

The ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championship Feb 15-20, 2011 Taipei

Feb 10:

Travel a vast distance from Minnesota to Singapore is a good 20 hours, the flight delay for 24 hours make it inherently more difficult for Brittany to adjust her jet lag and of course missing the ice time to adjust herself from a big rink to a small rink! Thanks SISA to coordinate one more mid night ice time..... she won the Junior ladies title for the 3rd years in a row!

Feb 14:

" Happy Valentine's Day Mom and how are we going to celebrate it?" I am sorry Britt; we have to rush to the airport to catch the afternoon flight to Taipei for the 4 continents. What? Although this is not my first time to be a team leader to take Brittany out for international competitions, but I am nervous because this is Brittany's first senior ISU championship and she is having the reigning world and Olympic gold and silver medallists in her group. I kept telling myself to calm down and don't panic! One good news came through the e-mail: there will be no preliminary round for ladies and the actual competition date change to Feb 18-20. Hurray, We will have more official ice time and we can relax and get more time to rest! We checked into our room and had a good dinner .The registration was very smooth!

Feb 15:

Coach Diana took Brittany to venture out of the hotel to check out the surrounding and I had to go to the team leader meeting. The arena is just opposite to the hotel within walking distance, weather is cold and wet, it's always exciting to walk into the event arena for the first time, all of the volunteers that we met on the way to the rink were very friendly and helpful but the security check was tight though! I wanted to try Taiwanese food but Coach Diana and Brittany wants Ikea meat ball and end up we went to T.G.I.F.

Feb 16- 18

Practice, Practice and Practice. The official skating federation arranged both morning and afternoon practice ice for all the skaters. Coach Diana not just involved into Brittany's practice, but also encouraged Brittany to watch the other group's to practice. It was such a great opportunity to watch Miki Ando, Mao Asada and Rachael Flatt practice. They are such a graceful skaters! The advantage to be a team leader is meeting friends from all over the world. As a matter of fact, some team leaders are also parents and coach. We were chatted at the skaters lounge and share some experiences.

Feb 19

The big day finally came! The short program started at 1pm. However, Brittany had the early practice ice in the morning. ..just do your best and focus.

Despite of being the first senior level competition, Brittany emerged 26th. Miki crowned four continents champion; Mao claimed the silver medal and Mirai Nagasu earned the bronze.

Feb 20

Gala Exhibition: The organizing committee --Taipei did a very good job to organize this Gala exhibition. They took the first top 3 skaters from each event to perform at the exhibition. It's such a good opportunity to see the world top skaters, such as DaisukeTakahashi, Mao Asada , Alissato dance together at the gala performance!

Reflecting on all the experiences I had in the Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Taipei is overwhelming. All the skaters did a remarkable job to prove their dedication and passion to the sport of figure skating, and it would be thoughtless to not give them any recognition for their efforts. It must be a marvellous achievement for Taipei to have hosted such a prestigious and world-class competition. Many of the skaters, from what we saw, displayed an array of talent and promise, and we are all excited to see them progress in this sport. (It's really amazing to see some skaters improve in a great deal within a short period of time).

As a team leader and mother of the skater, I usually called a meeting after each competition. During the meeting, skater had to do a self evaluation and the coach gave feed back . We then set up a short and long term goals for Brittany.