

Ashlyn Davis

## Someone Special

Someone that influenced me was my skating coach. She really motivated me to keep going to meets and eventually Nationals. She was very exciting and fun and always taught me in some fun way.

It all started when I thought skating was the coolest thing on television. Whenever it came on TV, I would always change it to that channel. My mom and dad saw how much I loved skating and asked me if I wanted to join a club. When I heard this I went crazy and said yes! I didn't want to do ice skating because of the cold and the sharp blades. So we looked for a roller skating club that taught classes for beginners. We found a club named Ashland Figure Skating Club. I joined right away after we found it. I liked it for two reasons: it sounded like my name and it looked really fun. I had four coaches Coach Debbie, Coach Stephanie, Coach April and Coach John. They were all really nice but my main coach was Coach Stephanie who taught me lessons every three to four days a week. When I got good at skating, I could start to compete with other people.

Since I was still a beginner to skating, I had to start in the Tiny Tot group. I made a lot of friends but some rivals too. Coach Stephanie tried really hard to get me to win first place so I could have my first medal. The first time I ever won made me so happy and I knew that the hard training was paying off after all. Tiny Tot was the lowest group so we were all pretty young so for the most part we all got along. Then later I got too old and good for Tiny Tot so I had to leave and move on to Primary.

Primary was harder than I thought and I got really tired of the regular old training. So Coach Stephanie started something new with me. Whenever I had a lesson, she would make me work really hard and it felt like a burning fire was inside of me when I was done. But she would surprise me with a prize if she thought I did well enough. She really influenced me to work super hard because I wanted a prize that day to show my mom and dad how hard I worked that day. After awhile, the prizes didn't come as easily as they used to. Then I realized that there were no more prizes. Coach Stephanie wanted me to work as hard as I would for prizes but this time for nothing. I got the point and worked really hard for no prize. Sooner or later it was time for my first Primary competition! It was at Chester Skating Rink and I was scared and nervous. Coach Stephanie tried to influence me to stay positive and not let the nerves get to me. I started to skate and when I went around the circles I thought of what she said and I skated really well. I am not sure what I got but I knew I placed somewhere between first through fourth. After that meet we had a club dinner and I knew that skating was my thing and I was going to stick to it.

A couple years later Coach Stephanie started working me harder and harder and I could barely understand why. Then one day I got the news that I was getting moved up to Juvenile! That is a really tough group and I had to wake up Saturdays at six am to go to my lessons. At first I did not want to wake up so early but then I realized that I needed the training. Then on the first competition I thought I was going to be sick to my stomach. Then Coach Stephanie said I could do it and not to be worried. I skated and I thought I got third or second. Coach Stephanie was right and I don't think I got worried

like that anymore. Coach Stephanie was a huge influence on my life and I will never ever forget her or anyone at Ashland Skate land that helped me like her.

I always will remember what she said to me at all my meets. She influenced me a lot and she was always there for me like my parents are. I miss her a lot but I will always remember her words and phrases that made a huge impact on my skating life and normal life. She was a real influential person in my life.