



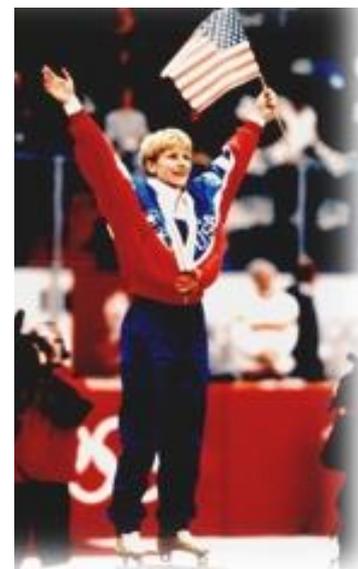
Wolverine Since 1888 Speedskating Team Sports Club



Legendary Sport

American speedskaters have produced more Olympic Winter medals than any other sport in US history along with several of the greatest feats in Olympic history.

Among them are the five gold medals won by 21 year old Eric Heiden at the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, NY and the capture of the first short track gold medal by Cathy Turner in the 500. Dan Jansen's dramatic golden victory in Lillehammer, Norway will never be forgotten. And of course, there is Bonnie Blair, the skater from Champaign, Ill., who won more medals (six) than any other woman in summer or winter competition. Most recently, there's Apolo Anton Ohno who has won several medals including gold at both the 2002 and 2006 Olympics.





Wolverine Since 1888 Speedskating Team Sports Club



Background

Wolverine Speedskating is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. As part of the U.S. Speedskating Association, our mission is to develop young skaters that can move on "to win Olympic and World Championship medals."

Every action we take is measured against that mission and much of our resources are devoted to it.

Our chief responsibility is to prepare athletes and teams to represent the United States for international competition. Within the sport, there are two primary disciplines: long track and short track.

We also have a number of recreational skaters ranging from 4 to 79 years of age who enjoy being part of the historic Wolverine Sports Club





Wolverine Since 1888 Speedskating Team

Sports Club



Long Track



Long track speedskating is a pure and uncomplicated sport. It combines raw power with fluent grace and finesse. Racing against the clock, skaters compete in up to five distances ranging from 500- meters to 10,000- meters.

Athletes specialize as "sprinters" or "all-rounders". Sprinters compete in the 500- and 1000- meter events, the all-rounders focus on the distance events: 1500-, 3000-, 5000- and 10,000- meters.

All long track competitions are contested on a 400- meter oval. Skating head-to-head, the athletes race in separate lanes. As they compete, there are up to two athletes on the ice at any given moment.

Annually, the U.S. Speedskating Long Track Team competes in up to twenty-five events worldwide in destinations such as Norway, Italy, Holland, Japan, Korea, Canada, Germany, Finland, Austria, Poland and of course, in the United States.



Wolverine Since 1888 Speedskating Team Sports Club



Short Track

Short track races are fast and thrilling. A pack of four to six skaters race against each other, rather than the clock. This is the primary discipline of the Wolverine Club.

Much like NASCAR on ice, spectators relish the compressed action of a fast-moving pack on a small track, anticipating spills and occasional contact between competitors.

The ability to read a race and its competition is vital to getting positioned for the win. A typical strategy might involve one competitor taking the lead quickly and setting a fast pace in an effort to "burn out" the other skaters. Or a slow pace is set with skaters jockeying for position in anticipation of a sprint for the finish line during the last three or four laps.



Short track made its official Olympic debut at the 1992 Winter Games, after having been a demonstration sport in 1988. It is contested in indoor rinks on a 111- meter track -- an international size hockey rink (30 x 60 meters).