EVA PATE AND LOGAN BYE: FROM A LATE START TO GOLD MEDALISTS

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For many figure skaters, winning an international competition is a big deal. For some, it happens all the time, while others may never reach the ability to do so.

Eva Pate and Logan Bye didn't just win an international competition; they've done it twice, and their partnership came much later than the couples around them.

Pate and Bye's partnership started in June 2019 when Pate was 19 and Bye was 21, but they started skating a lot earlier than that.

Pate's first time on the ice came when she was five years old, when she attended a Girl Scout troop event at an ice rink in Strongsville, Ohio with her grandmother.

"I remember I couldn't stand up and my grandma called my mom and told her that I was falling all over the place and slipping and sliding like Bambi," Pate said. "Once she got there, I asked her for lessons because I was a competitive gymnast, so you know, my mom thought it would come easy to me to skate and it didn't, so I really wanted to learn how and challenge myself."

Meanwhile, Bye started skating at four years old to improve his skiing and ended up falling in love with the sport as time went on.

"My family and I had all skied, like we had season passes to be able to go to Breckenridge [Ski Resort] but a lot of times during the summer you obviously couldn't do that," Bye said. "So, I was skating more and more, and I think it was noticeable in the rink that I had some talent or at least something to be able to pursue and so it kind of just ended up being that I skated more."

Even though the two started skating competitively, they both had different experiences before joining forces in June 2019.

Pate first competed in the US National Solo Dance Series from 2012-2017, medaling seven times.

"I remember getting nervous for solo dance competitions, just trying to work through my nerves," Pate said. "But I really liked performing and that was my thing, but my ultimate goal was finding a partner."

Bye competed with Chloe Lewis between 2010 and 2018. Together, they won the silver medal at the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics.

Pate and Bye's skating journey started in June 2019, when they first announced their partnership in the Ice Dance. The partnership came easy to them because they started dating in 2018 and got married on May 18, 2024.

Pate emphasized that the pair were already dating before their partnership and had similar mindsets towards figure skating and their relationship.

"For us, being on the same wavelength was easy cause we knew we would, but it was whether physically we matched and if we felt good on the ice when we started skating together," Bye added. "From there it was like, well, it was a no-brainer."

In their first season together, they only skated at the U.S National Championships, where they finished seventh. The following year, the pair placed seventh at both Skate America and Nationals.

But in the 2021-22 season, the pair received their first international podium, placing third at the U.S. Classic. They followed that up with three podiums, all second place finishes, at the Nepela Memorial, U.S. Classic and Lake Placid Ice Dance International.

Their breakout moment came at the Autumn Classic in the 2023-24 season, where they earned their first ever international gold medal.

"I remember when they announced that we were going to Montreal to compete, and I was really nervous and I was like, well, let's just got for it, there's nothing we can lose," Pate said.

"I remember feeling really comfortable at that competition," Bye said. "I think it helped me to feel more relaxed that I didn't put a lot of pressure on myself and I didn't have any expectations."

Winning the Autumn Classic meant a lot to Pate and Bye.

"That was a big step for us because we were against pretty difficult teams," Pate said. "When we got our score for our rhythm dance, I was so surprised and I had like the best reaction ever."

"We have a digital photo frame, and it pops up every once in a while, and I'm like, oh, that was so nice," Pate added.

The following year, Pate and Bye added two more third place finishes to their resume. In the 2025-26 season, they added a second Challenger Series win at the Lombardia Trophy in Bergamo, Italy, along with a win at the Ice Challenge.

"There was a team that skated after us and they were in front of us and when they said they were in second I started crying," Pate said.

Pate and Bye's days on the ice are long, often starting early and getting home late.

Their days normally start around 8:45 a.m., getting home around 6:30 p.m., with them spending around five and a half hours on the ice, coaching before and after.

Off the ice, Bye loves to cook, with his "signature" dish being a chicken piccata, while Pate loves the beef stew Bye has been making recently.

Bye also loves building LEGOs, with his go-to sets being Star Wars and Harry Potter. Most recently, he built a Mandalorian N1 Starfighter which is one of his favorites.

Pate also likes to build LEGOs. She recently built an R2D2, which is one of the first Lego sets she completed by herself.

On her free days, Pate loves to read; she has gotten really into fantasy books as of late.

This season, Pate and Bye placed 10th at the Nepela Memorial and sixth at the Grand Prix de France which tied their third best placing at a Grand Prix.

Their next competition is the Cup of China this weekend. The Rhythm Dance is on Friday, Nov. 6, at 1:45 a.m. EST. The Free Dance is on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 1:30 a.m. EST. You can watch both events on Peacock or the ISU's YouTube Channel.



Figure skaters Eva Pate and Logan Bye compete in the U.S. Figure Skating Competition in St. Louis in January 2026. The pair's next competition is the Cup of China this upcoming weekend.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @EVA.PATE ON INSTAGRAM



Figure skaters Eva Pate and Logan Bye pose for a photo in their U.S. Figure Skating gear. The pair's next competition is the Cup of China this upcoming weekend.

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WILKER'S WEEKLY: FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF NFL ACTION

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Klint Kubiak's Raiders are the 2017 Buffalo Bills reincarnated

2017 was the first season Sean McDermott coached the Buffalo Bills, and the first season since 1999 they made the postseason. Tyrod Taylor led the Bills to a 9-7 finish, but they were bounced in the wildcard by the Blake Bortles-led Jaguars. The following season, the Josh Allen era began.

Expecting the 4-4 Raiders to make the playoffs may be a bit overzealous, but it isn't out of the question; Kirk Cousins leads the league in passing touchdowns, and they rank sixth in PPG. A finish around .500 likely sees them miss the postseason, but set an excellent foundation ahead of Fernando Mendoza's first season as the starter in 2027.

Tennessee needs to seriously evaluate the quarterback position

All the debate over whether Cam Ward or Shedeur Sanders was the premier prospect leading up to the 2025 NFL Draft meant nothing in the end. While Sanders is the backup in Cleveland, Ward hasn't been the player fans would have hoped in Year 2. After totaling 17 touchdowns and seven turnovers as a rookie, the addition of Carnell Tate and Wan'Dale Robinson hasn't been enough to elevate the former Miami Hurricane.

Through eight games, Ward has totaled eight touchdowns and five turnovers, surpassing 200 passing yards only twice. The 1-7 Titans won their only game of the year against the Colts in Week 6 by relying on the run game and defense. Tony Pollard's 19 carries were his most of the season to that point, while a blocked punt led to a touchdown by Femi Oladejo. Ward managed just 102 passing yards in that game.

This past week was a step in the right direction for Ward, as he surpassed 300 yards passing for the first time in his career. Nonetheless, Robert Saleh wasn't the one to draft him, and the Titans are likely to hold a top three pick in a draft that features Oklahoma State's Drew Mestemaker.

Jim Harbaugh will be fired by the end of the season

The Chargers had one of the most difficult schedules in the NFL coming into the season, but given their playoff berth last season, being in the playoff conversation come December seemed more than reasonable. A 0-7 start has done all but erase that possibility.

L.A.'s squad is built to win now, but Justin Herbert's poor play has weighed the squad down severely, and it appears Harbaugh may be the one to pay the price. Looking at their schedule over the next few weeks, there isn't a game that sticks out as particularly winnable until they host the Jets at the end of November, at which point they could be 0-9.

Ownership paid Herbert $260 million in a deal that runs until 2029, meaning he's here to stay. Don't be surprised to see Mike McDaniel coaching in place of Harbaugh after the trade deadline.

Mike Vrabel's Patriots have the depth to make another Super Bowl push

"I do not think we have a very deep team," is a concerning thing to hear from a head coach, and that's exactly what Mike Vrabel said following the Patriots' preseason win over the Eagles. At the time, he may have been correct.

The Patriots relied heavily on free agents signed to short-term deals to provide depth for them in 2025, and it worked to a tee. K'Lavon Chaisson, Khyiris Tonga, Jack Gibbens and Jaylinn Hawkins all offered stability. In contrast, Kevin Byard was the only player to sign a one-year deal during the spring to make the initial roster.

Surprise breakouts from players like Efton Chism and Elijah Ponder, along with contributions from veterans like Charles Woods and Kindle Vildor, have been key in the team's success. The rookie class has been a major role in the squad's 5-3 start as well, with Gabe Jacas performing and Eli Raridon stepping into his TE2 role like a veteran. Rookie tackle Caleb Lomu? He's looked like a ten-year starter from the jump. Coach Vrabel couldn't have been more wrong.

Jaxon Smith-Njigba is (officially) the best receiver in football

Having nearly 1,800 yards and winning OPOY would be more than enough for JSN to be considered the best receiver in football by most. In 2025, he undoubtedly was, but with Justin Jefferson's quarterback situation a mess and Ja'Marr Chase eclipsing 1,200 yards in four of his first five seasons, I was hesitant to give the Emerald City Route Artist the crown. In the first month and a half of 2026, however, he's proven to be nothing but a model of consistency; even with Drew Lock at the helm for the first two weeks, the former Ohio Buckeye has eclipsed the century mark in seven of eight games to start the year.

Totaling 985 yards and nine touchdowns from 64 catches in the first eight games of the season, Smith-Njigba is the OPOY frontrunner, and on pace to become the first 2,000-yard receiver ever. If he were to win a second OPOY award, he'd join eight other players in NFL history to do so. Among those players, Jerry Rice is the only receiver and one of two players who have won the award back-to-back.



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Jaxson Smith-Njigba practices on the field. Smith-Njigba's first NFL season was in 2023 after playing at Ohio State University.

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