

Press Release

Local Ice Dancing Brother & Sister Champions Selected to Skate in the 2017 Bavarian Open in Oberstdorf, Germany

-Kentucky representing the United States on the International Stage-

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY...January 25, 2017-- Ice Dancing Journey.com is proud to announce that local ice dancing team and US Figure Skating Intermediate Dance Champions, Christopher and Sophia Elder, were selected by the U S Figure Skating Athlete High Performance Development Department, to participate in the Bavarian Open – Advanced Novice Ice Dance competition in Oberstdorf, Germany from February 14-19, 2017.

The Athlete High Performance Development Pool is a new initiative created to provide opportunities for identified athletes who have not met the criteria to be in the International Selection Pool (ISP), but show the ability to represent Team USA in the future.

2016 U.S. novice bronze medalists Sophia Elder (13) and Christopher Elder (15) reclaimed the third spot on the podium performing a strong and well-executed free dance to "Masquerade Waltz" by Aram Khachaturian at the 2017 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Kansas City, MO. The sibling duo was less than a point from the silver medal, finishing the week with 108.79 points.

"We're happy. We've really improved a lot over the last season, even if our placement is the same," Christopher Elder said. "We've really worked to improve our expression and level of performance," Sophia added. "I think we've come a long way this season, and we're excited to build on that improvement."

"I've grown at least two inches and he's grown more than that, and we've definitely tried to take advantage of that," Sophia Elder said. "You always want your performance to be huge, making your movements as big as you can with every part of your body. There's more of us to perform now, so we're definitely working to maximize those points as we grow up."

"We practice like we're competing every day," Christopher added. "We always make sure we're using our facial expressions and our lines as much as we can. Now, when we come out to compete, even though we're a lot more grown up, we're used to giving it everything we can."

The team is coached by Kelley and her husband Donny Adair, a former U.S. Dance Champion. The Elders train at the Louisville Skating Academy.

"Donny and I are extremely proud of Sophie and Christopher's growth this year. Their US National Championship performance was exceptional, a personal best and we could not ask for more than that. They have accrued enough points and demonstrated immense improvement throughout the year to become part of Team USA. Sophie and Christopher will be great ambassadors for the sport as they travel to Germany in February on their first International competition; The Bavarian Open. It is an honor to be selected for a competition at this level and we are eager to see what next year brings and they continue to mature and advance to the junior ranks. "" states coach Kelley Adair.

Christopher is a Sophomore at Trinity High School and Sophia is a eighth grader at St. Margaret Mary in Louisville, Kentucky. Both skaters are high achievers, and embrace challenges with adult confidence. Christopher Elder is first in his High School class. He enjoys playing soccer, is an avid member of the Trinity Math Team, and is an aficionado (fan) for the University of Kentucky basketball team. Sophia Elder is a former member of Louisville Rhythmic Gymnastics, where at age of 6, she qualified to Junior Olympics. Sophia also excels in school and enjoys time with her friends.

The Elder Dance team's other impressive wins include:

Competition Championships

2016	Chicago Dance	1 st Place
2015	US Figure Skating	1 st Place
2012-2016	Midwestern Sectionals	1 st Place
2015-2016	Chesapeake Open	1 st Place

Upcoming Elder Competitive Events:

February 14-19, 2017
2017 Bavarian Open in Oberstdorf, Germany

Midwestern Sectional Figure Skating Dance Champions

www.icedancingjourney.com



**2012
Juvenile**

**2013
Intermediate**

**2014
Intermediate**

**2015
Novice**

**2016
Novice**

If you 'd like to meet the Elder Champions, donate to their cause, or watch their spectacular performances, visit: <http://www.icedancingjourney.com>

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About IceDancingJourney.com

Ice Dancing Journey.com is an in-depth digital and promotional fundraising initiative to help support our next Olympic hopefuls from Kentucky and the United States of America. The site and its contents exist to assist in the education, excitement, and promotion of the Elder team skating champions.

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High Res photos available upon request.

