



# Sports News

## It's Great To Skate: The Allure Of Ice Skating

by *Todd Eldredge*

(NAPSA)—Figure skating has been such a big part of my life since I first put on a pair of ice skates at age 5. I knew figure skating was for me. By the time I was 10, I was training full-time with my coach, Richard Callaghan.

After competing in three Olympic games, and winning six U.S. and one world championship, I find myself at a point in my career that I can give back to the sport that has allowed me to spend my life doing something I love.

One of the great things about figure skating is that you can enjoy it at all levels, whether your goal is to achieve Olympic fame or simply enjoy the recreational benefits of skating. With friends, family or alone, skating is fun, challenging and rewarding all at once.

There are many important aspects of all sports that go into making great athletes, venues and activities. Ability, training, coaching and financial support are just a few of the factors. Corporate sponsorship greatly enhances opportunities and programs, as well as eases the burdens athletes experience.

Chevrolet is one company whose grass roots support has made a difference in figure skating. As a sponsor of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA), Chevy's extensive support of these organizations and its member athletes helps make the hopes and dreams of aspiring athletes a reality by providing high quality training, coaching, equipment, transportation and facilities.

This fall, Chevy and the USFSA are sponsoring a series of



**Champion figure skater Todd Eldredge is touring the country, teaching skate clinics.**

six "It's Great to Skate" Festivals in conjunction with the USFSA. During each festival, Coach Callaghan and I will teach a series of skating clinics for beginning skaters in Atlanta, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Phoenix and Philadelphia to encourage people of all ages to take to the ice and enjoy a day of free skating and entertainment.

It is great to skate, so I encourage you to contact the USFSA to find out more about how figure skating can become part of your life. A great place to start is at your local USFSA skating club with the Chevy/USFSA Basic Skills Program, the best beginning ice skating program for all skaters.

For information on a USFSA member club, Basic Skills or the Chevy/USFSA "It's Great to Skate" Festival, log onto [www.usfsa.org](http://www.usfsa.org).