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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TEAM NAMES NEW
HEAD COACH

*Former U.S. Gold and World Championship Silver Medalist Amanda Werner to Lead UNH
Synchronized Skating Team in U.S. Figure Skating's Collegiate Division*

DURHAM, N.H. May 3, 2010 – The University of New Hampshire's Synchronized Skating team announced today that it has named Amanda Werner as its new head coach. The UNH Synchronized Skating team is a club sport that competes in the Collegiate Division of U.S. Figure Skating, the governing body for all competitive figure skating in the United States.

Amanda Werner is originally from Newburyport, MA where she began her competitive figure skating career, she currently resides in Wilmington, MA. In addition to coaching the UNH synchronized team she will continue as a coach for the internationally recognized Colonial Figure Skating Club of West Acton, MA. She follows Shawna Ludy as UNH head coach. Ludy recently accepted a position in her home state of Illinois to become the head coach of the University of Illinois synchronized skating team.

Amanda Werner's figure skating credentials are impeccable. In her youth she skated with the Ice Liners, the Colonial figure skating teams as well as the Hayden Synchronized Skating Teams, winning both National and International medals through the Novice and Junior Divisions of USFS. During her collegiate competitive career she was a three-year member of Miami University's Senior Division synchronized skating team. While with Miami she helped the team win its second U.S. National Title and she was a member of the Miami team that became the first U.S. team to win a medal at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships during 2007. Werner is a 2009 graduate of Miami with a degree in marketing.

"We are fortunate to have an accomplished synchronized figure skater like Amanda Werner as our next coach and to lead our growing synchronized skating team here at UNH," said Meghann Ronan, President. "She not only has the experience of competing and winning medals at the highest levels, but she also has had the benefit of being coached during her competitive career by the two most iconic coaches within U.S. synchronized figure skating. She will bring a wealth of insights, coaching styles and techniques, as well as her passion for the sport and clearly her strong competitiveness to our team."



“I am excited to join the UNH skaters in helping to advance synchronized skating at the university level and lead these skaters to greater success,” said Amanda Werner. “The sport’s growth and fan interest is perfect for a university; I know this coming from Miami which is considered the premier University program in the nation. Not only will synchronized skating draw talented students to UNH, it’s a sport that powerfully supports Title IX requirements with twenty team members that are virtually all women. Synchro has no capital cost burden for the university and it is strongly supported by both U.S. Figure Skating and the International Skating Union. I believe it will be an Olympic Sport in the not too distant future,” she concluded.

ABOUT UNH SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

The UNH Synchronized Skating team is now in its 11th year of competing in U.S. Figure Skating competitions. Interest in UNH as a university for figure skaters is growing beyond New Hampshire’s borders because of the collegiate synchro team, which is in addition to all the benefits offered by the University including excellent academics, location and community. Synchro’s growth is partly due to the fact that singles, pairs, and dance competitors have few competitive avenues after high school. With a great hockey tradition, it is hoped that UNH will become a destination school in New England for figure skaters who want to continue their competitive careers. It’s a natural fit and complements the University’s already strong men’s and women’s hockey programs at UNH. For more information see www.unh.edu/figureskating