

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PRECISION IN WA

Precision skating is the newest and fastest growing aspect of the sport of figure skating. It involves a group of skaters from 9 to 24 in numbers performing a variety of synchronized movements, patterns and formations on the ice. It is a fast, colourful and exciting spectator sport that the whole family can participate in.

Precision skating first started in WA in 1985 when a group of ladies from the Ice World Ladies Club got together with coaches Christine Hodge and David Savage to compete against teams in South Australia and Victoria. They won against both eastern states teams.

In 1986 two teams were formed, one "Wes-Blades" under coach Trish Cleaves and the other "Ice Breakers" under David Savage. Both teams competed in the Nationals held in Adelaide, with Ice Breakers making it into fourth place.

1987 saw the two teams competing in the State Championships, but with only "Wes-Blades" going to the Nationals where they gained third place, and so bringing home the first medal for precision from the Nationals.

1988 again saw both teams competing in the Nationals with Ice Breakers bringing home the silver medal.

1989 and Perth was the home rink for the National Championships with WA fielding three teams, "Wes-Blades", "Ice Breakers", and the Ladies Club masters teams "Ice Crystals". This was a good year for WA, Ice Breakers won the gold medal, Wes-Blades the silver medal in the second division and Ice Crystals won the gold medal for the masters team event.

1990 saw the combining of "Wes-Blades" and "Ice Breakers" under coaches Trish Cleaves and David Savage. The idea behind this move was to produce two strong teams, "Revelations" (Open Division) and Ice Commets (Novice Division), with both coaches working together. The aim being to reach international standards. This year also was the first year to see a skate off introduced in the open division with ten teams competing, with the top six going into a Senior Division and the remaining four going into Junior Division. "Revelations" did very well gaining bronze in Senior Division. "Ice Commets" and "Ice Crystals" both gained gold in their respective divisions.