

Season 2017-2018

We started the season with our traditional camp in August and this year it was organized better than ever. It is the best way to start the season and get all the skaters ready for the competitions. Since rules change on a yearly basis, the camp is the best opportunity to check if all the programs are up to the latest rules. Next season we will see bigger rule changes than usual (this is normal after an Olympic season) so we need to prepare for the season on time. I would like to encourage all skaters, especially groups with competitive skaters and those who plan to be in the upcoming season.

We have also had 2 visits by choreographers throughout the season and it has certainly infused a certain freshness that is needed, we plan to continue with this in future seasons as well. Our skaters enjoyed it and it showed in their performances.

The results this season have improved significantly from last season in all categories with our skaters winning many medals in most categories (and on most competitions) - cubs, springs, basic, debs and senior! All of the skaters in all of the categories have shown vast improvement not only compared from last season but also during the season itself. We also have had National Championships at home. The number of skaters qualified was lower than last season (some have quit skating and some have been impacted by illness or injury) but the results have been much better and the cherry on the cake was Mia's bronze medal in the very tough Debs A category.

We rounded off the season with the traditional Regional competition in Bergen where we accomplished fantastic results and all of the skaters should be proud of the results of their work and prepared to do the same or better next season. Our older skaters showed improvement in skills and focus and our younger skaters showed that they are just getting started.

All the groups have been working hard and the coaches meticulously planning and executing the development of all levels of skaters. We have made some improvements on scheduling, off ice and dance but those areas need further improvement next season and that is one of our goals.

One more thing to consider next season for older categories is international competitions. We will be attending Skate Copenhagen with 9 skaters in April. Some of the skaters in groups 1a and 1b might be ready to attend two international competitions next season and we will make that choice at the beginning of next season.

We are particularly proud of the improvement of our Oppvisning and Cubs skaters. We have a solid base of skaters for the future and we will continue to focus on both quality and quantity next season as this is the only way to have good results in all categories in the future. Our junior coaches will play a key role with these groups in the future as we plan to expand them even more and we have very enthusiastic and diligent junior coaches to help us achieve those ambitious goals. From now on we should aim to have 10-15 oppvisning skaters competing every season.

Our Synchronized Skating Team - Stavanger Pearls showed fantastic improvement as well and achieved a new personal best even with a program that had falls. We have to make smarter choices regarding the competitions we will attend in the future but I still consider this season very successful. We have started early and already narrowed the selection of potential competitions to 5 and, as soon as the dates are announced, we will start planning 2 international competitions that fit us best on the following criteria - dates that don't clash with domestic competitions, price, reputation and challenge. This season the team has attracted considerable media attention and completely stole the show at the NM opening ceremony.

We will end the season in the best possible way - seminars and further education. At the end of April Mia and Christina will attend the Federation's Sammen mot Toppen gathering in Oslo where the best in this age group will train with each other and led by the head coach of the Finnish Junior National team.

At the beginning of May (5-10) four Stavanger Pearls will participate at the ISU Development seminar in Vierumaki, Finland joined by Marie and Sara; they will train with 60 other skaters from all over the world, coached by World and Olympic medalists.

Middle of May (12-13) is reserved for the NSF coaches seminar in Oslo led by Evgeni Rukavytsin. The National Team will participate and we are proud that Mia was invited to participate along with several other skaters that the Federation selected. Sara and Danguole will attend as well and perhaps a few junior coaches.

And at the end of May (21-26), there is an ISU Development program for Figure skating held in Finland and moderated by the best of the best of international coaches. It is a 4 year program and the Federation has selected 6 coaches from Norway to participate and Sara is one of them.

We will round off the season with ice in Naerbo and a specialized off ice/dance program fitted to each group. The goal of the coaches is, and will remain, to have ice in Stavanger till the end of May.