

NAPERVILLE SUN: Lysacek scores well in first appearance

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Organizers of a "Dancing with the Stars" Premiere Party, Dr. Robert Weil (center) and Denise Provenzano (second from right) cheer as 2010 Olympic figure skating gold medalist Evan Lysacek starts his dance on the reality TV dance competition Monday night.

(Danielle Gardner/Staff Photographer)

Winter Olympic gold medalist and Naperville native Evan Lysacek pulled equally impressive scores on his first night of "Dancing with the Stars."

Monday's broadcast on ABC marked the Season 10 premiere for the popular dancing program, which also featured celebrities as diverse as former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson, ex-"Jon and Kate Plus 8" star and tabloid mainstay Kate Gosselin and 80-year-old astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

During a Viennese waltz with partner Anna Trebunskaya to the song "I'll Be" by Edwin McCain, Lysacek got scores of 8 from judge Carrie Ann Inaba, 7 from judge Len Goodman, 8 from judge Bruno Tonioli, for a total of 23. Only Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger scored higher, with 25.

In judges comments Tonioli said, "You are moving with the grace of a swan! Wonderful, wonderful!" while Inaba said: "You are GOOD!"

In the introduction, Lysacek noted that the turns in dancing are in the opposite direction of skating. He also said that after hearing so many comments about the precision of his skating style during the recent Winter Olympics, he wanted to develop dancing skills.

The second episode airs at 7 p.m. Monday and will feature a Latin dance. The first elimination will be in Monday's competition.