FLASHFEED STUDY GUIDE

# Winter Olympic Trivia: Frozen Glories, Miracle Ice & Alpine Royalty

Study guide by FlashFeed

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# Winter Olympic Trivia: Frozen Glories, Miracle Ice & Alpine Royalty: study guide

The Winter Olympics from Chamonix 1924 and figure skating's historic rivalries through the 1980 Miracle on Ice, hockey dynasties and golden goals, Eric Heiden's speed-skating sweep, alpine skiing, halfpipe snowboarding, bobsled and luge.

| | |
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| **Edition** | November 2026 (2026-11-21) |
| **Pack version** | 1.0.13 |
| **Contents** | 4 lessons · 193 cards in the app · 40 self-test questions · 54 pictures |
| **In the app** | flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/winter-olympic-trivia |

## How to use this guide

Take one lesson at a time: read the study guide, then go over any key facts. Where a lesson has a self-test, try it from memory before you check the answer key at the back. Follow the Go deeper links when you want more.

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LESSON 1 OF 4

# Chamonix 1924 Origins & Figure Skating Royalty

Chamonix 1924 & Winter Foundations · Figure Skating Royalty & Historic Duels

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify the foundation history, inaugural medalists, and scheduling milestones of the Winter Olympic Games from 1924 to 1994.
- Recall landmark jump milestones, high-stakes Olympic duels, and scoring reforms in figure skating history.

## Chamonix 1924 & Winter Foundations

The Winter Olympic Games were born in the shadow of Mont Blanc at **Chamonix, France, in 1924**. Originally staged under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee as **'International Winter Sports Week'**, the festival proved so successful that the IOC retroactively designated it as the **first official Olympic Winter Games** in 1926. The inaugural program gathered **16 participating nations** and over 250 athletes competing in 16 events across 9 sports disciplines.

On **January 26, 1924**, American speed skater **Charles Jewtraw** earned his place in history by winning the **first-ever Winter Olympic gold medal**. Racing on the outdoor oval at Chamonix, the skater from Lake Placid, New York, conquered the 500-meter speed skate in **44.0 seconds**, defeating world-class Scandinavian favorites. Finland's **Clas Thunberg** dominated the endurance distances at Chamonix, claiming five medals, including three golds.

Winter sports, however, predated Chamonix within the Olympic movement. **Figure skating** made its Olympic debut at the **London 1908 Summer Olympics**, where Swedish innovator Ulrich Salchow won the men's singles gold. Twelve years later, **ice hockey** debuted at the **Antwerp 1920 Summer Games**, where the Winnipeg Falcons swept through the tournament to claim Canada's first ice hockey gold.

For seven decades, the Summer and Winter Games were celebrated in the **same calendar year (1924–1992)**. In 1986, the IOC voted to adjust the schedule so that Summer and Winter Games would alternate on separate **two-year cycles**, beginning with the spectacular **Lillehammer 1994 Winter Games**.

A rare fraternity of athletes has crossed the seasonal divide to claim Olympic glory in both Summer and Winter Games. American **Eddie Eagan** stands alone as the only athlete in history to win gold medals in different sports at both Summer and Winter Games: he captured the **light heavyweight boxing gold at Antwerp 1920** and returned 12 years later to win gold in the **four-man bobsled at Lake Placid 1932**. East German speed skater **Christa Luding-Rothenburger** achieved another unique feat at **Calgary 1988 and Seoul 1988**, becoming the only athlete to win both Winter (speed skating gold) and Summer (track cycling silver) medals in the **same calendar year**.

# Figure Skating Royalty & Historic Duels

Figure skating is the artistic crown jewel of the Winter Olympics, blending elite acrobatic athleticism with expressive theatrical artistry. The sport's first global icon was Norway's **Sonja Henie**, who captured **three consecutive Olympic women's singles gold medals (1928 St. Moritz, 1932 Lake Placid, 1936 Garmisch-Partenkirchen)**. Competing from age 11, Henie revolutionized figure skating by introducing short skirts, white skates, and elegant balletic choreography before embarking on a blockbuster Hollywood film career.

In the men's division, American **Dick Button** dominated the post-WWII era, winning back-to-back gold medals at **St. Moritz 1948** and **Oslo 1952**. Button pushed the technical frontier of the sport, landing the first in-competition **double axel** in 1948 and the first **triple loop** in 1952, while pioneering the flying camel spin.

The most electrifying media spectacle in Winter Olympic history erupted at the **1994 Lillehammer Games**. Following the January 1994 assault on **Nancy Kerrigan** orchestrated by associates of rival **Tonya Harding**, the women's short program showdown drew an astronomical **126 million television viewers in the United States**—the sixth highest-rated program in American television history. On the ice, 16-year-old Ukrainian orphan **Oksana Baiul** delivered a lyrical, emotionally charged free skate to capture the gold medal by a razor-thin margin over Kerrigan.

Underdog triumphs define figure skating lore. At **Salt Lake City 2002**, 16-year-old American **Sarah Hughes** vaulted from fourth place after the short program to capture the gold medal by landing **seven clean triple jumps**, including two triple-triple combinations, upsetting teammates Michelle Kwan and Sasha Cohen. In 1998 at **Nagano**, 15-year-old **Tara Lipinski** became the youngest individual gold medalist in Winter Olympic history.

In the modern era, Japan's **Yuzuru Hanyu** captivated global audiences by winning consecutive men's Olympic golds at **Sochi 2014** and **PyeongChang 2018**, the first male repeat champion in 66 years since Dick Button. At **Beijing 2022**, American **Nathan Chen** cemented his supremacy by landing **five quadruple jumps** in a world record performance to capture gold.

Judging controversy in pairs skating at **Salt Lake City 2002**—where Canadian pair Jamie Salé and David Pelletier were initially awarded silver before a French judge confessed to vote-trading—prompted the International Skating Union (ISU) to abolish the historic **6.0 scoring system** in 2004, replacing it with the cumulative, criteria-based **International Judging System (IJS)**.

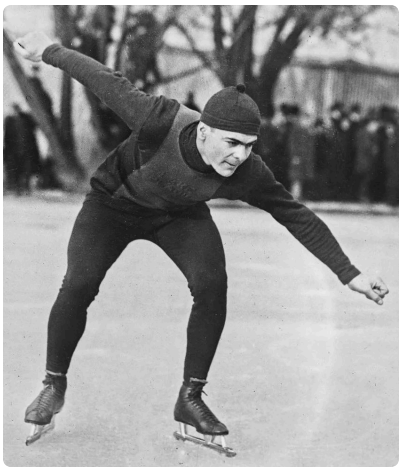
## Key facts




Halme, Yrjö / Otava · Public domain

### International Winter Sports Week

The event we now call the **first Winter Olympics** wasn't planned as one. In **1924**, the IOC staged a festival at **Chamonix, France**, under the modest name **'International Winter Sports Week.'** It drew **16 nations** and proved so popular that the IOC retroactively crowned it the first official Winter Olympic Games two years later, in 1926.



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### Charles Jewtraw's Historic 44 Seconds

On **January 26, 1924**, American speed skater **Charles Jewtraw** became the answer to a permanent trivia question: who won the first-ever Winter Olympic gold medal? Racing on the outdoor oval at Chamonix, the New Yorker from Lake Placid won the **500-meter speed skate in 44.0 seconds**, beating the favored Scandinavian skaters to the line.



The British Olympic Association · Public domain

### Figure Skating Predates the Winter Games

Winter sports were on the Olympic program long before there was a separate Winter Olympics. **Figure skating** made its Olympic debut at the **1908 London Summer Olympics**, a full **16 years** before the first Winter Games opened at Chamonix in 1924. Ice hockey followed the same path, debuting at the **1920 Antwerp Summer Games**.



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### 1920 Antwerp Summer Games

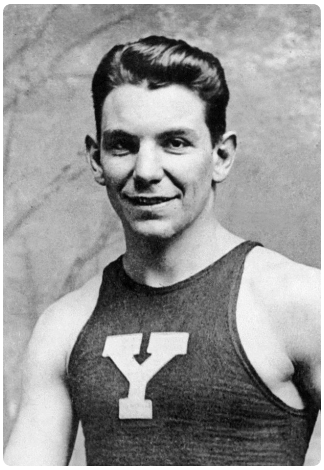
1920 Antwerp Summer Games — Host of the inaugural Olympic ice hockey tournament, where Canada's Winnipeg Falcons won gold.




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### Lillehammer Broke the Four-Year Tie

For seven decades, the Summer and Winter Games shared the same calendar year. In **1986**, the IOC voted to split them onto separate **two-year cycles**, and the **1994 Lillehammer Games** became the first Winter Olympics held under the new, staggered schedule.



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### Eddie Eagan

Eddie Eagan — Only athlete in history to win gold medals in different sports at Summer (Boxing 1920) and Winter (Bobsled 1932) Games.

### Christa Luding-Rothenburger

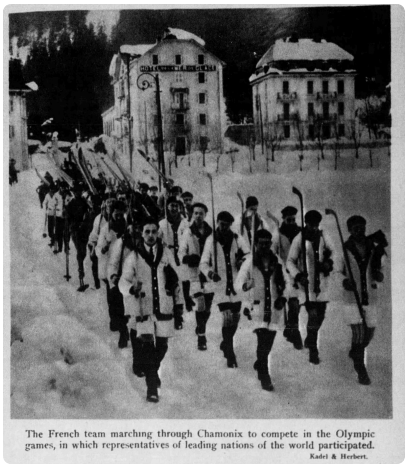
Christa Luding-Rothenburger — Only athlete to win Winter (Speed Skating) and Summer (Cycling) medals in the same calendar year in 1988.



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## Clas Thunberg's Two-Games Haul

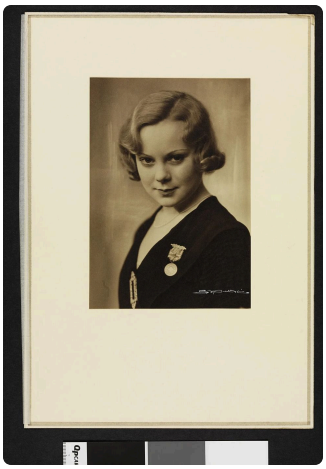
Finland's **Clas Thunberg** was the dominant force of early Olympic speed skating. At the inaugural **1924 Chamonix Games** he swept the endurance distances, taking home **five medals, including three golds**. He returned four years later at **1928 St. Moritz** to add two more golds, giving him **five gold medals** across the two Games.




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## A 16-Nation Debut

The inaugural Winter Games were a modest affair by modern standards. **16 nations** sent athletes to Chamonix in 1924, and together they competed in **16 events across 9 sports disciplines** — a footprint that has grown into the sprawling, multi-week Winter Olympics of today.



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## Sonja Henie

Sonja Henie — Norwegian figure skater who won three consecutive Olympic golds (1928, 1932, 1936) and pioneered short skirts and choreography.




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### Dick Button's Technical Firsts

American **Dick Button** dominated post-WWII men's figure skating, winning back-to-back Olympic gold at **St. Moritz 1948** and **Oslo 1952**. Along the way he pushed the sport's technical limits, landing the first **double axel** ever completed in Olympic competition in 1948, and the first **triple loop** in 1952.

> ### 126 Million Watched Lillehammer's Showdown
>
> Figure skating has never drawn a bigger American television audience than it did at the **1994 Lillehammer Games**. Following the attack on **Nancy Kerrigan** orchestrated by associates of rival **Tonya Harding**, the women's short program drew an estimated **126 million viewers** in the United States, the sixth highest-rated broadcast in American TV history.

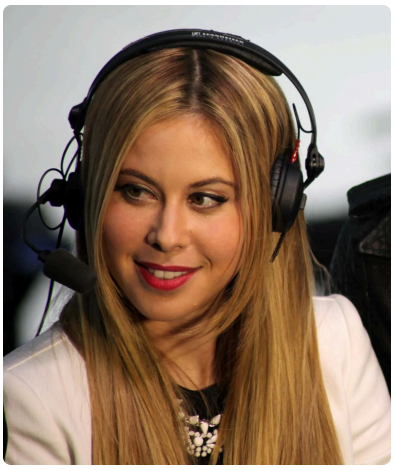


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### Oksana Baiul

Oksana Baiul — Ukrainian 16-year-old orphan who won the 1994 Lillehammer women's gold medal over Nancy Kerrigan.

> ### Sarah Hughes's Leap from Fourth to Gold
>
> At **Salt Lake City 2002**, 16-year-old American **Sarah Hughes** pulled off one of figure skating's great upsets. Sitting in fourth place after the short program, she skated a free program with **seven clean triple jumps**, including two triple-triple combinations, to vault past teammates Michelle Kwan and Sasha Cohen and capture the gold medal.



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### Tara Lipinski, Youngest Winter Champion

At the **1998 Nagano Games**, American **Tara Lipinski** won the women's figure skating gold at just **15 years old**, becoming the youngest individual gold medalist in Olympic figure skating history.

> **Yuzuru Hanyu**
>
> Yuzuru Hanyu — Japanese virtuoso who won back-to-back men's Olympic figure skating gold medals in 2014 and 2018.



David W. Carmichael · CC BY-SA 3.0

### Nathan Chen's Record Free Skate

American **Nathan Chen** cemented his place atop men's figure skating at the **2022 Beijing Games**, landing **five quadruple jumps** in a world-record free skate performance to capture Olympic gold.




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### Midori Ito

Midori Ito — First woman in history to land a triple axel in Olympic competition at Albertville 1992.

> **Why Figure Skating Scrapped the 6.0**
>
> Figure skating judging changed forever after a scandal. At **Salt Lake City 2002**, Canadian pair **Jamie Salé and David Pelletier** were initially awarded silver before a French judge admitted to vote-trading. In response, the International Skating Union abolished the old ordinal **6.0 scoring system** in 2004, replacing it with the **International Judging System (IJS)**, which awards cumulative points based on the base value and Grade of Execution (GOE) of every element performed.

## By the numbers

What was Charles Jewtraw's winning 500m speed skating time in seconds to claim the first Winter Olympic gold in 1924?

**44** seconds

How many years before the first separate 1924 Winter Games did figure skating debut at the 1908 Summer Olympics?

**16** years

How many consecutive Olympic men's figure skating gold medals did Sweden's Gillis Grafström win (1920–1928)?

**3** consecutive golds

How many total gold medals did Finland's Clas Thunberg win across the 1924 and 1928 Winter Games?

**5** gold medals

How many nations participated in the inaugural 1924 Chamonix Winter Olympic Games?

**16** nations

How many millions of US viewers tuned in to watch the 1994 Kerrigan/Harding short program, the 6th highest-rated TV broadcast in US history?

**126** million viewers

How many clean triple jumps did Sarah Hughes land in her gold medal-winning long program at Salt Lake City 2002?

**7** clean triple jumps

How old in years was Tara Lipinski when she became the youngest individual gold medalist in Olympic figure skating history at Nagano 1998?

**15** years old

How many clean quadruple jumps did Nathan Chen land in his free skate to win gold at Beijing 2022?

**5** quadruple jumps

## Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

**1920 Antwerp Summer Games**
→ Host of the inaugural Olympic ice hockey tournament, where Canada's Winnipeg Falcons won gold

**Eddie Eagan**
→ Only athlete in history to win gold medals in different sports at Summer (Boxing 1920) and Winter (Bobsled 1932) Games

**Christa Luding-Rothenburger**
→ Only athlete to win Winter (Speed Skating) and Summer (Cycling) medals in the same calendar year in 1988

**Sonja Henie**
→ Norwegian figure skater who won three consecutive Olympic golds (1928, 1932, 1936) and pioneered short skirts and choreography

**Oksana Baiul**
→ Ukrainian 16-year-old orphan who won the 1994 Lillehammer women's gold medal over Nancy Kerrigan

**Yuzuru Hanyu**
→ Japanese virtuoso who won back-to-back men's Olympic figure skating gold medals in 2014 and 2018

**Midori Ito** → First woman in history to land a triple axel in Olympic competition at Albertville 1992

## Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Where were the first Winter Olympic Games held in 1924?

A St. Moritz, Switzerland
B Lake Placid, USA
C Chamonix, France
D Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

2. What event did Charles Jewtraw win to capture the first-ever Winter Olympic gold medal in 1924?

A Cross-country skiing
B 500m speed skating
C Four-man bobsled
D Figure skating

3. Which athlete is the only person to win gold medals in different sports at both the Summer and Winter Olympics?

A Clas Thunberg
B Christa Luding-Rothenburger
C Sonja Henie
D Eddie Eagan

4. In what year did the IOC vote to split the Summer and Winter Olympics onto separate two-year cycles?

A 1986
B 1992
C 1980
D 1994

**5.** Which of these did NOT happen at the 1924 Chamonix Winter Games?

A Thunberg won three golds
B 16 nations competed
C Jewtraw won first Winter gold
D Figure skating debuted

**6.** Which of these is NOT one of Dick Button's technical achievements?

A Landed first triple loop
B Landed first triple axel
C Pioneered the flying camel spin
D Landed first double axel

**7.** How many quadruple jumps did Nathan Chen land in his record free skate to win gold at Beijing 2022?

A 7 quadruple jumps
B 3 quadruple jumps
C 5 quadruple jumps
D 4 quadruple jumps

**8.** How many millions of US viewers watched the 1994 Kerrigan-Harding short program showdown at Lillehammer?

A 126 million viewers
B 85 million viewers
C 60 million viewers
D 45 million viewers

**9.** How many clean triple jumps did Sarah Hughes land to win gold at Salt Lake City 2002?

A 9 triple jumps
B 4 triple jumps
C 5 triple jumps
D 7 triple jumps

**10.** Whose judging controversy at Salt Lake City 2002 led the ISU to abolish the 6.0 scoring system in 2004?

A Baiul and Kerrigan
B Hughes and Kwan
C Salé and Pelletier
D Button and Henie

## Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/winter-olympic-trivia/chamonix-1924-origins-and-figure-skating-royalty

STUDY Winter Olympic Trivia: Frozen Glories, Miracle Ice & Alpine Royalty in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/winter-olympic-trivia

LESSON 2 OF 4

# Miracle on Ice & Hockey Dynasties

The 1980 Miracle on Ice · Global Hockey Dynasties & Golden Goals

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall key scorelines, clutch goals, and strategic turning points of the 1980 Miracle on Ice.
- Identify historic hockey gold medal dynasties, golden goal finishes, and shootout milestones.

## The 1980 Miracle on Ice

On **February 22, 1980**, at the Winter Olympics in **Lake Placid, New York**, the United States men's Olympic ice hockey team achieved what is universally recognized as the greatest upset in sports history: the **'Miracle on Ice'**. The matchup pitted a collection of amateur American college players, averaging just **21 years of age**, against the formidable **Soviet Union national team**—a machine of seasoned professionals who had won four consecutive Olympic gold medals (1964, 1968, 1972, 1976) and had overwhelmed NHL All-Star teams.

Just two weeks before the Olympics, the Soviets had dismantled the exact same US squad **10-3** in an exhibition game at Madison Square Garden. But US head coach **Herb Brooks**—the last player cut from the 1960 gold medal-winning US team—had spent six months conditioning his players to match the high-tempo, passing-heavy European hybrid style of play.

In the medal round game at the packed **Olympic Fieldhouse (now Herb Brooks Arena)**, the Soviets took early leads, but the young Americans fought back relentlessly. With one second remaining in the first period, Mark Johnson capitalized on a rebound to tie the game 2-2. Stunned by the lapse, legendary Soviet head coach **Viktor Tikhonov** made a fateful decision: he benched iconic goaltender **Vladislav Tretiak** for backup Vladimir Myshkin, a maneuver Tikhonov later acknowledged as the biggest blunder of his career.

In the third period, Johnson scored on a power play to tie the game 3-3. Then, with exactly ten minutes remaining, team captain **Mike Eruzione** picked up a loose puck in the high slot and fired a laser past Myshkin to give the United States a **4-3 lead**. For the final ten minutes, American goaltender **Jim Craig** withstood a furious Soviet onslaught, finishing with **36 saves on 39 shots**, including 12 crucial stops in the final frame.

As the clock ticked down its final seconds, ABC television broadcaster **Al Michaels** uttered the most celebrated phrase in sports broadcasting: **'Eleven seconds, you've got ten seconds, the countdown's going on right now! Morrow, up to Silk. Five seconds left in the game. Do you believe in miracles? YES!'**

Two days later on **February 24, 1980**, the USA had to come from behind once more to defeat **Finland 4-2** to officially secure the Olympic gold medal. In 2008, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF)

officially named the Miracle on Ice the **number-one international hockey story of the past 100 years**.

## Global Hockey Dynasties & Golden Goals

Olympic ice hockey history is defined by towering national dynasties and dramatic showdowns. **Canada** dominated the early decades of Olympic hockey, capturing **six of the first seven Olympic gold medals** between 1920 and 1952 with senior amateur club rosters such as the Winnipeg Falcons and Toronto Granites.

Beginning at **Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956**, the **Soviet Union ('The Red Machine')** established a 32-year dynasty, capturing **seven Olympic gold medals across nine appearances** through Calgary 1988, powered by legendary lines featuring Valeri Kharlamov, Boris Mikhailov, and Vladimir Petrov.

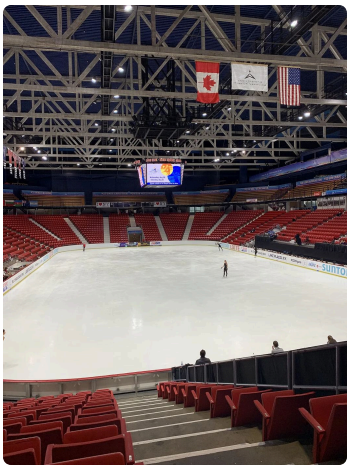
The modern era arrived at **Nagano 1998**, the first Winter Games to pause the NHL regular season schedule and allow the world's premier professional players to compete. That tournament belonged to the Czech Republic and goaltending maestro **Dominik Hasek ('The Dominator')**, who allowed only six goals in six games and stopped all five Canadian attempts in a semifinal shootout, then backstopped a 1-0 win over Russia in the gold-medal final.

No Olympic hockey goal carries more national weight in Canada than the **'Golden Goal'** of **Vancouver 2010**. With Canada holding a 2-1 lead over the rival United States in the gold medal game, American Zach Parise scored with 24.4 seconds remaining to force sudden-death overtime. At **7:40 of overtime**, Canadian superstar **Sidney Crosby** accepted a pass from Jarome Iginla along the left boards and slid the puck past US goaltender Ryan Miller, igniting celebrations from coast to coast.

In the women's tournament, introduced at **Nagano 1998**, the United States captured the inaugural gold medal with a 3-1 victory over Canada. Canada's women answered with an incredible **four consecutive Olympic gold medals (2002, 2006, 2010, 2014)**. The rivalry reached its apex at **PyeongChang 2018**, where the USA ended Canada's 16-year reign in a dramatic penalty shootout, won in round 6 by **Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson's** unforgettable deke dubbed 'Oops, I Did It Again'.

Individual scoring records underscore hockey greatness: Finland's **Teemu Selanne ('The Finnish Flash')** leads all players in Olympic history with **43 career points (24 goals, 19 assists)** across six Olympic tournaments (1992–2014).

## Key facts



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### 4-3: The Final Score of a Miracle

On **February 22, 1980**, at **Lake Placid, New York**, the United States men's ice hockey team — a squad of amateur college players averaging just 21 years old — defeated the four-time defending champion **Soviet Union 4-3** in the medal round, the game remembered as the 'Miracle on Ice.'




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### Herb Brooks

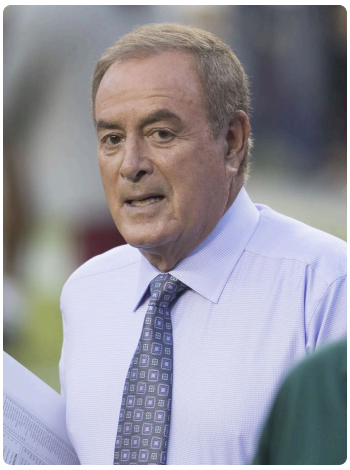
Herb Brooks — Visionary head coach who molded college players into the 1980 gold medal-winning US Olympic hockey team.



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### Mike Eruzione's Go-Ahead Goal

With the score tied 3-3 in the third period and exactly **ten minutes remaining**, US team captain **Mike Eruzione** collected a loose puck in the high slot and beat Soviet backup goaltender Vladimir Myshkin to give the Americans a **4-3 lead** — the score that would hold up as the final.



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### 'Do You Believe in Miracles?'

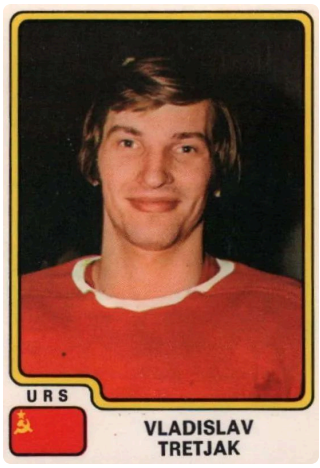
As the final seconds ticked away on February 22, 1980, ABC broadcaster **Al Michaels** delivered the most famous call in American sports broadcasting, counting down the clock before exclaiming: **'Do you believe in miracles? YES!'**



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### 10-3: The Score That Made the Upset Unthinkable

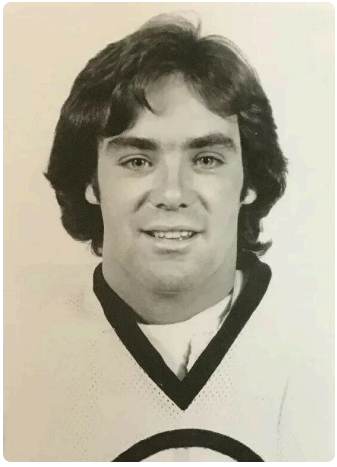
Nobody expected the Miracle. Just two weeks before the Olympics, the same Soviet team that the US would later beat had **routed the Americans 10-3** in an exhibition game at Madison Square Garden — a blowout that made the eventual 4-3 upset in Lake Placid almost impossible to believe.




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### Vladislav Tretiak

Vladislav Tretiak — Legendary Soviet goaltender pulled after the first period in 1980 with the score tied 2-2.



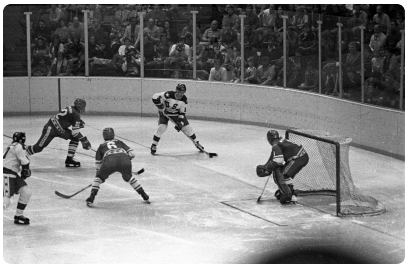
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### Jim Craig's Stand in Goal

American goaltender **Jim Craig** was the last line of defense against a relentless Soviet attack, making **36 saves on 39 shots** in the Miracle on Ice, including **12 crucial stops in the final period** as the US clung to its lead.

### Beating the Soviets Wasn't Enough

The Miracle on Ice win over the USSR didn't hand the US the gold medal outright — it was only the semifinal. Two days later, on **February 24, 1980**, the Americans had to come from behind again, defeating **Finland 4-2** to officially clinch the gold medal.



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### A Team of College Kids

The 1980 US Olympic hockey team wasn't a roster of seasoned professionals — it was a group of amateur college players with an **average age of just 21**, assembled and drilled for six months by coach Herb Brooks before they took down the Soviet dynasty.

### IIHF Centennial Ranking

IIHF Centennial Ranking — Voted the 1980 Miracle on Ice as the number-one international hockey story of the past 100 years, as part of the IIHF's 2008 centennial.

### Canada's Olympic Hockey Dominance

**Canada** is the winningest nation in Olympic men's ice hockey history. It captured **six of the first seven gold medals**, from 1920 through 1952, with senior amateur club rosters like the Winnipeg Falcons and Toronto Granites, then added further golds in the professional era — including the iconic 2010 'Golden Goal' — for **nine Olympic gold medals** overall.

### The Red Machine's 32-Year Reign

Beginning at **Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956**, the **Soviet Union** — nicknamed 'The Red Machine' — built a 32-year Olympic hockey dynasty, winning **seven gold medals across nine appearances** through Calgary 1988, powered by legendary lines featuring Valeri Kharlamov, Boris Mikhailov, and Vladimir Petrov.



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### The Pass Behind Canada's Golden Goal

Canada's most cherished hockey moment needed a setup man. In overtime of the **Vancouver 2010** gold medal game against the United States, **Jarome Iginla** dug the puck out along the left boards and slid a pass to **Sidney Crosby**, who buried it past US goaltender Ryan Miller at 7:40 of overtime for the 'Golden Goal.'



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### Dominik Hasek

Dominik Hasek — Czech goaltender ('The Dominator') who allowed only 6 goals in 6 games and stopped all 5 Canadian shootout shots at Nagano 1998.

> ### When the Pros Came to the Olympics
>
> Olympic hockey changed at **Nagano 1998**, the first Winter Games to pause the NHL regular season so the world's top professionals could compete. NHL players went on to appear at **five consecutive Winter Olympics**, from Nagano 1998 through Sochi 2014.



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### Canada's Women's Hockey Streak

Women's ice hockey debuted at **Nagano 1998**, where the United States won the inaugural gold. Canada's women answered emphatically, winning **four consecutive Olympic gold medals in 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014** before the USA finally ended their 16-year reign at PyeongChang 2018.

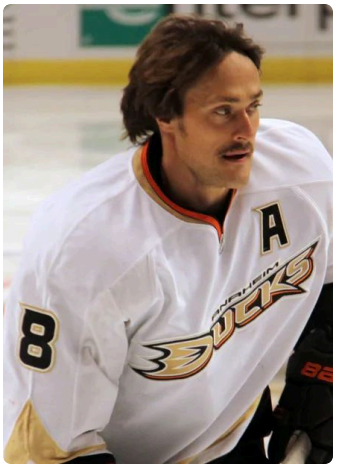
> **1998 US Women's Hockey Team**
> 1998 US Women's Hockey Team — Won the inaugural Olympic women's ice hockey gold medal at Nagano, defeating Canada 3-1 in the final.



Sara Melikian · CC BY 2.0

**Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson**

Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson — Scored the shootout winner in round 6 ('Oops I Did It Again') to win gold for the USA over Canada at PyeongChang 2018.



Hockeybroad/Cheryl Adams · CC BY-SA 3.0

**Teemu Selanne, Olympic Hockey's Top Scorer**

Finland's **Teemu Selanne**, nicknamed 'The Finnish Flash,' is the all-time leading scorer in Olympic hockey history. Across **six Olympic tournaments from 1992 to 2014**, he racked up **43 career points — 24 goals and 19 assists.**

## By the numbers

At how many minutes remaining in the third period did Mike Eruzione score the game-winning goal to make it 4-3?

**10** minutes remaining

How many saves on 39 Soviet shots did US goaltender Jim Craig make during the 1980 Miracle on Ice?

**36** saves

What was the average age in years of the 1980 US Men's Olympic Ice Hockey team?

**21** years old

How many Olympic gold medals did the Soviet Union ('Red Machine') win across nine appearances from 1956 to 1988?

**7** gold medals

Across how many consecutive Winter Olympics did active NHL players participate (1998–2014)?

**5** Olympic Games

How many consecutive Olympic gold medals did the Canadian Women's Ice Hockey team win from 2002 to 2014?

**4** consecutive golds

How many total career Olympic points did Finland's Teemu Selanne score to become the all-time scoring leader?

**43** points

How many shootout attempts did T.J. Oshie take in the USA's thrilling 8-round shootout win over Russia at Sochi 2014?

**6** attempts

## Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

**Herb Brooks**
→ Visionary head coach who molded college players into the 1980 gold medal-winning US Olympic hockey team

**Vladislav Tretiak**
→ Legendary Soviet goaltender pulled after the first period in 1980 with the score tied 2-2

**IIHF Centennial Ranking**
→ Voted the 1980 Miracle on Ice as the number-one international hockey story of the past 100 years

**Dominik Hasek**
→ Czech goaltender ('The Dominator') who allowed only 6 goals in 6 games and stopped all 5 Canadian shootout shots at Nagano 1998

**1998 US Women's Hockey Team**
→ Won the inaugural Olympic women's ice hockey gold medal at Nagano, defeating Canada 3-1 in the final

**Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson**
→ Scored the shootout winner in round 6 ('Oops I Did It Again') to win gold for the USA over Canada at PyeongChang 2018

## Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

**1.** What was the final score of the 1980 'Miracle on Ice' game between the USA and the Soviet Union?

A) 3-2
B) 4-2
C) 4-3
D) 10-3

**2.** With how many minutes remaining in the third period did Mike Eruzione score the go-ahead goal to make it 4-3?

A) 15 minutes
B) 10 minutes
C) 2 minutes
D) 5 minutes

**3.** How many saves did US goaltender Jim Craig make out of 39 Soviet shots in the Miracle on Ice?

A) 36 saves
B) 30 saves
C) 25 saves
D) 39 saves

**4.** Which Soviet goaltender was pulled after the first period of the Miracle on Ice, with the score tied 2-2?

A) Vladimir Myshkin
B) Ryan Miller
C) Dominik Hasek
D) Vladislav Tretiak

**5.** Which of these years was NOT one of the Soviet Union's four consecutive Olympic hockey gold-medal years leading up to the Miracle on Ice?

A) 1976
B) 1960
C) 1968
D) 1972

**6.** How many of the first seven Olympic hockey golds did Canada's men win, 1920-1952?

A) Five
B) Seven
C) Six
D) Four

**7.** How many Olympic golds did the Soviet Union's 'Red Machine' win across nine appearances from 1956 to 1988?

A) 9 gold medals
B) 6 gold medals
C) 4 gold medals
D) 7 gold medals

**8.** Who scored Canada's overtime 'Golden Goal' against the US in the Vancouver 2010 gold medal game?

A) Sidney Crosby
B) Ryan Miller
C) Zach Parise
D) Jarome Iginla

**9.** Which goaltender allowed only 6 goals in 6 games and stopped all 5 Canadian shootout attempts at Nagano 1998?

A Ryan Miller
B Jim Craig
C Dominik Hasek
D Vladislav Tretiak

**10.** Which nation ended Canada's four-Olympics women's hockey gold streak in a shootout at PyeongChang 2018?

A Sweden
B Finland
C Russia
D United States

## Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/winter-olympic-trivia/miracle-on-ice-and-hockey-dynasties

STUDY Winter Olympic Trivia: Frozen Glories, Miracle Ice & Alpine Royalty in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/winter-olympic-trivia

LESSON 3 OF 4

# Speed Skating Sweeps & Gravity Chutes

Speed Skating Dominance: Heiden, Blair & Clap Skates · Ice Chutes: Bobsled, Luge & Skeleton Thrills

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall historic multi-gold sweeps, equipment innovations, and medal records in speed skating.
- Differentiate sliding sport body positions, track parameters, and iconic underdog campaigns in bobsled and luge.

## Speed Skating Dominance: Heiden, Blair & Clap Skates

Long-track speed skating is one of the founding pillars of the Winter Olympic Games, pitting athletes against the clock and wind resistance over distances ranging from pure 500-meter sprints to grueling 10,000-meter marathons. At the **1980 Lake Placid Games**, American speed skater **Eric Heiden** completed the most dominant individual performance in Winter Olympic history. Over eight days on an outdoor refrigerated oval, Heiden entered all five men's speed skating events—**500m, 1000m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10,000m**—and won the **gold medal in all five**, setting an Olympic record in every single event and shattering the 10,000m world record by six seconds. Heiden remains the only athlete in history to sweep all sprint and distance events at a single Olympics.

In women's speed skating, American **Bonnie Blair** established herself as one of the greatest sprint skaters in history. Competing across four Winter Games (1984, 1988, 1992, 1994), Blair captured **five Olympic gold medals and one bronze**, winning three consecutive gold medals in the 500 meters (1988, 1992, 1994)—the first American woman to win five Winter Olympic gold medals.

The sport underwent a technological revolution at **Nagano 1998** with the universal adoption of **clap skates (klapschaats)**. Developed in the Netherlands, clap skates feature a spring-loaded hinge at the toe that allows the blade to detach from the heel during the push-off stroke. This keeps the blade in contact with the ice longer, generating greater propulsion and causing world and Olympic records to fall across every distance.

Dutch mastery of speed skating is unprecedented. The **Netherlands** has won more than 130 Olympic speed skating medals, including a staggering 23 out of 36 available medals at **Sochi 2014**. Dutch icon **Ireen Wüst** stands as the only athlete in Olympic history—Summer or Winter—to win individual gold medals at **five consecutive Olympic Games (2006 Turin to 2022 Beijing)**, amassing 13 career medals.

In short track speed skating, introduced at **Albertville 1992**, American **Apolo Anton Ohno** captivated fans with his tactical prowess, winning **eight Olympic medals (2 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze)** between 2002 and 2010. The sport's most famous moment occurred at **Salt Lake City 2002**, when Australia's **Steven**

**Bradbury** won the 1000m gold medal after all four leading skaters tangled and crashed violently into the barriers on the final corner, allowing Bradbury to cruise across the line untouched.

## Ice Chutes: Bobsled, Luge & Skeleton Thrills

Sliding sports represent the purest thrill of gravity at the Winter Games, hurtling athletes down custom refrigerated concrete tracks at speeds topping **90 mph (145 km/h)** while pulling forces up to **5G** in banked hairpin turns.

The three Olympic sliding disciplines differ fundamentally in equipment, body position, and steering:

- **Bobsled**: Two-man, two-woman, four-man, and single-pilot (monobob) crews pilot enclosed aerodynamic sleds with runners, steered using handheld interior pulley rings.
- **Luge**: Athletes slide **feet-first lying on their backs**, steering with minute calf presses against the front bow runners and subtle shoulder shifts.
- **Skeleton**: Competitors hurtle down the chute **head-first lying face down on their stomachs**, inches from the ice, steering solely through subtle shoulder and head shifts.

Olympic sliding lore reached pop-culture immortality at the **1988 Calgary Games** with the debut of the **Jamaican Bobsled Team**. Founded by American businessmen who recruited sprinters from the Jamaican military, driver Dudley Stokes and his crew captured the world's imagination, inspiring the hit 1993 film *Cool Runnings* after crashing on their final four-man run and walking their sled across the finish line.

**Germany** has long reigned as the dominant superpower of the sliding chute, capturing more than 35 luge gold medals and sweeping all four sliding events at **Beijing 2022**. Luge virtuoso **Felix Loch** won three Olympic golds, becoming the youngest luge champion in history at age 20 at **Vancouver 2010**.

In American sliding history, driver **Steven Holcomb** piloted the famous matte-black sled **'The Night Train'** to victory in the four-man bobsled at **Vancouver 2010**, ending a 62-year US Olympic gold medal drought in the event. Dual-citizen driver **Kaillie Humphries** achieved the rare feat of winning Olympic bobsled golds for two different countries—Canada (2010, 2014) and the United States (inaugural women's monobob at Beijing 2022).

## Key facts



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### Eric Heiden's Unmatched Sweep

At the **1980 Lake Placid Games**, American **Eric Heiden** turned in the most dominant individual performance in Winter Olympic history. He entered all five men's speed skating events — **500m, 1000m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10,000m** — and won the **gold medal in every single one**, setting an Olympic record each time and shattering the 10,000m world record by six seconds. He remains the only athlete ever to sweep every sprint and distance event at a single Olympics, accomplishing the feat entirely on his own with no help from teammates.



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### Bonnie Blair's Sprint Supremacy

American **Bonnie Blair** was the dominant sprinter of women's speed skating across four Winter Games (1984-1994). She won **three consecutive 500m gold medals in 1988, 1992, and 1994**, part of a career total of **five gold medals and one bronze** — making her the first American woman to win five Winter Olympic gold medals.



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### How the Clap Skate Changed Speed Skating

Speed skating underwent a technological revolution at **Nagano 1998** with the universal adoption of the **clap skate (klapschaats)**, developed in the Netherlands. Unlike a rigid traditional skate, a clap skate has a **spring-loaded hinge at the toe** that lets the blade detach from the heel during the push-off stroke, keeping the blade in contact with the ice longer and generating greater propulsion — causing records to fall across every distance.



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### Ireen Wüst's Five-Games Streak

Dutch speed skater **Ireen Wüst** stands alone in Olympic history — Summer or Winter — as the only athlete to win an individual gold medal at **five consecutive Olympic Games**, from Turin 2006 through Beijing 2022. Across that span she amassed **13 career medals**.

> **Steven Bradbury**
>
> Steven Bradbury — Australian short track skater who won 1000m gold in 2002 after all four opponents crashed on the final corner.



Wikimedia Commons · OlympicHistorian · CC BY 4.0

### Apolo Ohno's Short Track Legacy

American **Apolo Anton Ohno** was the face of US short track speed skating for a decade. Competing between **2002 and 2010**, he won **eight Olympic medals — 2 gold, 2 silver, and 4 bronze** — through tactical racing that captivated fans.



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### Shani Davis

Shani Davis — First Black athlete to win an individual Winter Olympic gold medal by winning the 1000m speed skate in 2006.



Rémih · CC BY-SA 3.0

### Short Track Joins the Program

Short track speed skating, the tactical, pack-style cousin of long-track racing, made its official Olympic medal debut at the **1992 Albertville Winter Games** — the event that would later produce stars like Apolo Ohno and one of the sport's most famous moments, Steven Bradbury's improbable gold in 2002.



Andrew Schutzman from New York, USA · CC BY-SA 2.0

### The Netherlands' Speed Skating Sweep

Dutch mastery of speed skating is unmatched. The **Netherlands** has won more than 130 Olympic speed skating medals overall, and at **Sochi 2014** it took dominance to an extreme, winning **23 of the 36 available medals** — including 8 golds — in the sport.

> **1988 Jamaican Bobsled Team**
>
> 1988 Jamaican Bobsled Team — Caribbean underdogs whose Calgary Olympic debut inspired the 1993 Disney movie 'Cool Runnings'.




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### Luge and Skeleton: Same Track, Opposite Positions

Luge and skeleton race down the same kind of refrigerated ice chute, but the athletes' bodies face opposite directions. **Luge** sliders go **feet-first, lying on their backs**, steering with subtle calf pressure on the front bow runners. **Skeleton** competitors hurtle down the same kind of track **head-first, lying face down on their stomachs**, inches from the ice, steering only through small shoulder and head movements.

> **Germany's Luge Superpower Status**
>
> **Germany** has long been the dominant force in sliding sports, capturing more than **35 Olympic luge gold medals** across its history and, at **Beijing 2022**, sweeping all four sliding events on the program.



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### Kaillie Humphries

Kaillie Humphries — Won Olympic bobsled gold medals for two different countries: Canada (2010, 2014) and USA (Monobob 2022).

> **Monobob Joins the Bobsled Program**
>
> Bobsled added a new discipline at **Beijing 2022**: the **Women's Monobob**, a single-pilot event. American **Kaillie Humphries** won the inaugural gold medal in the event.

> **The Night Train**
>
> The Night Train — American four-man bobsled piloted by Steven Holcomb to 2010 gold, ending a 62-year US gold drought.




Sandro Halank, Wikimedia Commons · CC BY-SA 3.0

### Felix Loch, Youngest Luge Champion

German luge virtuoso **Felix Loch** won three Olympic gold medals in his career, but his first, at **Vancouver 2010**, was the most historic: at just **20 years old**, he became the youngest men's singles luge champion in Olympic history.

## By the numbers

How many gold medals did Eric Heiden win at Lake Placid 1980, sweeping all men's speed skating events?

**5** gold medals

Across how many consecutive Winter Olympics did Bonnie Blair win gold in the 500-meter speed skate?

**3** consecutive Olympics

Across how many consecutive Winter Olympics did Dutch speed skater Ireen Wüst win individual gold medals (2006–2022)?

**5** consecutive Olympics

How many total career Olympic medals did Apolo Anton Ohno win in short track speed skating?
**8** medals

How many of the 36 available speed skating medals did the Netherlands win at the 2014 Sochi Games?
**23** medals

Germany has won more than how many total Olympic luge gold medals in history?
**35** gold medals

How old in years was Germany's Felix Loch when he became the youngest Olympic luge gold medalist in 2010?
**20** years old

What is the typical minimum number of banked curves required in an Olympic competition sliding track?
**14** banked curves

## Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

**Steven Bradbury**
→ Australian short track skater who won 1000m gold in 2002 after all four opponents crashed on the final corner

**Shani Davis**
→ First Black athlete to win an individual Winter Olympic gold medal by winning the 1000m speed skate in 2006

**1988 Jamaican Bobsled Team**
→ Caribbean underdogs whose Calgary Olympic debut inspired the 1993 Disney movie 'Cool Runnings'

**Kaillie Humphries**
→ Won Olympic bobsled gold medals for two different countries: Canada (2010, 2014) and USA (Monobob 2022)

**The Night Train**
→ American four-man bobsled piloted by Steven Holcomb to 2010 gold, ending a 62-year US gold drought

## Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. How many gold medals did Eric Heiden win at the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics?

(A) 6 gold medals
(B) 4 gold medals
(C) 3 gold medals
(D) 5 gold medals

**2.** Bonnie Blair won gold in the 500m speed skate at how many consecutive Winter Olympics?

A 3 consecutive Olympics
B 5 consecutive Olympics
C 2 consecutive Olympics
D 4 consecutive Olympics

**3.** Which equipment innovation, adopted at the 1998 Nagano Games, uses a hinge to let the blade detach from the heel?

A Ceramic bearing insert
B Clap skate (klapschaats)
C Fixed-heel skate blade
D Full-body aero skinsuit

**4.** Dutch speed skater Ireen Wust won individual gold at how many consecutive Olympic Games (2006-2022)?

A 4 consecutive Games
B 3 consecutive Games
C 5 consecutive Games
D 6 consecutive Games

**5.** At the 2014 Sochi Olympics, how many of the 36 total speed skating medals did the Netherlands sweep?

A 23 medals
B 28 medals
C 18 medals
D 15 medals

**6.** Which body position do luge athletes use while racing down the ice chute?

A Kneeling with elbows braced
B Feet-first, lying on the back
C Head-first, lying face down
D Seated inside an enclosed sled

**7.** Germany has won more than how many total Olympic luge gold medals in history?

A 50 gold medals
B 15 gold medals
C 35 gold medals
D 20 gold medals

**8.** At Vancouver 2010, at what age did Germany's Felix Loch become the youngest Olympic luge champion?

A 25 years old
B 22 years old
C 18 years old
D 20 years old

**9.** Olympic sliding sports send athletes down the ice chute at speeds topping about how fast?

A 90 mph (145 km/h)
B 60 mph (95 km/h)
C 120 mph (195 km/h)
D 40 mph (65 km/h)

**10.** Whose improbable 1988 Calgary Olympic debut inspired the film Cool Runnings?

A Kaillie Humphries' team
B German Luge Team
C The Night Train crew
D Jamaican Bobsled Team

## Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/winter-olympic-trivia/speed-skating-sweeps-and-gravity-chutes

STUDY Winter Olympic Trivia: Frozen Glories, Miracle Ice & Alpine Royalty in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/winter-olympic-trivia

LESSON 4 OF 4

# Alpine Slopes, Halfpipes & Multi-Game Royalty

Alpine Skiing & Snowboard Halfpipe Icons · Nordic Feats, Cult Icons & The Winter Pantheon

WHAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO

- Recall alpine skiing sweep records, downhill winning margins, and halfpipe multi-gold reigns.
- Identify multi-medal records, biathlon specifications, and all-time national rankings across Winter Olympic history.

## Alpine Skiing & Snowboard Halfpipe Icons

Alpine skiing tests human speed, balance, and nerve against gravity across four core disciplines: Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom, and Slalom. The premier speed event, the **Downhill**, sends skiers rocketing down mountainsides at speeds exceeding **85 mph (137 km/h)** with jumps spanning over 60 meters. At **Innsbruck 1976**, Austrian folk hero **Franz Klammer** delivered the most famous downhill run in history on the Patscherkofel course, skiing on the ragged edge of control to edge Switzerland's Bernhard Russi by 0.33 seconds in 1:45.73.

Historic alpine sweeps are exceedingly rare. Austrian **Toni Sailer** swept all three alpine gold medals at **Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956**, winning the giant slalom by over six seconds. Twelve years later at **Grenoble 1968**, French legend **Jean-Claude Killy** matched Sailer's feat by sweeping the downhill, giant slalom, and slalom before a home crowd.

In women's alpine skiing, American **Lindsey Vonn** became the first American woman to win Olympic downhill gold at **Vancouver 2010**, overcoming severe shin contusions. Her teammate **Mikaela Shiffrin** burst onto the global stage at **Sochi 2014**, winning the slalom gold medal at age 18 years and 345 days—the youngest slalom champion in Olympic history—before adding giant slalom gold at PyeongChang 2018.

Snowboarding joined the Olympic family at **Nagano 1998**, bringing youthful freestyle energy into the traditional winter program. American icon **Shaun White ('The Flying Tomato')** dominated men's snowboard halfpipe across two decades, capturing **three Olympic gold medals (Torino 2006, Vancouver 2010, PyeongChang 2018)**. At PyeongChang 2018, White secured gold on his final dramatic run, stomping back-to-back 1440-degree double corks. In women's halfpipe, American prodigy **Chloe Kim** won gold at **PyeongChang 2018** at age 17 before defending her title at **Beijing 2022**, becoming the first woman to win back-to-back halfpipe golds.

Czech phenomenon **Ester Ledecka** pulled off the most versatile feat in Winter Olympic history at **PyeongChang 2018**: she won Olympic gold in **Alpine Skiing (Super-G)** on skis reportedly borrowed from Mikaela Shiffrin, and seven days later won Olympic gold in **Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom**,

becoming the first athlete to win gold medals in two different sports at the same Winter Games using distinct equipment.

## Nordic Feats, Cult Icons & The Winter Pantheon

Nordic skiing encompasses cross-country skiing, ski jumping, and the combined sport of biathlon. In cross-country skiing, Norway's **Marit Bjørgen ('The Iron Lady')** is the **most decorated Winter Olympian of all time**, amassing **15 career Olympic medals (8 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze)** between 2002 and 2018. Her compatriot **Bjørn Dæhlie** won 12 medals, including 8 golds, during the 1990s.

In biathlon, which pairs demanding cross-country skiing with precision rifle marksmanship, Norway's **Ole Einar Bjørndalen ('The King of Biathlon')** amassed **14 Olympic medals (8 gold)** across six Games (1994–2014), sweeping all four biathlon events at Salt Lake City 2002. Biathlon demands remarkable physiological control: athletes ski at maximum heart rate, then drop their breathing to shoot at 50-meter targets as small as a golf ball (45mm in prone, 115mm in standing).

Beloved underdogs hold an enduring place in Winter Olympic lore. At **Calgary 1988**, British plasterer **Michael Edwards ('Eddie the Eagle')** competed as Great Britain's sole ski jumper. Wearing thick eyeglasses that fogged up under his goggles, Edwards finished dead last in both the 70m and 90m jumps, but his cheerful determination endeared him to millions, prompting the IOC to institute the **'Eddie the Eagle Rule'** requiring Olympic entrants to place in the top 30% of international events.

Curling, first contested at **Chamonix 1924** and officially reinstated at **Nagano 1998**, delivered American magic at **PyeongChang 2018**. Led by skip **John Shuster**, the US men's team stood on the brink of elimination with a 2-4 record before winning five consecutive must-win matches, culminating in a dramatic 10-7 gold medal victory over Sweden.

At the summit of all-time Winter Olympic achievement stands **Norway**, a nation of just 5.5 million people that leads all countries with more than **400 total Winter medals and over 140 golds**. The **United States** holds its own unique distinction as the only nation to have won at least one gold medal at every single Winter Olympic Games from 1924 through 2022. In 2022, **Beijing, China**, made history by becoming the first city to host both the Summer Olympic Games (2008) and the Winter Olympic Games (2022).

## Key facts



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### Shaun White's Two Decades on Top

American snowboarder **Shaun White**, nicknamed 'The Flying Tomato,' dominated men's halfpipe across two decades, winning **three Olympic gold medals** at **Torino 2006, Vancouver 2010, and PyeongChang 2018**. At PyeongChang, he secured gold on his final run, landing back-to-back 1440-degree double corks.




President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition · Public domain

### Chloe Kim's Back-to-Back Halfpipe Golds

American snowboarder **Chloe Kim** won her first Olympic halfpipe gold at **PyeongChang 2018** at just **17 years old**, then defended her title at **Beijing 2022** — becoming the first woman to win back-to-back Olympic halfpipe golds.



Wikimedia Commons · Manfred Werner (Tsui) · CC BY-SA 4.0

### Mikaela Shiffrin's Teenage Breakthrough

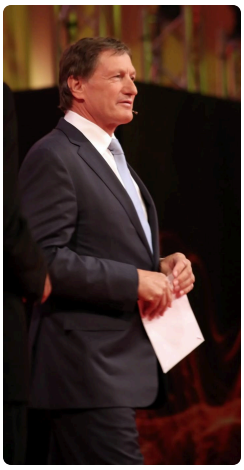
American **Mikaela Shiffrin** burst onto the Olympic stage at **Sochi 2014**, winning slalom gold at just **18 years old** (18 years, 345 days) — the youngest slalom champion in Olympic history. She added giant slalom gold four years later at PyeongChang 2018.




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### Lindsey Vonn

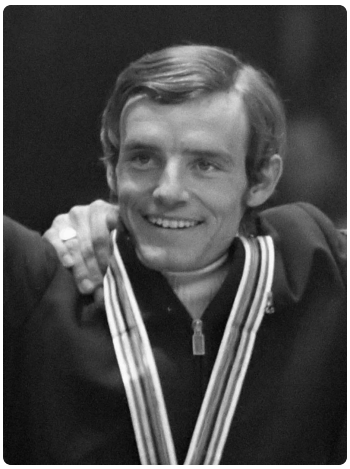
Lindsey Vonn — First American woman to win Olympic gold in the downhill at Vancouver 2010.



Wikimedia Commons · Manfred Werner / Tsui · CC BY-SA 3.0

### Franz Klammer

Franz Klammer — Austrian folk hero who won the 1976 Innsbruck downhill gold with an iconic on-the-edge run.



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### Jean-Claude Killy's Home Sweep

French skiing legend **Jean-Claude Killy** matched Toni Sailer's rare feat at **Grenoble 1968**, winning **three gold medals** by sweeping all three men's alpine events — **downhill, giant slalom, and slalom** — in front of a home French crowd.



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### Toni Sailer

Toni Sailer — Austrian skiing legend who achieved the first alpine sweep (Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom) at Cortina 1956.




Komakoma1998 · CC BY-SA 4.0

### Snowboarding's Olympic Arrival

Snowboarding joined the Olympic family at the **1998 Nagano Games**, bringing freestyle energy into the traditional winter program with two initial events: halfpipe and giant slalom.




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### Ester Ledecka

Ester Ledecka — First athlete in history to win Winter gold in two different sports at the same Games (Alpine Skiing & Snowboard 2018).




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### Marit Bjørgen, the Iron Lady

Norway's **Marit Bjørgen**, nicknamed 'The Iron Lady,' is the **most decorated Winter Olympian of all time**. Across cross-country skiing competitions from **2002 to 2018**, she amassed **15 career Olympic medals — 8 gold, 4 silver, and 3 bronze.**




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### The King of Biathlon

Norway's **Ole Einar Bjørndalen**, known as 'The King of Biathlon,' amassed **14 Olympic medals — including 8 golds** — across six Games from **1994 to 2014**. At **Salt Lake City 2002**, he swept all four biathlon events in a single Olympics.

### Eddie the Eagle

Eddie the Eagle — British plasterer whose last-place Calgary 1988 ski jumps prompted a minimum-qualification standard for the Games.

### Norway, the Winter Games' Top Nation

With a population of just **5.5 million**, **Norway** leads all countries in Winter Olympic history, having won more than **400 total medals and over 140 gold medals** — a staggering total for such a small nation.



Tim Hipps, FMWRC Public Affairs (US Army) · Public domain

### Biathlon's Razor-Thin Targets

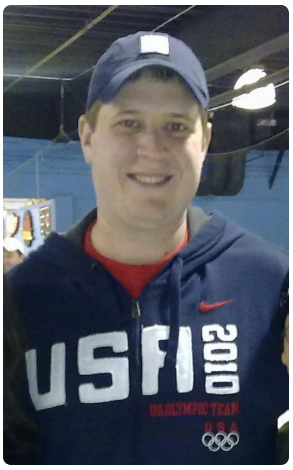
Biathlon pairs grueling cross-country skiing with precision rifle marksmanship. Competitors ski at maximum heart rate, then must calm themselves to shoot at targets **50 meters away** that are as small as a golf ball — **45mm** in diameter when shooting prone, and **115mm** when shooting standing.




Ralf Roletschek · CC BY-SA 3.0 at

### Curling

Curling — Tactical ice sport contested at Chamonix 1924 and reinstated permanently as a medal event at Nagano 1998.




Al Pavangkanan · CC BY 2.0

### John Shuster

John Shuster — Skipped the US men's curling team from a 2-4 record to win 5 straight games and 2018 gold.



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### Bjørn Dæhlie's Nineties Dominance

Norway's **Bjørn Dæhlie** was the other towering figure of 1990s cross-country skiing, winning **12 Olympic medals — including 8 golds** — between 1992 and 1998.

> ### The USA's Unbroken Gold Streak
>
> No nation has matched the United States' Winter Olympic consistency. The **USA** has won at least **one gold medal at every single Winter Olympic Games from 1924 through 2022** — a streak no other country can claim.



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### Beijing's Unprecedented Double Hosting

In 2022, **Beijing, China**, made Olympic history by becoming the **first city ever to host both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games**, following its 2008 Summer Games with the 2022 Winter Games.

## By the numbers

How many career Olympic gold medals did Shaun White win in men's snowboard halfpipe?

**3** gold medals

How old in years was Chloe Kim when she won her first snowboard halfpipe Olympic gold in 2018?

**17** years old

How old in years was Mikaela Shiffrin when she became the youngest Olympic slalom champion at Sochi 2014?

**18** years old

How many gold medals did French skier Jean-Claude Killy win at Grenoble 1968, sweeping all men's alpine events?

**3** gold medals

How many total career Olympic alpine skiing medals did American Bode Miller win across 2002–2014?

**6** medals

How many total Olympic medals did Marit Bjørgen win in cross-country skiing, the most in Winter Olympic history?

**15** medals

How many career Winter Olympic medals did Ole Einar Bjørndalen ('The King of Biathlon') win?

**14** medals

Norway leads all nations in Winter Olympic history with more than how many total gold medals?

**140** gold medals

What is the shooting range target distance in meters in Olympic biathlon?

**50** meters

How many total Olympic medals did Norway's Bjørn Dæhlie win in cross-country skiing during the 1990s?

**12** medals

## Matched pairs

Each item on the left goes with the one on the right.

**Lindsey Vonn** → First American woman to win Olympic gold in the downhill at Vancouver 2010

**Franz Klammer**
→ Austrian folk hero who won the 1976 Innsbruck downhill gold with an iconic on-the-edge run

**Toni Sailer**
→ Austrian skiing legend who achieved the first alpine sweep (Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom) at Cortina 1956

**Ester Ledecka**
→ First athlete in history to win Winter gold in two different sports at the same Games (Alpine Skiing & Snowboard 2018)

**Eddie the Eagle**
→ British plasterer whose last-place Calgary 1988 ski jumps prompted a minimum-qualification standard for the Games

**Curling**
→ Tactical ice sport contested at Chamonix 1924 and reinstated permanently as a medal event at Nagano 1998

**John Shuster**
→ Skipped the US men's curling team from a 2-4 record to win 5 straight games and 2018 gold

## Self-test

Answer each question from memory, then check your work against the answer key.

1. Which Austrian skier swept all three men's alpine gold medals (downhill, giant slalom, slalom) at Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956?

A Franz Klammer
B Jean-Claude Killy
C Bernhard Russi
D Toni Sailer

2. How many gold medals did French skier Jean-Claude Killy win at Grenoble 1968 by sweeping every men's alpine event?

A 3 gold medals
B 2 gold medals
C 4 gold medals
D 1 gold medal

3. By how many seconds did Franz Klammer beat Bernhard Russi in the iconic 1976 Innsbruck downhill?

A 0.63 seconds
B 0.33 seconds
C 1.02 seconds
D 0.08 seconds

4. Which snowboarder won men's halfpipe gold at three separate Olympics: Torino 2006, Vancouver 2010, and PyeongChang 2018?

A Chloe Kim
B Iouri Podladtchikov
C Shaun White
D Ester Ledecka

5. Which snowboarder became the first woman to win back-to-back Olympic halfpipe gold medals?

A Hannah Teter
B Chloe Kim
C Kelly Clark
D Ester Ledecka

6. Which Norwegian cross-country skier is the most decorated Winter Olympian of all time, with 15 career medals?

A Bjørn Dæhlie
B Ole Einar Bjørndalen
C John Shuster
D Marit Bjørgen

**7.** How many career Olympic medals did biathlete Ole Einar Bjørndalen, 'The King of Biathlon,' win across six Games?

A 14 medals
B 8 medals
C 15 medals
D 12 medals

**8.** In Olympic biathlon, how far away are the shooting targets that athletes must hit after skiing at maximum heart rate?

A 75 meters
B 100 meters
C 50 meters
D 25 meters

**9.** Which Norwegian nordic skier won 12 Olympic medals (including 8 golds) during the 1990s, just shy of Marit Bjørgen's record haul?

A Vegard Ulvang
B Marit Bjørgen
C Ole Einar Bjørndalen
D Bjørn Dæhlie

**10.** Which nation is the only one to win at least one gold medal at every single Winter Olympics from 1924 through 2022?

A Austria
B United States
C Norway
D Canada

## Go deeper

ONLINE This lesson on the web flashfeedlearningapp.com/study-guides/winter-olympic-trivia/alpine-slopes-halfpipes-and-multi-game-royalty

STUDY Winter Olympic Trivia: Frozen Glories, Miracle Ice & Alpine Royalty in the FlashFeed app flashfeedlearningapp.com/packs/winter-olympic-trivia

# Answer key

## Lesson 1: Chamonix 1924 Origins & Figure Skating Royalty

**1. C** Chamonix, France

The first Winter Games, originally 'International Winter Sports Week,' were held at Chamonix, France in 1924 and later retroactively recognized as the first Winter Olympics.

**2. B** 500m speed skating

Jewtraw won the 500m speed skate in 44.0 seconds at Chamonix, becoming the first Winter Olympic gold medalist.

**3. D** Eddie Eagan

Eddie Eagan won boxing gold at Antwerp 1920 and four-man bobsled gold at Lake Placid 1932. Luding-Rothenburger crossed seasons too, but her Summer medal was silver, not gold.

**4. A** 1986

The IOC voted in 1986 to stagger the Games onto separate two-year cycles, a change that took effect starting with Lillehammer 1994.

**5. D** Figure skating debuted

Figure skating debuted at the 1908 London Summer Olympics, 16 years before Chamonix 1924 hosted its own events.

**6. B** Landed first triple axel

Button landed the first double axel (1948), first triple loop (1952), and pioneered the flying camel spin. The triple axel was first landed in Olympic competition by Midori Ito in 1992.

**7. C** 5 quadruple jumps

Chen landed five quadruple jumps in a world-record free skate performance to capture gold at Beijing 2022.

**8. A** 126 million viewers

The short program drew an estimated 126 million US viewers, the sixth highest-rated broadcast in American television history.

**9. D** 7 triple jumps

Hughes landed seven clean triple jumps, including two triple-triple combinations, to vault from fourth place to gold.

**10. C** Salé and Pelletier

A French judge admitted to vote-trading in the Salé-Pelletier pairs event, prompting the ISU to replace the 6.0 system with the IJS in 2004.

## Lesson 2: Miracle on Ice & Hockey Dynasties

**1. C** 4-3

The US upset the four-time defending champion Soviets 4-3 in the medal round on February 22, 1980, at Lake Placid.

**2. B** 10 minutes

With exactly ten minutes left, captain Mike Eruzione beat backup goaltender Vladimir Myshkin to put the US ahead 4-3 for good.

**3. A** 36 saves

Jim Craig stopped 36 of 39 shots, including 12 crucial saves in the final period, to preserve the 4-3 upset.

**4. D** Vladislav Tretiak

Coach Viktor Tikhonov benched star goaltender Vladislav Tretiak for backup Vladimir Myshkin, a move he later called his career's biggest blunder.

**5. B** 1960

The Soviets won gold in 1964, 1968, 1972, and 1976. In 1960 the US won gold instead -- the team Herb Brooks was famously the last player cut from.

**6. C** Six

Canada's amateur clubs, including the Winnipeg Falcons and Toronto Granites, captured six of the first seven Olympic ice hockey gold medals, from 1920 through 1952.

**7. D** 7 gold medals

The Soviet 'Red Machine' won 7 golds across 9 Olympic appearances, from Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956 through Calgary 1988.

**8. A** Sidney Crosby

Sidney Crosby buried a pass from Jarome Iginla at 7:40 of overtime to beat US goaltender Ryan Miller for the 'Golden Goal.'

**9. C** Dominik Hasek

Czech goaltender Dominik Hasek, 'The Dominator,' stoned Canada in a semifinal shootout, then backstopped a 1-0 win over Russia in the final to clinch gold at Nagano 1998.

**10. D** United States

The US ended Canada's 16-year reign via a penalty shootout, won in round 6 by Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson's 'Oops, I Did It Again' deke.

## Lesson 3: Speed Skating Sweeps & Gravity Chutes

**1. D** 5 gold medals

Heiden swept all five men's speed skating events (500m-10,000m) at Lake Placid, an unmatched feat in Olympic history.

**2. A** 3 consecutive Olympics

Blair won three straight 500m golds in 1988, 1992, and 1994, part of her five-gold Olympic career.

**3. B** Clap skate (klapschaats)

The Dutch-developed clap skate keeps the blade on the ice longer during push-off, causing records to fall across every distance.

**4. C** 5 consecutive Games

Wust is the only Olympian, Summer or Winter, to win individual gold at five straight Games, from Turin 2006 to Beijing 2022.

**5. A** 23 medals

The Dutch dominance peaked at Sochi 2014, where they won 23 of the 36 speed skating medals available, part of a career total exceeding 130 Olympic speed skating medals.

**6. B** Feet-first, lying on the back

Luge sliders go feet-first on their backs, steering with calf pressure; skeleton racers go head-first face down instead.

**7. C** 35 gold medals

Germany's more than 35 luge golds make it the sport's dominant superpower, including a clean sweep of sliding events at Beijing 2022.

**8. D** 20 years old

Loch won his first of three Olympic luge golds at just 20, the youngest men's singles champion in Olympic history.

**9. A** 90 mph (145 km/h)

Bobsled, luge, and skeleton competitors can top 90 mph (145 km/h) while pulling forces up to 5G in banked turns.

**10. D** Jamaican Bobsled Team

The Jamaican Bobsled Team's Calgary 1988 debut, and their crash on the final run, inspired the 1993 film Cool Runnings.

## Lesson 4: Alpine Slopes, Halfpipes & Multi-Game Royalty

**1. D** Toni Sailer

Toni Sailer achieved the first alpine sweep at Cortina 1956, winning giant slalom by over six seconds. Klammer, Russi, and Killy won golds in other years.

**2. A** 3 gold medals

Killy swept downhill, giant slalom, and slalom for 3 golds, matching Toni Sailer's 1956 feat, twelve years later.

**3. B** 0.33 seconds

Klammer's legendary on-the-edge run edged Russi by just 0.33 seconds, finishing in 1:45.73.

**4. C** Shaun White

Shaun White, 'The Flying Tomato,' captured three halfpipe golds across three separate Games; Kim, Ledecka, and Podladtchikov each won snowboard golds in other years or events.

**5. B** Chloe Kim

Chloe Kim won halfpipe gold at PyeongChang 2018 and defended it at Beijing 2022, the first woman to go back-to-back; Ledecka, Clark, and Teter won snowboard medals but never repeated as halfpipe champion.

**6. D** Marit Bjørgen

Bjørgen, 'The Iron Lady,' amassed 15 medals (8 gold) in cross-country skiing between 2002 and 2018 — the most of any Winter Olympian.

**7. A** 14 medals

Bjørndalen won 14 medals, including 8 golds, from 1994 to 2014, sweeping all four biathlon events at Salt Lake City 2002.

**8. C** 50 meters

Biathletes shoot at targets 50 meters away — as small as 45mm prone and 115mm standing — after skiing at maximum effort.

**9. D** Bjørn Dæhlie

Dæhlie won 12 medals (8 gold) in cross-country skiing between 1992 and 1998; Bjørgen (15) and Bjørndalen (14) won more overall in later eras, while fellow Norwegian nordic skier Ulvang won fewer.

**10. B** United States

The USA has won gold at every Winter Games since 1924 — a streak no other nation, including all-time medal leader Norway, has matched.

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