

# MAO ASADA

(2009 PROFILE)

---

## PERSONAL DATA

**Age:** 18 (Born: 9/25/1990)

**Height:** 5' 4" (1.62 m)

**Birthplace:** Nagoya Aichi, Japan

**Home Town:** Nagoya Aichi, Japan

**Home Club:** Chukyo University

**Coach:** Tatiana Tarasova

**Education:** Chukyo High School

**Family Information:** Youngest of two children. Sister Mai is also an elite competitive figure skater.

As one of the most powerful jumpers in the world, Mao Asada has leapt to the top of the figure skating world this past year. Asada, who originally began training as a ballerina, switched to figure skating at age five and is the only woman to ever land two triple axels (the most difficult triple jump in the sport) in one program. She landed her first triple axel when she was just 12. These jumps are especially difficult for skaters, both men and women, to execute properly, because they are the only jump with a forward takeoff with an extra half of a rotation. Simply put, a triple axel has 3 ½ revolutions compared to the usual three revolutions for other triples. Asada's skating has been so strong that many believed she would have won an Olympic medal, perhaps even the gold, had she been old enough to compete in the 2006 Winter Games in Torino. According to International Skating Union rules, competitors must be 16 to compete in the Olympics, and at the time of the Olympics, Asada was only 15. During the 2005-06 competitive campaign (the season leading up to the Torino Olympics) Asada proved to be a veritable threat, beating Shizuka Arakawa (the eventual 2006 Olympic gold medalist) at the Cup of China. At another Grand Prix event in France, Asada beat Sasha Cohen, who went on to win the silver medal in Torino, and additionally won the prestigious Grand Prix Final, which features the top six skaters of the season. Among the competitors Asada beat was Irina Slutskaya, a two-time world champion who won the bronze medal in the 2006 Games. Two years after the Olympics, Asada went on to win her first world title at the 2008 World Figure Skating Championships in Sweden. Now 18, she is old enough to compete in the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, and is considered to be one of the top medal contenders. Asada began her skating training in her native Japan but relocated to Southern California, along with her elder sister, Mai, to train with Rafael Artunian in August, 2006. She worked with him until early in 2008 when she moved back to Japan. Upon her return, she trained at Chukyo University and traveled to the World Championships without a coach. Currently, she is working with Tatiana Tarasova, a prominent Russian coach who guided Ilia Kulik to the 1998 Olympic gold medal and has worked with countless Olympians. Asada works with Tarasova in Russia but leading up to the 2009 World Championships she will work with Tarasova in Japan. Then the two will travel to Los Angeles as Asada attempts to defend her world title. Her short program for the 2008-09 season is to "Claire de Lune" by Debussy and her free skate is to "Masquerade" by Aram Khachaturian. Outside of the rink, Asada also leads an active life. She was scheduled to graduate from high school in February, 2009 and is very popular in Japan, appearing in commercials for several major corporations, including Olympus Corporation and Nestlé. With the status of a rock star, Asada also had her own skating exhibition in Japan. One of the most dramatic and inspiring skaters of this era, Mao Asada is a name to remember as we approach the 2010 Olympics.

## MAO ASADA COMPETITIVE RECORD

### 2008-2009 SEASON

\*2009 Four Continents Championships- 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2009 National Championships- 1<sup>st</sup> (Senior)  
\*Trophee Bompard 2008- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
\*NHK Trophy 2008- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*SBS ISU Grand Prix Final 2008/2009- 1<sup>st</sup>

### 2007-2008 SEASON

\*2008 World Championships- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*2008 Four Continents Championships- 1<sup>st</sup>  
2008 National Championships- 1<sup>st</sup> (Senior)  
\*HomeSense Skate Canada 2007- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*Trophee Eric Bompard 2007- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*ISU Grand Prix Final 2008- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
\*NHK Trophy 2008- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*Trophee Bompard 2008- 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 2005-2006 SEASON

\*2006 World Junior Championships- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2006 National Championships- 2<sup>nd</sup> (Senior)  
\*ISU Grand Prix Final 2006- 1<sup>st</sup>  
Skate America 2006- 3<sup>rd</sup>

### 2006-2007 SEASON

\*2007 World Championships- 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2007 National Championships- 1<sup>st</sup> (Senior)  
\*NHK Trophy 2006- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*ISU Grand Prix Final 2007- 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 2004-2005 SEASON

\*2005 World Junior Championships- 1<sup>st</sup>  
2005 National Championships- 1<sup>st</sup> (Junior)  
\*ISU Junior Grand Prix Final 2005- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*Trophee Eric Bompard 2005- 1<sup>st</sup>  
\*Cup of China 2005- 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 2003-2004 SEASON

2004 National Championships- 4<sup>th</sup> (Junior)  
\*ISU Junior Grand Prix 2004- 1<sup>st</sup>  
Skate Long Beach 2004- 1<sup>st</sup> (Junior)

### 2002-2003 SEASON

2003 National Championships- 4<sup>th</sup> (Junior)

\*International Competition

## PERSONAL BESTS

Type	Date	Score	Event	Event Category	Discipline	Level
Total	02.12.2006	199.52	NHK Trophy 2006	Ladies	Singles	Seniors
SP/OD	01.12.2006	69.50	NHK Trophy 2006	Ladies	Singles	Seniors
SP/OD Technical	01.12.2006	40.30	NHK Trophy 2006	Ladies	Singles	Seniors
SP/OD Component	28.11.2008	30.24	NHK Trophy 2008	Ladies	Singles	Seniors
FS/FD	24.03.2007	133.13	World Championships 2007	Ladies	Singles	Seniors
FS/FD Technical	15.12.2007	73.35	ISU Grand Prix Final 2008	Ladies	Singles	Seniors
FS/FD Component	24.03.2007	63.49	World Championships 2007	Ladies	Singles	Seniors