

Yuka Sato

佐藤 有香

WORLD CHAMPION



Birth Date: Feb., 1973

Birth Place: Tokyo, Japan

Competitive Highlights

2002 Hallmark Skaters Championships - 1st
2001 World Professional Championships - 1st
2000 World Professional Championships - 1st
2000 Grand Slam of Skating - 1st
1998 World Challenge of Champions - 1st
1998 World Professional Championships - 2nd
1998 Japan Open - 2nd
1996 Professional Ladies Series - 1st
1996 World Professional Championships - 2nd
1996 Great Skate Debate - 1st
1995 Riders Ladies Championships - 1st
1995 World Professional Championships - 1st
1995 World Challenge of Champions - 1st
1995 Canadian Pro Championships - 1st

Amateur

1994 World Championships - 1st
1994 Winter Olympics - 5th
1994 All Japan Championships - 1st
1993 World Championships - 4th
1993 All Japan Championships - 1st
1992 Winter Olympics - 7th
1992 Skate America - 1st
1989 Junior World Championships - 1st

ある方の言葉を借りると「佐藤有香は生まれる前からスケートを滑っていた」と。彼女の両親とも全日本チャンピオンであり、オリンピックである。彼女は4歳からスケートを始め、6歳から競技に参加するようになる。

彼女のアマチュア時代のキャリア・ハイライトはやはり**1994年世界選手権**での優勝。その直後、彼女は迷いもなく小さい頃からの憧れであるプロの世界へ転向。

その頃アメリカ、日本、フランスなどで盛んに行われていたメジャーなプロ・オープン試合で長い期間殆どの試合で優勝。技術的な高さや息をのむようなアーティスティックな滑りを同時に兼ね備えた能力が彼女を優れた成功を支えている。2002年の試合では、二日間でシングルとペアの試合にエントリー。シングルではアメリカのサラ・ヒューズ、ロシアのイリナ・スルツカヤなどの強豪選手との試合で優勝。

長期に渡り高い技術を保ち続け、芸術面では毎年新たなジャンルに挑戦し、表現力を磨き続けた努力がこの活躍を支え続けた。

彼女は全てのスケーターの憧れである「スターズ・オン・アイス」ツアーに2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10と出演している。

現在は、プロスケーター、振付師、解説者、そしてコーチとして、まだまだ進化し続けている。

One may say that Yuka Sato has skating in her blood. Her parents are former Japanese Champions who both represented Japan at the Olympic Games. Yuka started skating at the age of four after watching an ice skating show, and she started competing at the age of six. Yuka enjoys the hard work and dedication the sport requires. Yuka's amateur skating career was highlighted at the 1994 World Championships where she won the World title in her home country. Japan was extremely proud of their newly crowned champion, and she has helped to further the popularity of figure skating in Japan.

After the 1994 World Championships, Yuka made the decision to turn professional. Since then, Yuka has competed in and has won almost every major televised professional competition in the United States, Japan and France. Yuka has developed into one of the finest skaters today. Her ability to combine technical difficulty with breathtaking artistic presentation has contributed to Yuka's outstanding success.

In the 2002 Hallmark Skaters Championship, Yuka entered the two day event in both singles and pairs. The singles event featured an impressive field including Sarah Hughes, the newly crowned Olympic Champion, and Irina Slutskaya, the reigning World Champion. Yuka gave an emotional and technically difficult performance to win the title.

Yuka toured in the 2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-2010 seasons of the Stars on Ice tour. She is a professional skater, a choreographer, a commentator, a coach – she is looking forward to having another exciting year to come.