

DEREK HOUGH

BY: ERICA COLVIN

Derek Hough, USA Dance Alumni, was named the newest champion of *Dancing With the Stars* with celebrity partner, Brooke Burke. According to *abc.com*, Derek has been dancing since he was 11 years old. When Derek was 12, he and his sister Julianne Hough moved to London to live and train with dance coaches, Shirley and Corky Ballas. It was here that Derek became best friends with his coaches' son, Mark Ballas.

Mark and Derek are also members of the band, AlmostAmy, which recently signed on with Hollywood Records. Check out www.almost-amy.com for more info.

AD: *How did it feel winning Dancing With the Stars?*

Derek Hough: It was awesome. It was a big relief. It was so different this season; the workload was non-stop and a lot heavier than other seasons. I wasn't overly confident about the season, too. When we won I was very surprised and excited. After all of our hard work, it finally paid off. My sister and best friend have both won, now all three of us have taken a trophy.

AD: *What was it like working with Brooke?*

Derek Hough: It was great. She is very nice and she never complained. She trusted me 100% from day one. It worked out very well. She was completely fearless. She really pushed herself to her full potential.

AD: *What projects are you working on now?*

Derek Hough: Right now I am rehearsing for the DWTS tour, our band [AlmostAmy] tour is going out on tour at the same time. During the season my band recorded an album, it was all very tough.

Congratulations to Derek and Brooke for an outstanding season. To see video clips, bios and photos from this season's *Dancing With the Stars* and for more information on Derek Hough, check out www.abc.com. ■



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