



## team dhl biographies

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Team DHL is a select group of Olympic and Paralympic medalists and recipients of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Spirit Award. Team DHL will serve as ambassadors for the 2006 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Spirit Awards Delivered by DHL, as well as the DHL U.S. Olympic Spirit Card Contest.

### Team DHL members are:

- **Vonetta Flowers** (Bobsled) – 2002 Olympic Gold Medalist, U.S. Olympic Spirit Award Winner and U.S. Team of the Year
- **Scott Hamilton** (Figure Skating) – 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist and U.S. Olympic Spirit Award Winner; Four-Time World and U.S. Champion
- **Dan Jansen** (Speedskating) – 1994 Olympic Gold Medalist; 1988/1994 U.S. Olympic Spirit Award Winner; Member of Four U.S. Olympic Teams
- **Chris Klug** (Snowboarding) – 2002 Olympic Bronze Medalist and U.S. Olympic Spirit Award Winner
- **Sarah Will** (Paralympic Alpine Skiing) – 2002 Paralympic Gold Medal Sweep (4) and U.S. Paralympic Spirit Award Winner

### VONETTA FLOWERS – 2002 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (BOBSLED)

#### Career Highlights:

- 2002 Olympic gold medalist
- 2002 USOC Team of the Year
- **2002 U.S. Olympic Spirit Award winner**
- 2003 National champion
- 2004 World Rank – 2
- 2006 U.S. Olympic Team hopeful

#### Biography:

Vonetta Flowers is known for her skill, strength and beauty. She is the first person of African decent to win an Olympic Winter Games gold medal, and she was named one of *People Magazine's* 2002 “Most Beautiful People.” Her 2002 U.S. Olympic Team mates selected Vonetta to be the American flag bearer at the Closing Ceremony of Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. She has also received the U.S. Olympic Spirit Award and the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance Award.

Vonetta was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. As early as 1982 Vonetta showed remarkable athletic ability, out-running all of her classmates, boys included. Her speed carried her through high school and on to the University of Alabama, Birmingham on a track and field scholarship. Vonetta was the first in her family to attend college. By the time she graduated she was one of the university's all-time most decorated athletes with 35 conference titles and victories in the Penn Relays and The Olympic Festival *and she was* the school's first Seven-Time All-American.

After college, Vonetta set her sights on the Olympic Games (summer), competing in both the 1996 and 2000 U.S. Olympic Team Trials but coming up short. It wasn't until Vonetta's husband came upon a 'help wanted' ad put out by the US Bobsled Federation looking for promising track athletes to convert to bobsled that her dream of becoming an Olympian was rekindled – this time as a winter Olympian.

With the disappointment of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team Trials still lingering, Vonetta showed up to an open call bobsled tryout and impressed the team with her remarkable speed and power. Less than two months later, she was representing the USA in international competitions around the world and by the



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end of her rookie season she was, and remains, the #1 brakewoman in the country. The following year, at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Vonetta and teammate Jill Bakken entered the competition in virtual anonymity. Unexpected to contend for a medal and all but disappearing into the shadows of their heavily favored American teammates, Flowers and Bakken shocked the world by grabbing the lead with one final run left for gold. In one of the biggest upsets in Olympic history, they delivered under pressure and captured the first ever gold medal in women's bobsled history. In doing so, Vonetta became the first person of African descent to win an Olympic winter gold medal.

Currently, Vonetta is preparing for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy with 2002 U.S. Olympian (bobsled) and two-time world champion driver Jean Racine.

### **SCOTT HAMILTON – 1984 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (FIGURE SKATING)**

#### **Career Highlights:**

- 1980 5th place at the Olympic Winter Games
- 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 World Champion
- 1982, 1983 first place at Nationals
- 1984 Olympic gold medalist
- **1984 U.S. Olympic Spirit Award winner**
- 1988 Jacques Favart Award
- 1990 United States Olympic Hall of Fame
- 1990 World Figure Skating Hall of Fame

#### **Biography:**

Scott Hamilton's personal background is one of the most inspiring in the history of sports; a remarkable story of courage and determination that make him a champion in the truest sense of the word.

Six weeks after his birth on August 28, 1958, Scott was adopted by Ernest and Dorothy Hamilton, both professors at Bowling Green University in Ohio. When Scott was about two, he contracted a mysterious illness that caused him to stop growing. For the next six years, doctors prescribed a variety of unsuccessful treatments. After his illness was mistakenly diagnosed as cystic fibrosis and he was given six months to live, the Hamilton's took their son to the Children's Hospital in Boston where his ailment began to correct itself by special diet and moderate exercise. Soon he felt well enough to watch his older sister Susan on an ice-skating outing and thereafter decided to try skating himself.

From the beginning, Scott skated with great confidence and uncommon speed. He began taking formal lessons, joined a hockey team and within a year, his illness disappeared and he began growing again, although he would always be considerably smaller than his peers. His miraculous recovery was attributed to the effects of intense physical activity in the cold atmosphere of the rink. At thirteen he began training with Pierre Brunet, an Olympic gold medal winner.

Over the next several years his continued dedication began to pay off. By 1980 he was good enough to capture third place in national competition and win a berth on the U.S. Olympic Team. In addition, he earned a solid fifth-place finish at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid. Then in March of 1981, Scott's dazzling free-skating program at the World Championships enabled him to win the title, only the second American to do so since 1970. Later the same year, he took an individual gold medal at



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the first Skate America tournament and was voted Male Athlete of The Year by the United States Olympic Committee.

Scott held on to his national and world titles in 1982 and 1983. As the winner of sixteen consecutive championships after the 1980 Olympic Winter Games, he went on to win the gold medal at the 1984 Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo. In 1984, Scott was also awarded a U.S. Olympic Spirit Award. A month later, he went on to score a stunning victory at the World Championships in Ottawa, Canada. Shortly thereafter, in April of 1984, Scott turned professional after being inundated with offers from the major ice shows.

1997 was not meant to be just another typical year in the life of Olympic Champion Scott Hamilton. What clearly would have been a routine twelve months filled with numerous professional world-class competitions, network television specials, and touring the country in STARS ON ICE, a production Hamilton conceived and co-founded eleven years ago, was interrupted when on March 18, Scott was diagnosed with testicular cancer. But, convinced that he could overcome the disease, Scott was back on the ice after twelve weeks of successful chemotherapy treatments, followed by an equally successful surgery, and just six weeks of recuperation.

In March of 1988, Scott Hamilton received perhaps the second most important award of his career from the International Skating Union. This institutional governing body of all world amateur competitions presented him their highest recognition of merit, the Jacques Favart Award. A most prestigious honor, it is only sporadically given and, at the time of its presentation to Scott, he became the award's first solo male recipient. In July of 1990, to add to a remarkable list of achievements which includes over 50 titles, awards and honors, Scott was inducted into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame. In that same year, he also became a privileged member of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

Scott also enjoys a successful career in broadcasting. He was the then Olympic network broadcast analyst for the figure skating events at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, the 1994 Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway and the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, France. Scott also was the voice of figure skating for NBC's coverage of the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games.

Scott also continues his association with Stars on Ice as the Executive Producer and as a special guest star. When he is not performing, competing, exhibiting, or conducting skating clinics, Scott participates in a wide variety of charitable events including those for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Athletes Against Drugs and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

### DAN JANSEN – 1994 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (SPEED SKATING)

#### Career Highlights:

- 1994 Olympic gold medalist in 1000m
- 1994, 1992, 1988, 1984 member of U.S. Olympic Team
- **1988 and 1994 U.S. Olympic Spirit Award winner**
- 8 time world record holder in the 500m and 1000m
- 46 World Cup victories, and more than 50 World Cup medals
- Winner of 20 World Championship medals
- 7 time overall World Cup champion



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### Biography:

Dan Jansen is known for his speed and spirit. In 1995, he was awarded the Amateur Athletic Union's James E. Sullivan Award, presented annually to an outstanding athlete in the U.S. who exhibits the quality of leadership, character, sportsmanship and the ideas of amateurism. In 1988 and 1994, he received the U.S. Olympic Spirit Award for his courage, commitment, perseverance and vision – the only athlete ever to win this award twice. He also received the Jim Thorpe Pro Sports Award in 1994.

If there's one thing you can say about Dan Jansen, it's that he's has his fair share of bouncing back from big disappointments. Born in West Allis, Wisconsin, Dan suffered his first major setback when at the ripe old age of 11 he lost a race at the National Speedskating Championships in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1984 as an 18-year-old at this first Olympic Winter Games, Dan finished fourth in the 500 meters, .16 seconds away from a bronze medal. Not bad for a rookie, but in a country which judges its Olympic winners and losers heavily on the medal count, Dan's accomplishment went unnoticed, unmerited and, in the eyes of many Americans, was viewed a disappointment .

The favored speedskater at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada, Dan needed all the courage he could gather when, on the day he was to race in the 500 meters, his sister Jane died from leukemia. That evening Dan readied himself as best he could in hopes of winning the race for his sister. One hundred meters into the race, Dan fell. He fell again four days later in the 1000-meter race while on a world record pace.

The 1992 Olympic Winter Games brought more disappointment as Dan finished fourth in the 500 meters and 26th in the 1000. Dan's last shot at an elusive Olympic medal came in 1994 in Lillehammer, Norway. Again the favorite in the 500, Dan was on another world record pace when the unfathomable happened again, a slip in the finals.....no medal. Four days later Dan skated his last Olympic race, the 1000 meters, where he finally raced to a world record and the Olympic gold. Dan dedicated his gold-medal performance to his sister, Jane.

The Dan Jansen Foundation was established in 1994 after Dan's remarkable gold medal performance in the Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. The mission of the Dan Jansen Foundation is to solicit financial support and distribute funds to charities, with an emphasis on the fight against leukemia, which claimed the life of Dan's sister Jane. The foundation supports youth sports programs, educational and scholarship awards.

Beyond the ice, Dan is an avid golfer with a 3 handicap. He also has talent behind the microphone, with broadcasting credits that include: 1998 Olympic Winter Games, Summer and Winter Goodwill Games, and the 2002 Olympic Winter Games on NBC.

### CHRIS KLUG – 2002 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST (SNOWBOARDING)

#### Career Highlights:

- 2000 Grand Prix Overall alpine champion
- 2001 U.S. National Champion
- 2002 U.S. National Slalom champion
- 2002 Olympic Games bronze medalist
- **2002 U.S. Olympic Spirit Award winner**
- 2003 King of the Mountain at Telluride
- 2004 World Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> place finalist
- 2004 U.S. National champion



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### Biography:

In July 2000, Chris Klug received a life-saving transplant to rid himself of *primary sclerosing cholangitis* (PSC), a rare liver disease affecting one in 10,000. He was back on the podium five months later at the World Cup. Chris is the first-ever American to compete in the Olympic Winter Games with an organ transplant.

Born November 18, 1972, in Aspen, Colorado, Chris has never been a stranger to the slopes. The 2002 Bronze medalist in Parallel Giant Slalom, Chris is a two-time Olympian with many competitive credits to his name. He was the 2004 U.S. National Champion in Slalom and the U.S. National Champion in Parallel Giant Slalom in 2001.

In addition to snowboarding, Chris is part of Saturn's National Donor Day; he performed the honors of lighting the torch and giving the keynote address at the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Transplant Games. Chris is also a U.S. Olympic Spirit Award winner.

Chris previously ran camps for the Aspen Skiing Company, designed for intermediate and above-level snowboarders. He was named one of *Outside Magazine's* 25 most extraordinary people and was voted one of "The Sexiest Men in Sport" by *Sports Illustrated* for Women for 2002. When he's not on the slopes, Chris is an active surfer, basketball player, golfer, fly fisherman, mountain biker, wakeboarder and kite surfer.

### SARAH WILL – TWELVE-TIME PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (ALPINE SKIING)

#### Career Highlights:

- 1992 Paralympic Gold Medalist (2)
- 1994 Paralympic Gold Medalist (3)
- 1998 Paralympic Gold Medalist (3)
- 2002 Paralympic Gold Medalist (4)
- **2002 U.S. Paralympic Spirit Award winner**
- Third place in Winter X Games Exhibition Event

### Biography:

Sarah Will is regarded as the top woman monoskier in the world. She has earned twelve Paralympic gold medals and one silver, placing her among the most decorated U.S. skiers. Recently retired after eleven years with the U.S. Disabled Ski Team, Sarah ran a clean sweep of all four downhill skiing events during the 2002 Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City, UT. She ties the world record for the most Paralympic gold medals won during the winter games; Sarah was the first person with a disability inducted into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame in 2004.

This wasn't the career path that Sarah had always dreamed of. But in 1988, a ski accident resulting in a spinal cord injury changed her life. One year after her accident, she was back on the slopes taking her first run in a monoski and reaching speeds of over 65MPH. Her strong comeback sends a powerful message that if one works hard enough and keeps focused on life goals, anything is truly possible.

Her passion to share her love of skiing, led her to co-found the Sarah Will and Chris Waddell Vail Monoski Camp in 1993. This annual event for skiers of all ages and abilities is designed to provide skiers



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with the fundamentals to take skiing to new levels. In addition to her own camps, she is a private, part-time instructor with the Vail Adaptive Ski School.

Sarah also spends time giving motivational speeches and works as an accessibility consultant. She is the Executive Director of Access Vail Valley, a non-profit corporation dedicated to encouraging the growth and expansion of recreation programs and services in the Vail Valley to visitors and residents with disabilities. As a motivational speaker, Sarah shares her Olympic experience and how she uses skiing as a metaphor for life. In 2003, she began working with "Think First" a national injury prevention program targeted for K -12 children. As a VIP speaker, she shares her experience of living with a spinal cord injury and how to avoid sustaining one. She currently serves on the board of The Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center, one of the country's leading outdoor education center for people with disabilities.