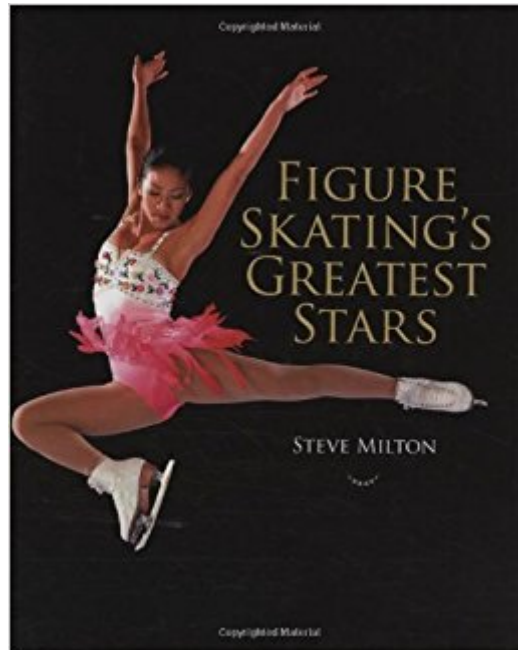


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Figure Skating's Greatest Stars



Synopsis

A beautifully illustrated celebration of the best athletes from this wildly popular sport. Figure Skating's Greatest Stars profiles 60 great skaters, including champions in men's, women's, pairs and ice dancing. Informative essays describe their careers and championship moments, as well as the definitive events that have made figure skating one of the leading spectator sports in North America. Fans of all ages will delight in reading the stories of these stars who have jumped higher, spun tighter and skated more gracefully as they pushed skating's artistic and technical boundaries. Some of the 60 athletes featured are: Dick Button (late 1940s and early 1950s), United States Liudmila and Oleg Protopopov (1960s), Soviet Union Brian Boitano (1980s), United States Elvis Stojko (1990s), Canada Oksana Grishuk and Evgeny Platov (1990s), Russia Jamie Sale and David Pelletier (late 1990s and 2000s), Canada Brian Joubert (2000s), France Qing Pang and Jian Tong (2000s), China Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto (2000s), United States Michelle Kwan (2000s), United States. Figure Skating's Greatest Stars is the perfect fanbook for the millions who love this sport.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Enjoyable to browse or read cover-to-cover. Everything from the earliest days of tracing figures on frozen ponds to the up-and-coming stars of tomorrow are featured here. The photographs found here, many of which are unique to this volume, fit the text well and the show the progression of the sport. Because there are so few reference titles available on this topic this would be a good addition to the reference section of larger public libraries. Some libraries may find it fits better in the circulating reference collection, however, where patrons can enjoy it at their leisure. (Shannon Graff Hysell American Reference Books Annual) Fans of all ages will delight in the stories of the stars who

have jumped higher, spun tighter and skated more gracefully as they pushed skating's artistic and technical boundaries. A beautifully illustrated celebration of the best athletes from a wildly popular sport, this new book profiles 60 great skaters, including champions in men's, women's, pairs and ice dancing. (Canadian Geographic 2010-01-12)Hamilton Spectator columnist Steve Milton has written a lively and authoritative history of figure skating, including profiles of 63 star athletes. This lushly illustrated new book shows how women such as Sonja Henie, Barbara Ann Scott, Peggy Fleming, Midori Ito, Kristi Yamaguchi, Katarina Witt, Michelle Kwan, and Irina Slutskaya contributed to the evolution of the sport, which has become one of the marquee events of the Winter Games. Milton demonstrates how North Vancouver's silver-medal-winning Karen Magnussen has not received enough recognition for her innovations, which included the first layover camel and a spiral sequence that later became a requirement of the short program. "She was the first woman to do the splits in both directions, the first to proceed from an Ina Bauer into a double Axel and the first to do a side layback into a back layback," he writes. As the preceding sentence shows, Milton knows his figure skating. (Charlie Smith Georgia Straight 2010-02-11)Double-page illustrations give plenty of scope for expressive drawings, brightened with cheerful watercolor washes. This small-scale story is fitting for children whose play involves the imagined adventures of their favorite toys. (Peter Scowen Globe and Mail 2010-02-03)If you didn't get your fill of figure skating during the Olympics, don't despair--this book is for you! (Good Times 2010-03-31)This large-format hardcover is beautifully illustrated with historic photos of the sport's legends. (Pamela Steel Huntsville Forester 2009-12-16)Milton, author of twelve figure-skating books (Figure Skating Now), wants sports fans to be as familiar with Jacson Haines, Sonja Henie, and Peggy Fleming as they are with Abner Doubleday, Babe Ruth, and Mickey Mantle. With this large, colorful book he fills the need for a popular history of figure skating. Far from a dry parade of names, the book focuses on trailblazers and pivotal personalities such as artistic rebel John Curry of the 1970s and creative innovators Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean in the 1980s. Readers learn not only about the skaters' careers but their personal lives as well, such as Dorothy Hamill's battle with depression. A great chapter on scoring explains the pros and cons of the elimination compulsory figures and, without getting too technical, outlines the new scoring system that replaced the problematic 6.0 scale... Recommended for avid figure-skating fans and because of the many action photos, casual fans as well. (Kathy Ruffle, College of New Calendonia Library Library Journal)Milton, a sports journalist who has covered figure skating for three decades, profiles 63 figure skaters in men's and women's singles, pairs, and ice dancing, including pioneers, legends, influential skaters, technical innovators, and current stars. Accompanied by color photos, the profiles give information on skaters like Dick

Button, Brian Boitano, Sonja Henie, Michelle Kwan, Katarina Witt, Gordeeva and Grinkov, Shen and Zhao, Torvill and Dean, Brian Joubert, Carol Heiss, and Kristi Yamaguchi. Sidebars discuss important themes and moments in skating history, like the judging system, nationalism, and the Nancy Kerrigan incident. (SciTech Book News) A sports writer with the Hamilton Spectator, Steve Milton has attended seven Winter Olympics and more than a dozen World Figure Skating Championships. In this book [Milton] profiles more than 60 world champions, past and present, from all over the world, in the process telling the history of the sport. (Waterloo Region Record 2009-12-12) Steve Milton's book is simply wonderful. Figure Skating's Greatest Stars is more than a comprehensive look at the greatest skaters the world has ever seen--it is a refreshing narrative on skating's past, present and future. This book is a must for all skating fans, regardless of age. (Karen Cover, Archivist World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame) Steve Milton has created a beautifully illustrated celebration of the best athletes from this wildly popular sport.... Fans of all ages will delight in reading the stories of these stars who have jumped higher, spun tighter and skated more gracefully as they pushed skating's artistic and technical boundaries. (Rob Mooy Frontenac This Week/Kingston This Week 2010-03-04)

Steve Milton is a sportswriter who has covered six Winter Olympics and more than a dozen World Figure Skating Championships. He is the author of nine figure skating books, including Figure Skating Now.

Nice retro book on figure skating. Reminds me of good times as a young skater.

If you're interested in figure skating, this is a nice book to put on the shelves, to pick up once in a while whenever you feel like knowing more about certain athletes in the sport. Although the author acknowledges that he provides a personal view, he also states that choices were made on the basis of the impact of skaters on the sport in general. So, he can sometimes present skaters who have won no World or Olympic championship at any time but still influenced the direction of the sports in a substantial way. And for the most part, this is correct. However, especially concerning the more recent years he does show a somewhat North American Favouritism which is a pity because the rest of the book (the early years and the intermediate ones) is highly balanced on that score. This can be illustrated with ice-dancing. Olympic and World Champions Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat do not get a chapter of their own, even though they showed remarkable innovations like the gender changes in the lifts. Others have since then followed on with this practice. That means

they did execute a major influence on the direction the discipline has taken. Similar omissions are present (or to be exact: they are not present as such in the book!) with regard to other disciplines. Having said that, this still is a wonderful book, with beautiful photo's, and interesting descriptions of the (skating) histories and lives of many skaters. Despite the small bias noted and remarked upon, I would still highly recommend it to fans all over the World.

This book is broken into the four skating disciplines (Men's, Pairs, Ladies, Ice Dance) and has side sections with some history about the development of figure skating. Many known personalities are covered here (Michelle Kwan, Peggy Fleming, Brian Boitano, to name a few) but there are quite a few skaters that I had not heard of but made a significant mark on the sport. The book is easy to read and never boring and has some historical photographs of interest. It even tries to explain the new scoring system (which I don't think anyone in the ISU or even Dick Button can do adequately). If you are a fan of figure skating or just curious about the sport this book will entertain and enlighten you.

I rated good only because I thought I was buying a dvd. The book looked good as far as a book goes but I had wanted a dvd.

Bought this for my daughter who is a competitive figure skater and she LOVES it! The photos are beautiful and the articles look to be very interesting!

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