

On the Web



By Audrey Snowden

Making Up for Lost Time

"On the Web" was on hiatus for the previous issue of *IFS*, due to the arrival of my baby boy, so this column will give you plenty to check out. More perhaps, than you have time for.

But you should make time for **Mao** and **Mai Asada's** official site: **Brilliance on Ice** (<http://www.maomaiasada.com/indexe.html>). At press time not all of the links were current, but it's easy enough to tell what has changed due to the helpful "What's New" section on the front page.

If you do not speak Japanese, then you might not have installed a Japanese language pack. Typing the site address into a web browser usually results in a pop-up box notifying the user that the site will not display correctly without installing such a language pack. Not installing the pack will not alter the site's appearance; the address above is for the English version of the site.

A link to the Japanese version is the first item on the left menu on the home page. The site contains good photographs and articles, even if the 2006-2007 competitive season isn't quite up to date, and it's attractively designed and easily navigable.

The official **2007 ISU World Figure Skating Championships** site (worlds2007.jp) is another good site to check out. Although it did not have much content at press time, it looked clean, fresh and promising with competition guidelines and a schedule available. The site includes a guide to Tokyo and a link to more tourism information.

The Worlds site is not going to help you get up to speed with the competitors, though. For that, try **YouTube** (youtube.com). A bit of patience and search strategy are required for this

site, which houses videos and clips uploaded by ... anyone. Even you. Sifting through all the content would be impossible. Try typing "Skate America 2006" into the search box; at press time, this search yielded over 400 results, including competitive programs, practice sessions and interviews. More specific searches (like "Skate America 2006 **Miki Ando**" or "Skate America 2006 **Mao Asada**") yield smaller numbers of results, so knowing what you want to see beforehand can be helpful.

However there's something to be said for browsing, as well. (For everyone who's wished there were TV recording devices back in the 60s and 70s ... try "**Janet Lynn**" and see what happens.) Once a video has been selected, YouTube will also offer a large number of related clips. There's enough stuff here to keep even the most avid fan busy for a long period of time.

Please read here



Mao Asada won Japanese nationals and will be a contender for the title at the 2007 World Championships. There are several websites that offer the chance to learn more about this teenage sensation.

If others in the household aren't as fixated on figure skating, remember to give them a shot at some Internet time. If they are hockey enthusiasts, nudge them in the right direction by suggesting a compromise: how about **Xtreme ice skating**? "It's like street skating ... but on the ice," the official site's front page (xtremeiceskating.com) declares. The site is concise on philosophy and lavish on photos and clips of moves, which are divided by skill level. Each move, demonstrated by the sport's founder **Dan Perceval**, has a short explanatory blurb as well. Showmanship and Xtremeness are really important here and Mr. Perceval is serious about this sport; he's even trademarked the name. The man has a good idea and he's trying to get it to take off.

Finally, for everyone who reads Bulgarian, get yourself over to the **Denkova and Staviski** web site (albenamaxim.narod.ru/simple.html) and visit the guest book. In a previous column I mistakenly stated that the guest book was in Russian, so my apologies to the webmaster. Apparently the whole site is available in Bulgarian — but if that doesn't work for you, head on and over anyway, scroll down and on the

left, click on the option for an English version of the site.

Have I missed a really good site? Send me an email through the forum section at ifsmagazine.com (username: audreysnowden) and let me know. ●