



August 29th 2017 – Master Profile

Dan Greene, originally from Saratoga Springs, New York, started skating in 1975 at the age of 11. His mom issued an ultimatum one fall day, “You need to find something do in the winter as there will be no sitting around the house.” Fortunately, soon after this decree was issued, he saw an advertisement in the newspaper from the Saratoga Winter Club and Greene figured it sounded cool and thought he would check it out. At the time, his uncle, who was a pro skier, had been trying to get his nephew started in skiing so he was a little disappointed but he still supported Greene the whole way.

Greene’s first block of time in skating was from 1975 to 1988, during which he won his first medal four years after starting in the sport. For a while in his youth, Pat Maxwell, from whom he learned lessons he still practices to this day, was coaching him. Greene is also able to recall the long list of people he skated with during this time with who inspired him throughout his skating career: Moira D’Andrea , Kristen Talbot, Luke T, Justin B, Kyle B, Robbie G, Barney P, Paul M, Pat W., Lexie and Jess R, Mary B - The Porter Clan and all the Masters (Freddie C, Steve R, Scott N, Doc Martin, Doc Hansell, Eddie, Melissa and Tim, Marty H, Glenn, Olu, Jeff B and Marty L, Timmy C). In Greene’s final year of this period, 1988, he finished 13th at Short Track Olympic Trials and 8th at Long Track Nationals in the Senior ‘A’ division.

Greene joined the Marine Corps and retired from speed skating, only to return to his beloved sport in 2007. However, due to his time in the service, he is 60-percent disabled and was told by the Veteran Affairs to stop skating in 2014. Regardless of these warnings, Greene went on in 2017 to be the US National Champion in Short Track (ages 50-59) while his son Conor watched and cheered him on with all his heart.

Conor is not Dan’s only cheering section, as Greene cites the Madison Speedskating Club and the coaches – Tom Riley, Bob Neville and Doc Hansell – as always being incredibly supportive. The Masters community as well has been so very welcoming to him. Greene says, “The Masters are always trying to find ways to help and give back to this sport we all love!”

One of the biggest changes Greene has noticed between his first go-round in speed skating and skating today is the advancement of the equipment, especially the skates. From his first pair of skates to today’s styles, it seems to him like everything seemed to go by so much faster as he skated around the rink. His advice to skaters of all ages is to absolutely never give up. His first four years in the sport, he lost every single race he entered. But he kept at it and trained hard and when he turned 16, he finally won his first race. “You just have to be willing to work hard, adapt, and overcome all obstacles and you can achieve any goal you set!”

When Greene is not skating or working, he enjoys biking, swimming and any sport he can do with Conor. Family is very central in Greene’s life, so he adores going on family walks and bike rides with Conor, his awesome wife Kecia, and their rescue lab Storm. Afterwards, a favorite activity is family movie nights.