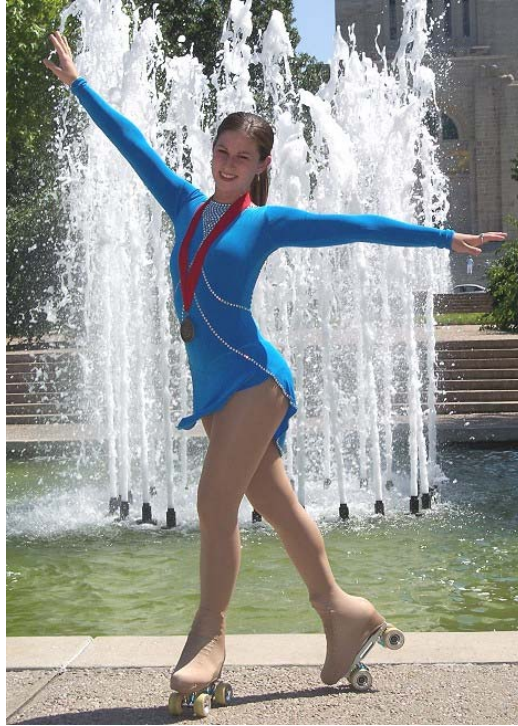


Laura Wright - 2008 Silver Medalist, Senior World Class Figures

We were recently given the opportunity to do a quick interview with Laura Wright (below), first time Silver Medalist in Senior World Class Figures at the 2008 US National Championships. Laura will be representing the US at the 2008 Senior World Championships in Kaohsiung, Taiwan November 17-22nd. For more information regarding the Championships, please visit the official USA Roller Sports [website](#). We appreciate her taking the time to speak with us and wish her all the best at the World Championships!



Chester Skateland will be hosting a Fundraiser for Laura on October 26 from 4:30-6:30 PM. Admission is \$5.00 (plus \$2.00 for rentals, if needed) and includes the 6:30-8:30PM session as well. All of the proceeds will be donated to the 2008 World Team Travel Fund for Laura. You do not have to attend the fundraiser to donate

Q1. How do you feel about competing at your first World Championships?

-This is my first World Championships so its a little nerve racking not knowing what to expect and also being out of the country. I also was a little nervous about who I was going to room with once we got there. I got lucky and one of my team mates from Ashland also made it and we were chosen to be room mates together so that should make it more like home for both of us.

Q2. How old were you when you started skating?

-My mom is a roller skating coach so she had skates on me as soon as I could walk. I think I didn't know any better than to skate because both my brother and I grew up in the rink.

Q3. How many hours do you practice a week?

- I practice 5 days a week for about 2 hours.

Q4. What motivates and inspires you to be the best?

- My coaches were all World competitors and they have always been an inspiration to me. I look up to all of them and I have always wanted to be able to experience the level of skating they were involved in.

Q5. How do you prepare for your competitions? Do you ever feel the pressure of skating at the elite level?

- I practice everyday like I want to skate in front of a judge. I believe if you practice like you want to skate at a meet then you should be able to handle the nerves and pressure of a competition. You just have to go out and skate like you do at home and focus on yourself and not what all the other competitors are doing around you and hope for the best!

Q6. What are your plans for 2009? Are you planning to continue to compete?

- I do plan on skating in 2009. My goal is to make it to World's in the combined event, which means I would have to place in both figures and freestyle the same year at the National level to qualify.

Q7. What other interests do you have outside of skating?

- When I do have free time outside of the rink I am usually working, hanging out with friends or shopping!

Q8. What advice would you give to young skaters?

- The number one thing I would have to say is have fun with what you are doing. If you're not having fun then you won't perform to your best ability. Also, if you have one bad day or one bad competition don't get discouraged. I have had many bad days and many bad competitions, but I never let that discourage me I learned from my mistakes and that is what makes you a better skater.