

OLYMPIC DREAM

Taking on Barbara Fusar Poli & Maurizio Margaglio's legacy, Federica & Massimo are bringing Italian ice dancing towards 2006.

How was your partnership born?

Our couple was born a good year after we came to Milan, skating with different partners. Our coach one day thought of having us try a practice session together - he was thrilled, but left the decision to us. We tried doing the last national competition of that season, the judges liked us, and from then we decided to start our career together.

You left Rome to come to train in Milan. Do you miss it?

We are homesick sometimes, yes. We miss our parents, that's normal... But we have been here for three years and a half now, we have settled in, we have found our spaces, our home, our friends... we feel good here now.

What do you do off-ice?

Nothing! We rest! No hobbies... After training we come home, cook dinner, do the dishes and go to bed... and that's it! When we have some free time, we go out with friends, lead a normal life... that we enjoy so much more since we have never time for it! The positive side is that for us "everyday things" are never boring!

Who would you like to thank, in particular?

The list would be endless... Every person that somehow came in our lives, not only on the ice but off-ice as well, helped us become what we are today, and probably what we'll be in the future.

Who inspires your skating?

For their strength and determination, Natalia & Andrei (Bestemianova & Bukin) because they taught us so much about how they dealt with skating... They have so much experience, and they pass it on to us; they're not just our choreographers, with them we talk about what's before and after a competition, about life in general...

Who did you follow when watching figure skating on tv?

We used up the tapes with performances from Klimova/Ponomarenko, Usova/Zhulin, Torvill/Dean, Grishuk/Platov... the great Russian couples, mainly.

Grand prix is over, now you have the European and World Championships... what do you expect from those?

Before the start of this season we had lots of ideas, and we thought maybe to get to the Grand Prix Final, or at least to get really close to it; now we see that we're not that close, we are more or less at the same level as last year... so at this point we prefer not to make predictions for Euros and Worlds... to ward off bad luck!

What do you want to be when you grow up?

First of all we want to fulfil our dreams on the ice, then we'll do shows; and then...(Massimo:) I love dance in general a lot, a dream of mine would be to work in a musical... I like the show business. (Federica:) I am more home-loving... I wish to have a family, some children, to become a mother...

You are the future of ice dancing - will you get as far as Barbara Fusar Poli and Maurizio Margaglio?

Maybe even better... we're working for this, we're doing our best, and things look promising; we see ourselves an improvement in our programs, and the audience's reply is very good too, we're very happy about this, it means we're heading in the right direction ...

What are the Olympics for you? What emotions did Salt Lake City give you, and what do you expect from Torino?

Salt Lake gave us so much emotions, it was wonderful to be there. The Olympics really leave you with something special inside your heart. It was also wonderful because we were there with Barbara and Maurizio, who were a top team, and we were able to live a bit of 'their' Olympics as well... Torino 2006 will be a very important event, which will decide a lot of our future too ... We know it is early to aim to these Olympics, but we're trying anyway, we would love to be on one of those three steps. It will be an enormous emotion and we'll have to work hard with our mind too, from now, to arrive there and be able to stand the pressure we'll feel ... We'll have to be calm, as relaxed as possible, determined, to attack the competition and not to suffer it... and we'll see what will come.