

Brian Orser has now gone on to be one of the most successful international coaches on the planet, having coached two Olympic champions (Yuna Kim of Korea and Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan) and currently coaches the top two men in the world (Hanyu and Javier Fernandez of Spain.)



I got to meet one of my all-time favorite skaters, the strikingly handsome and current U.S. champion Adam Rippon, when I won the U.S. Figure Skating trip to Champs Camp in 2013.

Eric Radford. In December 2014, Eric Radford of Canada publicly came out as gay in an interview with the LGBT publication *Outsports*, becoming the first competitive figure skater ever to come out at the height of his career while still a contender for championship titles. Then in March, 2015, Eric and his partner Megan Duhamel won the world pairs title, making him the first openly gay figure skater ever to win a gold medal at that competition. He is an ambassador for the Canadian Olympic Committee's #OneTeam program to combat homophobia in sports.

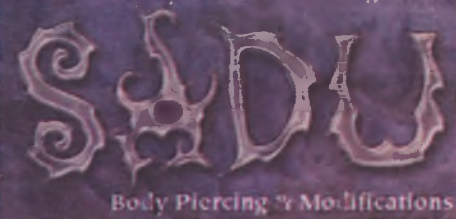
Adam Rippon. Adam Rippon came out as gay in a feature story of *U.S. Figure Skating Magazine* a few months ago and how does he follow up the story? By going out in January and winning his first US Seniors title to go with his two silver medals! The current U.S. Men's Champion with his fashion-model stunning good looks is one of the hardest working yet kindest and most loved skaters in US figure skating today. Raised by a single mother, this oldest of six children also serves as a fine supportive role model and loving older brother to his five siblings.

Johnny Weir. Sure, the flamboyant and outspoken three-time U.S. champion and two-time Olympian Johnny Weir may have his critics, but three things cannot be denied about this fine young man: First, he is now emerging as a superb figure skating broadcasting announcer who takes his work seriously and showcases his vast knowledge of figure skating and every single competitor. Second, he is an excellent spokesperson for diversity and individuality, and treating all humans with dignity and respect. And, third, he always treats all his fans and especially children with kindness and personal attention. I have personally witnessed Johnny at arenas after events and even if there is a long line of adults and children wanting to

say hi or take a photo, he stays until he gives some time to the very last person. ::

— Blog author Stan Kimer, in addition to training as an adult competitive figure skater himself, is a career development and diversity consultant with a deep expertise in corporate LGBT diversity strategy and training. Please explore the rest of my website and never hesitate to contact me to discuss diversity training for your organization, or pass my name onto your HR department. This article was originally published in March 2016, has been edited for timeliness and is republished with permission.

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