

Family fun

# Champions on Ice brings big show and stars

BY LANA MINI  
STAFF WRITER

wild lighting, extensive wardrobes, custom drapery, potted flowers and much more for the show

And of course there's the big lineup of skaters Kwan, Cohen, Goebel, Irina Slutskaya, Jennifer Kirk, Elena Sokolova, Surya Bonaly, Johnny Weir, Evgeni Plushenko, Elvis Stojko, Rudy Galindo, Victor Petrenko, Tatiana Totmyanina & Maxim Marinin, Qing Qang & Jian Tong, Tanith Belbin, & Ben Agosto

Champions on Ice is a way for skaters to be creative, stay on top of their game, skate with other professionals and hone their skills

"My next goal is to land more than quads in competition," Goebel said

Kwan is a returning favorite on Champions on Ice

The most decorated figure skater in U.S. history, her skating brilliance has earned her a place among the all-time greats of figure skating. She's won 43 championships, five World Championships and two Olympic medals

She's earned 39 perfect marks of 6.0 in the National Championships

Sasha Cohen's proudest skating achievement was making the Olympic team after being injured last season

Tim Goebel's favorite skating trick to perform is the hydroblade to triple salchow

"I kind of invented it and it's fun for me," Goebel said

Michelle Kwan likes to perform the Charlotte spiral

"Because I can see the crowd upside down," Kwan said

The skaters are part of the John Hancock Champions on Ice 2005 Tour coming to the Joe Louis Arena on Saturday, April 9

The show that's more than 36 years old began with skaters like Ludmila and Oleg Protopopov and Dorothy Hamill. It's evolved from its bare bones show that consisted of skaters and recorded music played over the ice arena's public address system. Today, five 48-foot semi-trucks haul in state-of-the-art sound systems,

## JOHN HANCOCK CHAMPIONS ON ICE 2005 TOUR

When 3 p.m. Saturday, April 9

Where Joe Louis Arena

Performing Michelle Kwan, Sasha Cohen, Irina Slutskaya, Jennifer Kirk, Elena Sokolova, Surya Bonaly, Johnny Weir, Timothy Goebel, Evgeni Plushenko, Elvis Stojko, Rudy Galindo, Victor Petrenko, Tatiana Totmyanina & Maxim Marinin, Qing Qang & Jian Tong, Tanith Belbin, & Ben Agosto

Tickets \$30-\$65

For more information Call Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or [www.championsonice.com](http://www.championsonice.com)

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