

Gustave Lussi

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Gustave Lussi today occupies dual positions in the figure skating circles. He is professional at the Minto Club and director of mid-summer skating operations at Lake Placid in the Adirondacks. There he inaugurated two years ago the summer ice tournament where annually the talent of the continent gathers in carnival mood for a unique and happy skating meet. The performers skate in the morning, go swimming in the afternoon and then thrill an elite audience with their brilliant show at night.

His first engagement in America was with the Skating Club of Philadelphia. Later he went to the Lake Placid Club and then returned to Philadelphia as senior skating instructor. He took the position of professional with the Toronto Skating Club in 1926 and remained there for five years when the Minto Club secured his services and he has been tutoring the youth of Ottawa since that date.

Pupils of Gustave Lussi have had eminent success in the figure skating field. Skaters developed by him have captured many Canadian and North American figure skating championships and his record in instruction work is an enviable one.

His prize products are Mrs. Constance Wilson Samuels and her brother Montgomery "Bud" Wilson. He took this pair in hand and trained them into champions of the continent. In 1927 Mrs. Samuels, then Constance Wilson, won the Canadian ladies singles and on the strength of that performance was chosen to represent Canada at the Olympic Winter sports skated at St. Moritz in 1928. In the world's championships at London, that same year, Ulric Salchow, president of the International Skating Union, pronounced the free-skating program with which Lussi had equipped her with "the best ever seen in Europe." That tribute coming from a man who had won eleven world's championships was a fulsome one.

He introduced the system of military group skating so well known under the title of "Tiller Girls" and this has been copied by Madison Square Garden and Atlantic City carnivals. The Grecian Court and the Black and White Symphony, two beautiful numbers skated tonight by Minto Club girls, are his creations.

The innovation of painting the ice which lends such attractive effect to the modern carnival setting was improved by Lussi and he has assisted in the

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designing of many Toronto and Minto Club group costumes.

The summer ice carnival which has made such a tremendous hit at Lake Placid has brought Gustave Lussi further national promise. Writing of it Richard T. Hapgood, secretary of the U. S. Figure Skating Association, has said in part:

“Nowhere else in the world have skaters from two different countries co-operated in such a friendly fashion. These carnivals have done more to promote strong friendship and mutual interest between skaters of two countries than any other single event. The guiding genius of these affairs has been Mr. Lussi whose work in carnival production and coaching of group skating is widely recognized in both countries as unique, distinctive and beneficial to the highest development of skating in North America.”