

## ICE SKATING CHAMPIONS.

### Preparations for the International Contests Under Way.

The latest reports relative to Winter sports from the Old World predict a season of unusual activity among the skaters. The different associations are pushing preparations for the international contests, which will be of exceptional interest.

The amateur skating championships of the world for 1896 will be held at St. Petersburg on Feb. 9, 10, and 11. It is proposed to hold the figure-skating championship at the same time. The amateur championship of Europe has been placed under the management of the German and Austrian associations, and they have decided to hold the contests at Hamburg in January, the 500 and 5,000 meters races to be held on the 18th, and the 1,500 and 10,000 meters races the day following. The championships of the German and Austrian associations will be held at Darmstadt on Jan. 5.

The International Skating Union has concluded to have nothing further to do with the professional championship of the world. This decision will put a damper on English speed and figure skating, as nearly all of the best British skaters are professionals.

According to *The Allgemeine Sport Zeitung*, J. J. Eden, the celebrated skater, has become a professional cyclist, even under the lax rules prevailing on the Continent. He is said to be proceeding to Paris to race with professionals there. Eden's position as an amateur skater is a very ambiguous one, to say the least, since he was refused a license by the National Cyclists' Union of England. But in America John S. Johnson occupies a position somewhat analogous to that of Eden. He, like Eden, was allowed to skate and win championships as an amateur. Both Johnson and Eden are prominent examples of the close affinity between cycling and skating.

A private letter from Rubenstein, the celebrated figure skater, is to the effect that he will compete in the United States figure-skating championships this year, and will also be a competitor at the world's figure-skating championship at St. Petersburg in February. Rubenstein is at his home in Canada, where he is taking light preparatory exercise until he shall have good ice to train on.

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