

The three American men dominated slopestyle skiing, sweeping the podium in the Olympic debut of the event.



Joss Christensen, Gus Kenworthy, Nick Goepper
USA

Slopestyle Skiing
Gold, Silver and Bronze, respectively

Photo Courtesy of MCT Campus

Gold medalist Joss Christensen practices a trick prior to the competition.

When Bjoerndalen won his 13th Olympic medal, he became the most decorated Winter Olympian of all time.



Ole Einar Bjoerndalen
Norway

Biathlon
Gold in Men's Sprint and Mixed Relay

Photo Courtesy of MCT Campus

Sochi is the fifth Olympics that biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen has competed in.

Paralympics to begin March 7 in Sochi

Kaitlin Dunn
International Editor

After two weeks of competition, the Olympic Games in Sochi have ended, but there are still 72 competitions ahead in the Paralympics which begin March 7 with the Opening Ceremony.

The Paralympics are a series of competitions designed for athletes with physical disabilities. The classifications of disabilities in the Winter Paralympics include Amputee/Dwarfism/Other, Blind/Visually Impaired, Spinal Cord Injury/Paralyzed/Wheelchair User and Traumatic Brain Injury/CP/Stroke.

There are five different sports in the Paralympics, alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice sledge [sled] hockey and wheelchair curling. Athletes from all the disability categories compete in alpine skiing, biathlon, and cross country skiing, while curling and sled hockey do not have participants from the blind/visually impaired category.

The United States is sending 74 athletes and six guides to Sochi. Among the athletes are 32 returning paralympians.

Allison Jones, a seven-time Paralympian has been on every U.S. team, winter and summer, since 2002. She is a cyclist and skier who was born without a right femur.

"I like that it's not the same thing over and over again, but I can take my competitive nature and apply it year-round," Jones said. "By the time I'm getting tired of one sport, I start the other one."

The most decorated athlete on the team is Tatyana McFadden, though none of her 10 medals come from winter Paralympic Games. Her last three gold medals were won in London in wheelchair racing. She is making her winter debut in Nordic skiing this year.

The carrying of the torch begins Feb. 26 in the Pacific port city of Vladivostok and will finish on March 7 in Sochi. More than 1500 torchbearers, including 300 people with disabilities, will carry the Paralympic Flame across Russia.

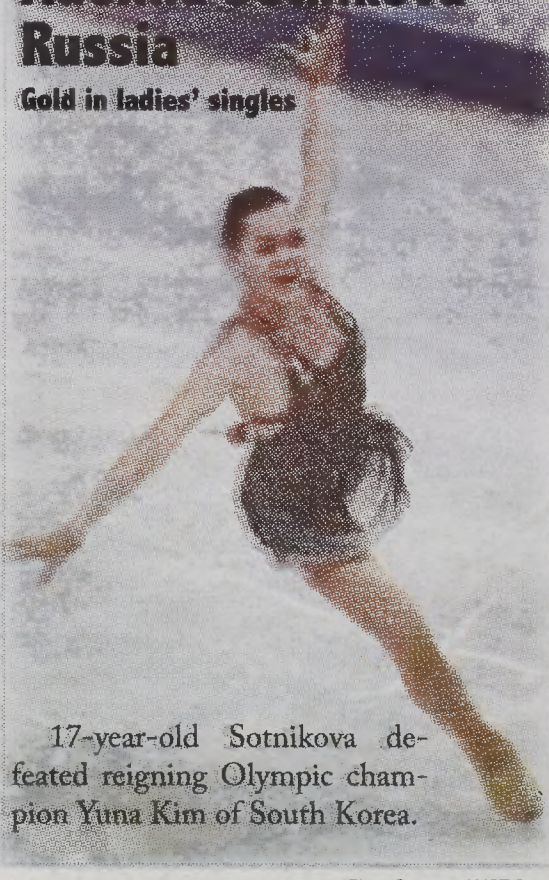
BY THE NUMBERS

- 98** Total events in the games
- 60** Degrees Fahrenheit- Average temperature during the games
- 33** Total Medals won by Russia- the most of any country
- 28** Total medals won by the United States of America
- 23** Medals won by the Norwegian speedskating
- 22** Athletes forced to withdraw from competition due to injury
- 5** Medals won by Dutch speedskater Ireen Wust - the most by an individual athlete

Graphic by KAITLIN DUNN | International Editor

Adelina Sotnikova Russia

Gold in ladies' singles



17-year-old Sotnikova defeated reigning Olympic champion Yuna Kim of South Korea.

Photo Courtesy of MCT Campus

Russian Adelina Sotnikova skates her way to gold.