

= Kimmie Meissner =

Kimberly Claire " Kimmie " Meissner ( born October 4 , 1989 ) is an American former competitive figure skater . She is the 2006 World champion , the 2007 Four Continents champion , and the 2007 U.S. national champion . She is the first American and the first lady to simultaneously hold the World , Four Continents , and national titles .

In 2005 , Meissner became the second American woman to land the triple Axel jump in national competition . She was a member of the 2006 Olympic team and was the youngest American athlete to compete at those Games . She finished 6th at the Olympics in February 2006 and won the World Championships the following month .

She is a spokesperson for the Cool Kids Campaign , an organization that helps children with cancer .

= = Early life and education = =

Kimberly Meissner , nicknamed " Kimmie " , was born in Towson , Maryland , to Judy ( Roth ) and Paul Meissner . She is the youngest of four children and the only girl . She is Catholic . Her maternal great @-@ grandparents Paulina and Emmanuel Novo had emigrated separately from Spain during the 1920s . The latter was a fisherman from Galicia .

Meissner was a full @-@ time student at Fallston High School , a public high school and graduated from there in May 2007 . She entered the University of Delaware as a part @-@ time student in the fall semester of that year . Meissner trained for most of her career in Newark , Delaware at the University of Delaware Figure Skating Club , the club she represents in competition . Until February 2008 , Meissner lived in Maryland with her family , and lived at home while attending college . Following her coaching change after the 2008 U.S. Championships , Meissner moved to Fort Lauderdale , Florida .

In the fall of 2009 , Meissner moved back to Maryland . During 2010 @-@ 2012 , she attended the University of Delaware as a full @-@ time student . She transferred to Towson University for the spring semester of 2013 and changed her major to English . She graduated in December 2014 .

= = Skating career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Kimmie Meissner began figure skating at age six after watching her older brothers playing ice hockey . She landed her first triple , a salchow jump , six years later .

In the 1999 ? 2000 season , Meissner qualified for the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships on the juvenile level , where she placed 16th . The following season , she repeated that placement , but on the Intermediate level . In the United States , Juvenile and Intermediate @-@ level skaters compete at the U.S. Junior Championships , while Novice , Junior , and Senior @-@ level skaters compete at the U.S. Championships .

In the 2002 ? 03 season , Meissner placed second at her regional competition and won her sectional competition to qualify for the 2003 U.S. Championships on the novice level . At age thirteen , Meissner won the U.S. novice national title , after landing a triple lutz jump in her free skate . Following the 2003 U.S. Championships , Meissner was named to the team for the 2003 Triglav Trophy , where she won the bronze medal on the novice level .

From 2003 through 2008 , Meissner was coached by Pam Gregory at the University of Delaware Figure Skating Club . She moved up to the junior level in the 2003 ? 04 season . She won the silver medal at the first event of the 2003 ? 04 ISU Junior Grand Prix series , in Sofia , Bulgaria . She went on to win the Junior Grand Prix event in Bled , Slovenia , which qualified her for the Junior Grand Prix Final , where she placed 5th . At the 2004 U.S. Championships , Meissner was second behind Katy Taylor after the short program , but won the free skate , after landing two triple lutzes , to win

the Junior national title . At Nationals , Meissner was named to the U.S. team to the 2004 World Junior Championships , where she landed her first triple lutz @-@ triple toe combination in competition and won the silver medal behind Miki Ando .

In the summer of 2004 , Meissner began working on a triple Axel but stopped practicing the jump for two months due to a slight back injury . She moved up to the senior level nationally but remained a junior internationally . She was practicing four to five hours on most days . On the 2004 ? 05 ISU Junior Grand Prix series , the first season the ISU Judging System was being used in junior competition , she won silver medals at the event in Courchevel , France and a second silver medal at the event in Long Beach , California . Meissner 's two silver medals qualified her for the Junior Grand Prix Final in Helsinki , Finland , where she won the bronze medal , after placing seventh in the short program and second in the free skate .

On January 15 , 2005 , at the 2005 U.S. Championships , Meissner landed a triple axel jump , becoming only the second American lady to land the jump in competition , fourteen years after Tonya Harding became the first American lady to land the jump . Meissner won the bronze medal .

She was not age @-@ eligible for the senior World Championships and so was named in the U.S. team for the 2005 World Junior Championships . Meissner placed third in the short program and fourth in the free , placing fourth overall . Afterwards , Meissner went to Worlds as a guest of ESPN and watched from the sidelines .

= = = 2005 ? 06 season = = =

Kimmie Meissner moved to the senior level internationally beginning in the 2005 ? 06 Olympic season . She made her Grand Prix debut at the 2005 Trophée Eric Bompard , where she placed sixth in the short program , fourth in the free skate , and fifth overall . She repeated that overall placement at her second event , the 2005 NHK Trophy , where she placed third in the short program and fifth in the free skate . At the 2006 U.S. Championships , Meissner won the silver medal and was named to the U.S. team to the 2006 Winter Olympics .

Meissner was the youngest athlete on the United States Olympic team . She spent the first week of the Games training in Courmayeur , moving to Torino proper a few days before the ladies event began . Meissner skated second in the short program and landed a triple lutz @-@ triple toe loop combination to place fifth in that segment of the competition . Skating second @-@ to @-@ last in the final flight of the free skate , Meissner placed sixth in the free skate and overall .

Following the Olympics , Meissner returned to Baltimore . On the return flight , she partially ruptured one of her eardrums and fully ruptured the other . This affected her hearing as she trained for the 2006 World Championships , her first senior ISU Championship . At Worlds , Meissner placed second in her qualifying group and fifth in the short program , putting her in third place overall going into the free skate . During the free skate , Meissner completed seven triple jumps , including two triple @-@ triple combinations , to win the title . This win made her the first woman since Kristi Yamaguchi to win a world title before a national title . Meissner is also the first woman to win Worlds on her first appearance since Oksana Baiul in 1993 . She is the seventh @-@ youngest ladies World Champion in history . Meissner has described this win as changing her career from being the underdog to being expected to win every competition she entered .

= = = 2006 ? 07 season = = =

Meissner began the 2006 ? 07 season at the 2006 Skate America , where she won the silver medal , the highest finish of her career until then at a Grand Prix event . At her second Grand Prix event , the 2006 Trophée Eric Bompard , she fell on a triple Axel attempt and placed third overall . At the 2007 U.S. Championships , Meissner went in as the favorite . She won the title , after winning the short program and placing third in the free skate . This made her the first ladies skater since Barbara Roles to win the national title on the Novice , Junior , and Senior levels .

After Nationals , Meissner went to the Four Continents Championships , a competition for senior @-@ level skaters who are not from Europe , for the first time in her career . She fell on her triple

@-@ triple combination in the short program and was in sixth place going into the free skate . She won the free skate and the competition overall , becoming the first U.S. ladies champion to become the Four Continents Champion .

After Four Continents , Meissner competed at the 2007 World Championships . She achieved a new personal best for her short program where she placed fourth . She did not complete either of her triple @-@ triple combinations in the free skating and placed third in that segment of the competition and fourth overall .

= = = 2007 ? 08 season = = =

Meissner began the 2007 ? 08 season by beating reigning World Champion Miki Ando at the 2007 Skate America . This was Meissner 's first win the Grand Prix series . She then placed second at the 2007 Trophée Eric Bompard , qualifying her for the Grand Prix Final , where she placed sixth . At the time , she was skating on a sprained right ankle , an injury she sustained during a show .

Before the 2008 U.S. Championships , Meissner worked on her spins with Todd Eldredge . She placed 4th in the short program and 7th in the free after falling three times . She placed 7th overall and was selected for the U.S. team to the 2008 World Championships . After Nationals , Eldredge called her with more input on her spins and recommended his long @-@ time coach Richard Callaghan . Meissner made the choice to switch coaches from long @-@ time coach Pam Gregory to a temporary arrangement with Richard Callaghan in Ft . Lauderdale , Florida . She trained with Callaghan for the six weeks between Nationals and the 2008 World Championships .

At the 2008 World Championships , Meissner placed 9th in the short program and 12th in the long . She placed 7th overall and was the highest placed American in the competition . In the off @-@ season , she toured with Stars on Ice and trained with both Callaghan and Eldredge .

= = = Post @-@ 2008 career = = =

Both Callaghan and Eldredge coached Meissner during the 2008 ? 09 season . She began the season at the 2008 Skate America , where she placed 7th . She also placed 7th at the 2008 Cup of Russia . On January 19 , 2009 , Meissner announced her withdrawal from the 2009 U.S. Championships due to injury .

In the fall of 2009 , Meissner moved back to Maryland . Chris Conte became her coach and also choreographed ice show programs for her . Meissner had been assigned to the 2009 Rostelecom Cup and the 2009 NHK Trophy for the Grand Prix season . She announced her withdrawal from both events on October 8 , 2009 due to an injury to her right knee . Due to this , she did not receive a bye to the 2010 U.S. Championships and was too late to register to compete at the regional championships , thereby ending her season . She did not return to amateur competition . Commenting in July 2016 , she said , " The injury wasn 't devastating , but things in my personal life all happened at the same time . "

Meissner continues to appear in ice shows and pro @-@ am events . During the 2014 ? 15 season , she performed as a full @-@ time member for the US Stars on Ice tour .

= = Public life , charity work and endorsements = =

When Meissner returned from the 2006 Olympic Games , a parade was held in her honor in her hometown of Bel Air . Following her win at the 2006 Worlds , the town gave one of its main roads , Pennsylvania Avenue , the honorary title of Kimmie Way . She threw out the ceremonial first pitch for the Phillies opening day game , and a week later for her hometown team , the Baltimore Orioles , on April 14 , 2006 .

Following Meissner 's win at the 2007 U.S. Championships , she signed endorsement deals with Subway , Under Armour , and Visa . She has appeared in Subway commercials , including a regional @-@ Baltimore one following the 2006 Olympics , and a national one with Jared Fogle . She appeared in the Under Armour commercial shown during Super Bowl XLII . Meissner appeared

in the music video for Speed Feels Better by Michael Tolcher wearing an Under Armour sweatshirt .  
Following the 2006 World Championships , Meissner became a spokesperson for the Cool Kids Campaign , an organization for children with cancer . She designed gel bracelets for the organization as a fundraiser . On August 25 , 2007 , she put on a benefit show in Baltimore called " Kimmie 's Angels on Ice " to benefit the charity . Meissner also co @-@ edits the newsletter for the charity .

During the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi , Russia , Meissner worked as a figure skating researcher for NBC Olympics .

= = Programs = =

= = = Post @-@ 2010 = = =

= = = Pre @-@ 2010 = = =

= = Results = =

GP : Grand Prix ; JGP : Junior Grand Prix