

From skating champion to future broadcaster

CSU freshman works toward reporting after winning gold and making history

By Kelsey McCallister

While 19-year-old Brynn Carman is a relatively new CSU student, it has already been six years since she made American history. Carman is a former ice skater who proudly sports gold and silver medals from the U.S. National Paris Skating Championships.

Twists of fate turned Carman away from her goal of competing in the Olympics toward the possibility of reporting on the 2018 or later winter games. With that in mind, Carman joined the Colorado State University journalism program in 2013.

“I started skating at 4 because my mom watched it all the time on TV and I wanted to try it,” Carman explains. She hated her first lesson, but her mother insisted she finish the paid six-week course. By then, she was hooked.

Carman started off skating three days a week after school, but by the time she was 7 years old, she was skating before and after school five days a week. By age 9, she was commuting from Denver to Colorado Springs to train for pair skating at The Broadmoor Skating Center. That is where she started skating with her first partner, Chris Knierim.

After strenuous long-term training, Knierim and Carman won the 2008 U.S. Novice National Pair championship. “Somehow we managed to be in second after the short (program) and had a fighting chance to win,” Carman said. “The next day I attacked the program with everything I had. We won the competition by over 10 points and I was so proud of myself from overcoming pressure and a terrible skate the day before.”

Carman and Knierim were the first-ever American couple to successfully complete the “quad twist,” with Carman twisting four times in the air before being caught by Knierim.

“Unfortunately, it was a very difficult element and not healthy for Chris’s back or my heart,” Carman explained. “My heart rate was so fast it would have been very hard to finish a four and a half minute program after doing the element (spin).”

The pair then won the 2009 U.S. Junior Nationals pair silver medal before Knierim moved into a different level of competition. That is when Carman began skating with a new partner, A.J. Reiss, and made a very brave move to southern California, where she trained full time.

Carman and Reiss placed 13th in the 2010 Junior Worlds competition in the Netherlands and then they were the 2011 U.S. Junior Nationals pair pewter medalists (4th place).

But, things were about to change. “That summer I grew from 5 feet 1 inch to almost 5 feet 6 inches, Carman said. It threw everything off, all my jumps, throws, A.J. and my twists. I injured my back and feet and hardly competed all summer.”

Carman then made the difficult decision to switch to training for the gentler sport of ice dancing. “After almost a year of recovering from my double bunion surgery where they inserted plates and screws into my messed up feet, I took the ice again.

Carman moved to Michigan to start ice dancing, but even after taking almost a year off after surgery, the foot pain persisted.

“My coach wanted my orthopedic

“I chose journalism because when Chris and I won nationals we were interviewed, and I just thought it was the coolest thing ever.”

-Brynn Carman

A Look Back: Skating Through the Years

Year	Competition	Place
2007	U.S. Nationals Novice Pairs	4th
2008	U.S. Nationals Novice Pairs	1st
2009	U.S. Nationals Junior Pairs	2nd
2010	U.S. Nationals Pairs	5th
2011	U.S. Nationals Pairs	4th