



Some of the best teams in the world competed at the Prague Cup.

differ from our rink back home. We entered the double doors and I took a look at our surroundings, noticing advertisements in different languages, and realizing the boards around the ice were higher than in the United States. Rather than vending machines filled with Aquafina water or Gatorade, they were filled with the best cups of hot cocoa and cafe', or so my teammates said.

With a day in between our arrival and the short program, we had a little time to sight-see. I saw most of the city of Prague through



This artistic photograph taken by Sarah Arnold displays the Miami University senior free skate in Prague.

the lens of my camera. I am an avid photographer and normally don't go anywhere, particularly skating competitions, without my camera strapped around my neck. I enjoyed seeing the famous medieval Prague Astronomical Clock, the 9th Century Prague Castle and the detailed architecture of the buildings as they were originally designed.

Even though we weren't able to see the entire city, much of the international experience took place within the arena. On the evening of the short program, we walked into the arena, lined up our Redhawk skating bags against the wall, and found a designated area to warm up. Although I was supposed to pay attention to my team leaders, it was hard not to people watch. From the cheers being yelled in different languages, the other teams' warm-up rou-



tines, and even the way they style their hair and apply makeup, there was a lot to be distracted by. As my team recited "We are Miami! USA!" I couldn't help but smile and feel a sense of pride and joy in representing my country and school. The atmosphere was something I will never forget and an experience I certainly cannot have at home.

Each time I stand in line, waiting to step onto the ice to compete, I remind myself of what a unique sport figure skating is. So many people play soccer, basketball and tennis, but not everyone can skate. Our sport is extraordinary and I try to never forget that or take it for granted. Listening to the announcer say, "Please welcome to the ice Miami University, representing the United States of America" and looking into the stands, to see the flags brimming with stars and stripes waving from side to side, I could not have felt more fortunate for this incredible opportunity.

By Sarah Arnold



RINKSIDE

Legacy of Zamboni machine lives on at new arena

By Kama Korvela

When "The Monster" came rolling down the ice at the Daytona Arena, it was hard not to notice it. If the bold "B" painted on the side of the gigantic machine didn't capture a person's attention, perhaps the sounds of cracking walnut shells did.

At Bowdoin College, located in picturesque Brunswick, Maine, the Zamboni machine known to locals as "The Monster" has been a fixture since the mid-1950s. Though it's no longer used to resurface the ice, it's a part of the college's sports history.

"The Monster was, in its day, a strange behemoth of a vehicle," said Doug Boxer-Cook, director of news and media relations for Bowdoin College. "It was this big, slow-moving thing with crushed walnut shells in its tires. People must have wondered what was coming down the ice."

Bowdoin College purchased the ice resurfacer from Frank J. Zamboni (inventor of the machine) for \$8,476 in 1956 and became the fourth college in the United States to own a machine.

The same year, the college opened Daytona Arena, a facility used for ice hockey. It became home to "The Monster" for many years. Daytona

Arena, which provided ice for hockey players and recreational skaters, closed in January to make way for the state-of-the-art, energy-efficient Sidney J. Watson Arena.

When visitors enter the new Watson Arena, "The Monster" is waiting to greet them. It's prominently displayed in the facility's lobby.

While "The Monster" resurfaced the ice at Daytona Arena until the 1980s, it served more than just that purpose. The Zamboni Company studied the feedback that Bowdoin College provided them to improve future models of the ice surfacing machine.

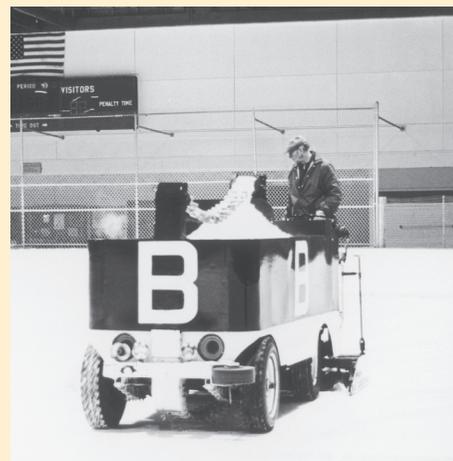
But there were a few problems caused by "The Monster," according to Doug Boxer-Cook.

"Construction of (Daytona) arena was actually held up by The Monster, as construction crews needed the Zamboni's performance dimensions – its turning radius and the like," Boxer-Cook said.

Bowdoin College is not only well-known for "The Monster," but also its winter sports legacy. Both its men's and women's ice hockey teams are top-ranked.

The Zamboni was created in 1949. Three-

time Olympic champion Sonja Henie discovered the resurfacer and bought a machine for herself the next year. In the years that followed, Zamboni continued to construct and sell the machines to rinks around the country. A vital figure in the sport of figure skating, Frank Zamboni was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Association Hall of Fame in 2000.



"The Monster" served its role admirably from the 1950s until the 1980s. It's now on display at the new Sidney J. Watson Arena.

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