
 Transportation from hotel to arena? No

PROTOCOL:

Opening Ceremony? NONE
 Closing Ceremony? NONE
 Medal/Medallion presentation? YES
 Was there an official printed program? Yes
 Were results distributed following the event? _____

PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

Was a press conference held prior/during the competition? No
 Was an area available for the media? No
 Was an individual assigned to the media? No
 Was there an official poster or other promotional item? No

EQUIPMENT:

Was electronic timing used? no yes
 Was photo finish equipment used? No
 Were there adequate safety mats? YES
 Were ASU safety rules followed? YES
 Were results posted quickly? YES
 Were results distributed quickly? No
 Were results computerized? No

SPECTATORS:

Was there an admission charge? No Were there many spectators present? _____
 Was the competition marketed effectively prior to the event? No
 How was the quality of the announcing - did the spectators know what was happening on the ice? Yes - Very good
 Were spectators provided with a schedule of event? No

SPONSORSHIP:

Were sponsors visible and recognized through posters, announcements or participation at official ceremonies? _____

GENERAL COMMENTS:

DISPUTED CALLS: NO NUMBERS - Several skaters were DQed for no numbers one Master man made a big issue for this but he was still DQed.
 PLEASE INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

NATIONAL AND NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
COMPETITION REPORT

This report is to be completed by the Chief Referee and Meet Director and mailed to the National Office. A copy will subsequently be sent to the Vice President of Racing and the Commissioner of Officials.

DESCRIPTION:

Name of Event 1997 National Long Track Championships

Sponsoring Association Northern New York

Location Lake Placid, New York

Date and Time January 25-26, 1997

Number of Participants Male 125 Total Female

Report Submitted by Duane Riley Position Chief Referee

FACILITIES:

Condition of Ice Fair to Good on Saturday - Excellent on Sunday

Maintenance during the Competition Resurfaced five times

Dressing Rooms Two large bathrooms and locker rooms

Medical Services 2 EMTs and 2 sports trainers

Name of Headquarters Hotel Howard Johnson Resort Lodge

Quality Good

Proximity to Event 1 mile Air port Albany NY 150 miles

OFFICIATING:

Chief Referee Duane Riley

Assistants Ruth Moore, Steve Hallisey

Chief Starter Chuck Moore

Assistants Ted Kliabow + Mike Richards

Chief Clerk Kay Kliabow

Assistants Betsy Porter + Ann Cooley + Susan Brame

Chief Judge Carl Peaslee

Assistants Mitt Weinstein

HOSTING:

Were the following a part of the competition?

Hospitality for Coaches, Parents and Officials Yes at registration

Hospitality for Skaters Yes at registration

Banquet Yes Cost? \$15.00 Was there a medals awards program? yes

Welcoming message from association president or ASU representative? yes - Tom Btu

Concession at rink or association-provided snacks for skaters? Yes

Transportation to and from the airport? No

Transportation from hotel to arena? No

PROTOCOL:

Opening Ceremony? Yes

Closing Ceremony? Yes

Medal/Medallion presentation? Yes

Was there an official printed program? Yes

Were results distributed following the event? Yes

PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

Was a press conference held prior/during the competition? Yes

Was an area available for the media? Yes

Was an individual assigned to the media? No

Was there an official poster or other promotional item? Yes

EQUIPMENT:

Was electronic timing used? Yes

Was photo finish equipment used? No

Were there adequate safety mats? Yes

Were ASU safety rules followed? Yes

Were results posted quickly? Yes

Were results distributed quickly? Yes

Were results computerized? No - not until later

SPECTATORS:

Was there an admission charge? No Were there many spectators present? a few

Was the competition marketed effectively prior to the event? Yes

How was the quality of the announcing - did the spectators know what was happening on the ice? Yes - Good announcer

Were spectators provided with a schedule of event? they were available

SPONSORSHIP:

Were sponsors visible and recognized through posters, announcements or participation at official ceremonies? yes Enterprise rental car

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The event went well.

DISPUTED CALLS:

None

PLEASE INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

To: Anthony Arena, ASU Commissioner of Officials

From: Kay Klaiber, Chief Clerk, National Long Track Championship
Lake Placid, New York January 25,26 1997

The Lake Placid Organizing Committee did a marvelous job in putting the meet together. Tom Miller had everything for me upon my arrival; ie, competitor names, numbers, rankings etc.

I was ably assisted by Ann Cooley in the heat box and Betsey Porter who worked directly with me. There were no complaints regarding heat makeup (at least none that got as far as me). I believe the weekend went very smoothly.

I also wish to thank the Lake Placid Organizing Committee with providing me with a change of seasons every day of the three days I was there.

It was a very enjoyable trip and I thank you for the opportunity to do the job.

NORTH AMERICAN LONG TRACK
Calgary Alberta Canada
February 1 and 2 1997

The ASU referees report on the competition is included in this report. According to this there were no major problems and everything seemed to be in good working order.

This was by far the largest National or North American meet of the season with 186 competitors entered. Although the breakdown of U.S. and Canadian skaters heavily favors the Canadians-only 34 U.S. skaters it was still an excellent meet. What can we do to get more U.S. skaters to these North Americans???

Excellent meet - Would have liked to have seen more Americans

There were 34 American competitors

NATIONAL AND NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITION REPORT

All were very accomodating
All officials received vests

This report is to be completed by the Chief Referee and Meet Director and mailed to the National Office. A copy will subsequently be sent to the Vice President of Racing and the Commissioner of Officials.

DESCRIPTION:

Name of Event NORTH AMERICAN LONG TRACK MASS START CHAMPIONS.

Sponsoring Association Calgary SPEEDSKATING ASSN (CSSA)

Location CALGARY OVAL - CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

Date and Time FEBRUARY 14², 1997

Number of Participants - Male 108 Female 78

Report Submitted by JOAN PETERSON Position REFEREE

FACILITIES:

Condition of Ice GOOD - FAST

Maintenance during the Competition Good

Dressing Rooms Good accomodations

Medical Services Paramedic there all during meet

Name of Headquarters Hotel HIGHLANDER HOTEL

Quality Good

Proximity to Event 10 min shuttle Air port 20 min - 1/2 hr
SERV. provided

OFFICIATING:

Chief Referee Roch Loignon

Assistants JOAN PETERSON, TOM O'Connor, Stephan Charest

Chief Starter YVES BELANGER, SANDERS HICKS

Assistants HANS TERSTAPPEN, HARRY PLUMMER

Chief Clerk CATHERINE QUEEN AL OVEREND

Assistants CATHERINE QUEEN

Chief Judge SASAN SCHMUNK

Assistants CARAY SMITH, STUART Blythe, PAT MAH,

BRUCE & DENISE THEUNISSEN, BELINDA GILES, MICHELLE HUSZTI

MINDY & GLEN McWILLIAMS, HECTOR VAN VIERSSSEN TRIP,
KENT TOH, TONY SMITH

HOSTING:

Were the following a part of the competition?
Hospitality for Coaches, Parents and Officials Yes - FRIDAY EVEN.
Hospitality for Skaters Yes
Banquet Yes Cost? \$20 Was there a medals awards program? Yes
Welcoming message from association president or ASU representative? Yes
Concession at rink or association-provided snacks for skaters? Yes both

Transportation to and from the airport? For Officials but not for all skaters
Transportation from hotel to arena? Shuttle Service - very good
even for practice session

PROTOCOL:

Opening Ceremony? Saturday - half way through the competition
Closing Ceremony? Distribution of medals
Medal/Medallion presentation? Medals at banquet at Sun conclusion - Medallions
Was there an official printed program? Yes
Were results distributed following the event? Yes

PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

Was a press conference held prior/during the competition? Video can be ordered
Sunday Local TV Coverage
Was an area available for the media? Yes
Was an individual assigned to the media? Yes
Was there an official poster or other promotional item? Yes - Also T-shirts
Sweatshirts ext for sale.

EQUIPMENT:

Was electronic timing used? No
Was photo finish equipment used? No
Were there adequate safety mats? Yes
Were ASU safety rules followed? Yes
Were results posted quickly?
Were results distributed quickly? Yes except heats for Semi's
Were results computerized? Yes - Left before I could get protocol
Requested - send 1 to ASU ofc.

SPECTATORS:

Was there an admission charge? No Were there many spectators present? Yes
Was the competition marketed effectively prior to the event? don't know
How was the quality of the announcing - did the spectators know what was happening on the ice? Very Good
Were spectators provided with a schedule of event? Yes

SPONSORSHIP:

Were sponsors visible and recognized through posters, announcements or participation at official ceremonies? Yes -

GENERAL COMMENTS: Meet went smoothly, Behind Schedule on Saturday.
Beginning - difficulty with electronic timing - so decided not to use,
also Opening ceremony took longer.
Many recotts were made

DISPUTED CALLS: Few disqualifications - no written disputes

NORTH AMERICAN LONG TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS
OLYMPIC OVAL, CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA
FEBRUARY 1-2, 1997

The Calgary Skating Club and CASSA put on a well organized meet. There was a lot of club involvement in administering the meet. As a representative of ASU I received special treatment. I was picked up at the airport and brought to the hotel. It was an older hotel that has been very accommodating to the skating competitions.

There were 184 registered skaters, 19 of these skated in the Bantam class (which was a demonstration class). Only thirty-five of the skaters were from the United States, representing 10 states. This is a poor representation from the U. S. There were 147 skaters from Canada, and 2 skaters from Australia. The United States came away with 3 champions. Over 100 records were broken. Maybe these records should be North American "rink" records, as they probably won't be broken again until the competition returns to Calgary.

A meeting and hospitality for officials, skaters, and coaches was held Friday evening at the registration in the hotel. Bags were given to the skaters, plus a sheet providing information as to shuttle service, the bibs, opening ceremony and medal presentations. This was all good for skaters to have at their finger tips. Ice was available to the skaters Friday evening, and shuttle service was provided. Shuttle service to and from the rink was available for the competition. All officials were given a very nice vest. Sunday, local TV coverage was given, tapes were available to order.

The program provided was excellent, with greetings from dignitaries, listing all the officials, skaters, and information about speed skating. The opening ceremony included a flag ceremony by some of the club skaters that were not competing and speeches from various dignitaries. The banquet Saturday evening was outstanding, including the food and the Master of Ceremonies. It was well attended, and the skaters from Canada show much support for their team members, US skaters also got into it. The closing ceremonies brought out the red carpet.

The meet got off to a slow start, because of difficulty with the timing system, so it was removed. Saturday we continued to run behind schedule because of it, and also the opening ceremonies took longer than expected. A resurface was eliminated to save time and try to catch up. Sunday the meet stayed to the schedule. Paramedics were inattendance both days.

CASSA'S Chief Referee was Jean Roch Lignon, I was ASU's referee, and we used two assistant referees and 4 corner judges throughout the meet. The corner judges repaired any ice problems. The ice was good except when we eliminated a resurface, several of the coaches were concerned, because it needed some repairs. The DQ's were handled efficiently and skaters and coaches were informed immediately. In Canada they do not allow drafting, so this was also watched for and called. The only complaint was the delay in receiving any protocol's .

*Respectfully submitted,
Joan Petercan*

NATIONAL SHORT TRACK

West Point, NY

March 14-16, 1997

The Middle Atlantic Association Meet Director Bob Finkel and the rest to the volunteers are to be congratulated for a fine meet. It is very difficult to host a National Meet when there is no local club, but a fine job was done by all.

A total of 155 skaters were registered. The officiating went reasonably well although there were some major problems with skaters being DQed and not informed, with false starts and inconsistency of the starts. Skaters being over the pre-start, confusion with dots at the starting line.

In the case of skaters falling at the start or shortly there after, the decision to recall the race or not is strictly up to the starter because they are in a better position to hear if there was any clicking of skates.

Several other problems had to be dealt with. One that the announcer was too far removed from the action to be an asset. It was difficult to get to him, although the use of radios did help. Difficulty for the starters to get to the 500 and 1500M starting areas.

~~Now the skaters want additional lap counters to keep a tally of laps completed by each competitor. It is impossible for one lap counter to keep an accurate tally on each skater in a race, especially the longer races.~~

Adequate medical personnel were on hand for the entire meet and fortunately no serious injuries occurred.

One incident did occur which could have been more serious. This involved a skater who was kicked in the back of the hand. Their hand started to swell and was extremely painful. The meet M.D. wanted the skater to go for x-rays as the hand could have been broken. Of course the skater didn't want to miss the next race. A physician was summoned from the stands and said the hand wasn't broke and x-rays were not necessary. Fortunately it was later proved the hand was not broke, but what if it was and further injury resulted. Who makes the call in these cases.

NATIONAL AND NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
COMPETITION REPORT

This report is to be completed by the Chief Referee and Meet Director and mailed to the National Office. A copy will subsequently be sent to the Vice President of Racing and the Commissioner of Officials.

DESCRIPTION:

Name of Event 1957 National Short Track Championships
Sponsoring Association Madison Area S. S. Association
Location West Point NY Tate Park in Holladay Center
Date and Time March 1-16
Number of Participants - Male _____ Female _____
Report Submitted by Ruth Moore ^{Total entry 135} Position Chief referee

FACILITIES:

Condition of Ice Good
Maintenance during the Competition Good
Dressing Rooms 1 for each
Medical Services Excelsior Office on duty, Saco Sun with sport ^{Background}

Name of Headquarters Hotel Thayer Hotel
Quality Two Rooms and all things made for comfort
Proximity to Event 1 mile Air port 1/2 mile

OFFICIATING:

Chief Referee Ruth Moore
Assistants Jim Chapin - El Langdon - W. Miller ^{Steve ...}
Chief Starter Bill Anderson
Assistants Chuck Moore - Lt Gabel - Frank ... ^{...}
Chief Clerk Road ...
Assistants ...
Chief Judge Jerry ...
Assistants Don ... - Pat ... - Jerry ...
Shirley ...

HOSTING:

Were the following a part of the competition?

Hospitality for Coaches, Parents and Officials Yes

Hospitality for Skaters ?

Banquet Yes Cost? 219 / 310 Was there a medals awards program? Yes

Welcoming message from association president or ASU representative? Yes

Concession at rink or association-provided snacks for skaters? Yes

Transportation to and from the airport? Some

Transportation from hotel to arena? NO

PROTOCOL:

Opening Ceremony? ✓ Yes

Closing Ceremony? ✓

Medal/Medallion presentation? ✓

Was there an official printed program? ✓

Were results distributed following the event? ?

PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

Was a press conference held prior/during the competition? ?

Was an area available for the media? Yes

Was an individual assigned to the media? Yes

Was there an official poster or other promotional item? Yes

EQUIPMENT:

Was electronic timing used? Yes

Was photo finish equipment used? Yes

Were there adequate safety mats? Yes

Were ASU safety rules followed? Yes

Were results posted quickly? Yes

Were results distributed quickly? Yes

Were results computerized? NO

SPECTATORS:

Was there an admission charge? Yes Were there many spectators present? Yes

Was the competition marketed effectively prior to the event? ?

How was the quality of the announcing - did the spectators know what was happening on the ice? Very good

Were spectators provided with a schedule of event? ?

SPONSORSHIP:

Were sponsors visible and recognized through posters, announcements or participation at official ceremonies? Yes

GENERAL COMMENTS:

See other report

DISPUTED CALLS:

PLEASE INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.



AMATEUR SPEEDSKATING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

WILLIAM F. ANDERSON, VICE PRESIDENT

12546 Lake Shore Drive Grand Haven, MI 49417 (616) 846-0269

March 31, 1997

Dr. Anthony Arena
3045 S. Beverly Dr.
New Berlin, WI 53146

RE: Chief Starter Report

Dear Tony,

The six starters at the ~~1997 National Speedskating Championship~~ were: Bill Anderson, Fred Benjamin, Don Fling, Andy Gabel, Chuck Moore and Mike Richards.

All of the starters were highly experienced and contributed positively to the meet. I believe all the starts were fair. Specific observations about the meet:

FACILITY ISSUES

The facility did inhibit the starters' function. The 500 start side did not permit a good view of the skaters when the forward-most start line was being used. During a Senior Men's 500, I was advised that the skater in lane position #1 was in constant movement, which neither I nor Chuck Moore, who was also at the start line, were able to see.

The apex position was also very constrained by having one two foot wide "window" only at the tip of the apex. Fortunately, there was not a need during the entire meet to call back a race from this position.

Access to all starter locations was limiting, however, with excellent cooperation and attention from all starters, there were no delays. For the 500 starts, I did schedule two starters at the line. Due to the "ice access only" location of this start position, communication and rotations were inhibited.

SPECIFIC CALLS

1. One skater was disqualified for movement. I did not observe the movement, however, in discussing the call with Fred Benjamin, he indicated that the skater was warned after the first false start, but did not heed the warning and Fred was forced to call the second false start. This did not occur again.

2. A skater fell shortly after the start of a Men's 500. I recalled the race believing contact caused the fall. Another starter saw it differently and brought it to my attention. (Comment appreciated.)
3. Although a skater fell at the start of the Ladies Relay final, Mike Richards did not call the race back. I had an excellent view of the start and fall and concur with Mike's call or non-call.
4. One skater filed a protest citing an unfair start when he was pushed inside the block before the apex. I was on the fall line for that race and did not recall the race (there was no fall). Whether the skater was inside the block or not was not my call. This type of situation may be worthy of a starter/referee discussion at the convention.

STARTERS' PERFORMANCE

	<u>1-1.5 Second</u>		<u>Overall Judgment & Awareness</u>
	<u>Consistent</u>	<u>Duration*</u>	
Benjamin	Y	L	Excl.
Fling	Y	L	Excl.
Gabel	Y	M	Excl.
Moore	Y	M	Excl.
Richards	Y	M	Excl.

*L = higher side of range.
M = middle of range.

As for my own performance, it was pointed out that on re-starts, I was too fast (concur).

Due to the number of starters, facility constraints on movement and "luck of the draw" on rotations, some of us had more work than others. I feel quite good about the overall fairness of the starts for the entire meet. As a group, I feel we definitely had control.

Regards,



W.F. Anderson

Chief Clerk of Course Report

~~1985 National Short Track Championships~~

West Point, New York

The Mid Atlantic Speedskating Association should be commended for their dedication and hard work in putting together a fine National Short Track Championships. The Meet Organizers were helpful and responsive to the requests and needs that myself and the Clerking staff had. In general, the layout of the rink and the clerking area afforded us a very efficient position.

The biggest obstacle I had was the lack of a working efficient copier in the Clerk area. I made it clear in conversations preceding the meet that an efficient copier was critical. Unfortunately, we were provided with an old slow manual copier which had poor quality and jammed every three copies. This forced a lot of extra leg work for the clerks as we had to use a copier which was far away on another floor of the arena.

It was also difficult to get to and from the arena as there was no transportation provided for the officials. Those of us without cars had to beg rides and this limited my ability to come and go as needed. This was also a problem in getting to the airport.

The ~~Heat Box~~ was Carlos Soto, who was assisted by John Mensilevich, Patrick Carpenter, and Doc Savage. These guys did an excellent job and no races were delayed in the heat box.

The ~~Skaters~~ was Ken Altuehoff, who also did an excellent job of getting the skaters off the ice and to the starting line.

~~Records~~ was handled by Pat Peaslee, who was thorough and efficient in gathering the proper documentation for the Records Committee.

Our ~~Co-Chief Scorers~~ were Ann Cooley and Laura Everett. They did a great job of scoring the events and getting the information to the organizers for the medallion presentations and medal distribution.

I had ~~assistants~~ assisting me in the make-up of the heats and schedules; Linda O'Hare, Madeline Lease and Betsy Porter. Linda O'Hare is a Chief Clerk in her own right and I gave her the toughest job of overseeing the men's side of the races. Madeline Lease worked with her and I think with a couple more Nationals she would be an excellent candidate for elevation to Chief Clerk. Betsy Porter worked with me on the Ladies side and I can assure you that Betsy is ready to be elevated to

Chief Clerk. I would recommend her name be considered at the Convention in St. Louis.

All in all, I had an excellent team that worked together very well, and as a result no races were delayed due to paperwork delays, we received no complaints regarding the makeup of the races, and information such as race makeup was always available well in advance.

I want to extend my thanks to the ASU for appointing me as Chief Clerk at these Nationals. It was an honor and a privilege that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Brad Goskowicz

NORTH AMERICAN SHORT TRACK

Eagen, MN and Greater Minnesota skating
Association

March 28-30, 1997

First off a bad weekend to hold this meet, being Easter weekend which is a major time for all Christians both in the U.S. and Canada. Only 138 registered skaters, very poor. But considering the Easter weekend this was pretty good.

The on ice officiating-referees, starters, judges, block chasers, clerks, everyone did a great job.

Medical personnel, to the contrary were on hand all these days. Due to some constraints with the Eagen Civic Arena first aid equipment and ambulance service was provided by the Fire Department. Their services were required only once and they responded in less than 5 minutes to access the 2 injured skaters and transport them to a local hospital for further treatment.

The banquet was far better than the last time Minnesota hosted the North American Outdoor.

NATIONAL AND NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
COMPETITION REPORT

This report is to be completed by the Chief Referee and Meet Director and mailed to the National Office. A copy will subsequently be sent to the Vice President of Racing and the Commissioner of Officials.

DESCRIPTION:

Name of Event 1997 North American Short Track Speedskating Championships

Sponsoring Association Greater Minnesota Speedskating Association.

Location Eagen Civic Arena, Eagen Minnesota.

Date and Time March 28-30, 1997. Fri. 11:30-6:00. Sat. 9:30-4:00 Sun. 9:30-3:00

Number of Participants - Male 87 Female: 51

Report Submitted by: Paul K. Mueller Position: Chief Referee.

FACILITIES: Ice surface 200x100 feet. First class facility.

Condition of Ice : The Ice temp. was just perfect. Also had the luxury to resurface quite frequent. Ice held out very good.

Maintenance during the Competition : Had plenty help, to maintain the ice between and during the brakes.

Dressing Rooms : Adequate dressing facilities.

Medical Services : On premises, Ambulance across the Street

Name of Headquarters Hotel : DAYS INN. 1901 Killebrew Dr. Bloomington, MN.

Quality : Not very good, the best I would call it so so.

Proximity to Event: 15 minutes drive Air port: 5 Miles

OFFICIATING:

Chief Referee: Paul K. Mueller

Assistants : Robin Newton-Smith (Canada), Duane Riley, Bruce Bauer, Joan Peterson.

Chief Starter: Jeff FitzRandolph

Assistants : George Paterson (Canada), Bill Anderson, Dan Fling, Bob Selby

Chief Clerk: Elayne Riley

Assistants : Ted Gulczynski, Madeline Lease.

Chief Judge: Tom Porter.

Assistant : Tony Goskowicz

COMMENTS: See addition.

HOSTING:

Were the following a part of the competition?

Hospitality for Coaches, Parents and Officials : Yes
Hospitality for Skaters .I did not see any.
Banquet .Yes Cost? \$ 19.00 Was there a medals awards program? Yes
Welcoming message from association president or ASU representative? Yes
Concession at rink or association-provided snacks for skaters? Not the first
Day, Later yes. I had to tell them to due it.
Transportation to and from the airport? Yes
Transportation from hotel to arena? Yes, First day very late.

PROTOCOL:

Opening Ceremony? : No
Closing Ceremony? ; No
Medal/Medallion presentation? : Yes
Was there an official printed program? : Yes
Were results distributed following the event? : Yes

PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

Was a press conference held prior/during the competition? No
Was an area available for the media? No
Was an individual assigned to the media? No
Was there an official poster or other promotional item? : I did not see one.

EQUIPMENT:

Was electronic timing used? : Yes
Was photo finish equipment used? : Yes
Were there adequate safety mats? : Yes
Were ASU safety rules followed? : Yes
Were results posted quickly? : Yes
Were results distributed quickly? : Yes
Were results computerized? : Yes

SPECTATORS:

Was there an admission charge? No Were there many spectators present? No
Was the competition marketed effectively prior to the event? : I do not know
How was the quality of the announcing - did the spectators know what was
happening on the ice? : Yes, very good
Were spectators provided with a schedule of event? : Yes

SPONSORSHIP:

Were sponsors visible and recognized through posters, announcements or
participation at official ceremonies? I did not see any.

GENERAL COMMENTS: see addition.

DISPUTED CALLS: Only one written protest: about kicking out.
I think this is a very gray area.
The coach is wrong, this call was made by two assistend
referees and the chief referee.

PLEASE INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

April 2, 1997

~~Addition to the North American Championships~~
Competition Report

Sorry Tony, but I have an addition to the standard competition report. I think it will help you to give a better report to the Board. I will not be negative very often, but I think some areas should be addressed.

The 1997 North American was one great meet. The skating was excellent and a great number of North American records were broken. One comes to mind, the 3000 meter mens final. It was skated hard from the starting gun and the record was broken by a full 10 seconds. Wow!

Gene Casler was the Meet Director and I think, although I don't know for sure, that this was his first job. He does not know how to delegate authority. He was never there when he was supposed to be. For example, he drove the shuttle bus between the hotel and the Ice Rink. At times he seemed to be a nervous wreck.

The on ice officiating, the starting, and the judging was very good. It was crisp and without delays. Electronic timing had a few glitches, but it did not slow us down because the back up timing was great. (We also timed every skater). ~~The on ice~~
~~and the~~ ~~one and a half hours on the ice and~~
~~and a half off the ice.~~ The Chief ~~also~~ rotated his assistants. The starting was good. The weakest link was Mr. Anderson. He was very inconsistent and my observation was that he allowed too much movement by the skaters.

Tom Porter, Tony Goskowicz and their crew were excellent. Elayne Riley and Madeline Lease were always on time. Ken Vraa was very much responsible for the smooth flow of the competition. ~~He~~
~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~reason~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~smooth~~ ~~flow~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~competition.~~ ~~He~~
~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~reason~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~smooth~~ ~~flow~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~competition.~~ ~~He~~
~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~reason~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~smooth~~ ~~flow~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~competition.~~ ~~He~~
~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~reason~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~smooth~~ ~~flow~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~competition.~~ ~~He~~
like to mention Doc Savage, he kept the competition flowing by getting the skaters in and out of the rink quickly.

What happened at the end of the competition is worth mentioning. Something happened to me that has never happened before, and as you know, I have been Chief Referee many times. After the last relay was run and the competition was over, I was summoned to the coaches stand. All the coaches shook my hand and thanked me for a well run North American Championships.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the A.S.U. for the opportunity to serve.

Very truly yours,



Paul K. Mueller
Chief Referee



DATE: Sunday, April 6, 1997

TO: Tony Arena
ASU Commissioner of Officials

FROM: Jeff FitzRandolph
Chief Starter

~~1997 North American Long Track Championships~~

RE: Report to the Commissioner

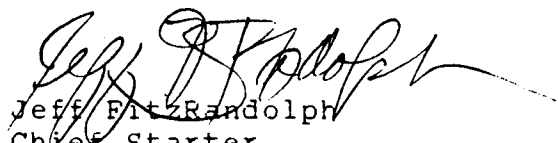
I thought the North American Championships in Eagan this past weekend was a highly successful competition. From a starter's standpoint, the starts were fair with no disqualifications and very few recalls. I've always maintained that if the starters aren't noticed their doing a good job and I felt that we kept a very low profile at this competition.

The dots at the starting line were confusing to the Canadian skaters for the first round of starts, resulting in some shifting of skaters positions. All of the starters did a good job of moving skaters on the start line to make for fair and equitable starts. As racing continued through the weekend, the skaters adjusted to the dots and they became very helpful in spacing the skaters at the start.

All of the starters did an excellent job. It was a pleasure to be able to work with George Patterson from Canada. He was a very consistent starter and eager to learn from the experience. I look forward to working with him again, hopefully in Canada in the near future. Bill Anderson, Bob Selby and Dan Fling all gained valuable international experience. The rink was very noisy all weekend and the entire crew did a great job of projecting their start commands over considerable background noise. Bill and Bob have strong voices, Dan had to yell at times to be heard and I would recommend that he try a microphone with amplifier in the future to insure that he has the voice to continue starting for many years.

It was a pleasure to be able to work with such a qualified crew of starters at this competition. I had the luxury of observing for most of the weekend, starting only the 500. This gave the other starters the opportunity to do more starts in a variety of distances. The exposure gained at this competition will make each of us better starters in the future and I recommend that Bill, Bob and Dan receive "high marks" and full credit for assisting. I would like to see us continue to develop starters of this quality towards Chief Starter status (Bob and Dan) and International certification (Bill).

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeff FitzRandolph
Chief Starter
Wisconsin

cc: All Assistant Starters



AMATEUR SPEEDSKATING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

M. Thomas Porter, President

236 Caroline Street

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

(518) 584-5398

Dr. Anthony Arena,
Commissioner of Officials
Amateur Speedskating Union of The
United States
3045 S. Beverly Dr.
New Berlin, WI. 53146

April 17, 1997

Dear Tony,

~~The name of Judge at the North American Short Track
CHAMPIONSHIPS is not in full compliance with requirements as specified
by the rules.~~ We had very experienced judges to
first timers. Overall, I have no serious question regarding
the final decisions. Close races I relied on the video. I
did change the order of finish in some races after
reviewing the video. It also was not always possible to
have a judge stationed at the video. When I needed to
review the race I checked the video replay.

Don Lease, Shirley Yates and Tony Goskowicz were the
backbone of my team. Tony Goskowicz was my assistant
chief judge. Tony had no problem handling the duties of a
chief judge. When he obtains the required number of
assistant assignments, I recommend him for Chief Judge.

If it had not been a Holiday weekend, I'm sure we would
have had more volunteers.

Very Truly Yours,

M. Thomas Porter
Chief Judge

April 21, 1997

Tony Arena
ASU
Commissioner of Officials
3045 Beverly Drive
New Berlin, WI

Dear Tony:

This is my official report for the [REDACTED] held in Egan Minnesota, March 28-30, 1997.

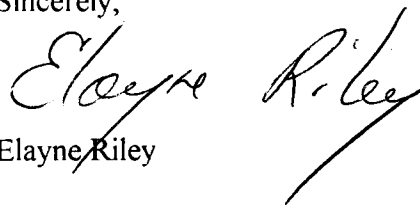
The [REDACTED] this meet was excellent. This was the first competition I have worked, that no one complained about a heat makeup. My assistants were, Brian Westover, Leb Lotterhouse, JoEllen Anderson, Madeline Lease and Meda Carlson.

JoEllen and Madeline set up the semis from the results. Brian kept us current on all times for posting and standing for the heats. Leb generated the heats from a data base he had set up in his computer. Brian also created the standings at the end of the event for the protocol. Meda also gave results to Leb to create the semis and finals.

I reviewed all heats, semis, and finals, there were very minor changes.

All of these people are capable of working a major competition. I enjoyed working with them.

Sincerely,



Elayne Riley

NATIONAL MARATHON

Lake Placid, NY

February 8 and 9 1997

Since the Marathon is a National Meet sanctioned by the A.S.U. a very brief mention of it will be made in this report. In the future the referee who is assigned to this meet by the ASU should send a report to the appropriate people as should the Meet Director.

There is a report in the April, 1997 issue of the Racing Blade on this meet with results listed. Thanks to John Manailovich for this.

Next year the Marathon is moving to the Pettit National Ice Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the following year to Anchorage, Alaska.

All you Marathoners get ready for the move to Milwaukee on a covered 400M track and then back to the frigid reality of Alaska.