

## RISING STAR

# Jenna Syken of Wilmington the 2009 Israel National Figure Skating Ladies Champion

Jenna Syken, of Wilmington, is the 2009 Israel National Figure Skating Ladies Champion. She won the Israel Ladies Champion title in December, 2008, after months of training and determination, working through a sports injury. She suffered a near career ending back injury in August, 2007 that sidelined her from competing for 18 months. Recently, she has started back with training for the upcoming Olympic season.

Jenna, 18, started skating at age 2 ½ and has been competitively skating since the age of 5. She holds 15 Gold, 15 Silver, and 12 Bronze medals and trains at the Ice Works Skating Complex in Aston, Pa., where she is coached by Slava Uchitel. Ice Works Skating Complex is also the training rink of the new 2009 World Gold Medalists Russian Ice Dance Team of Oksana Domnina and Maxim Shablin and the 2009 World Silver Medalists U.S. Ice Dance Team of Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto.

“Being able to skate for and represent Israel a country that I love is an honor and means more to me than I can ever say. Every year the Nationals are held up in Metulla at the Canada Centre, and we all have such a great time. It’s just like coming home when you are in Israel. You get to know everyone up in Metulla, they remember you, and you can walk everywhere in town which is great,” Jenna added.

She is currently a high school senior in a college prep/honors program at the Oak Meadow School in Middleboro, Vt. This school allows Jenna to be privately tutored and enrolled in a long distance learning program, providing her time to skate, train, and travel the world.

Jenna is the daughter of Dr. Stephen and Naomi Syken of Weldin Park, Wilmington. Jenna’s older sister, Shayna, also skated and was the 1998 U.S.A. Junior Olympic Juvenile Ladies Champion

