

Winter Olympics – Grace on Ice and Racing Skeletons

Every four years, many of us turn two weeks of winter into an Olympic event – even if we're not competing. We are fascinated by the athleticism and grace of the figure skaters, the hustle of the speed skaters, the stamina of the downhill skiers, and the courage and daring of the men and women in the skeleton event.

In the latter, competitors plummet head first down a 1,500-meter (more than 4,900 feet) course on the metal runners of a small, simple sled that was called a skeleton when it debuted in 1892. Skeleton, which originated as a sport in St. Moritz, Switzerland, was a Winter Olympic sport only in 1928 and 1948, when St. Moritz was the host city. Finally, it emerged from the closet as an ongoing Olympic sport at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Skeleton racers will careen down the icy luge and bobsleigh course in Whistler, while skating events are to be held in Vancouver as Canada hosts its second Winter Olympics (the first was in Calgary in 1988).

Whether you're off to British Columbia because you have event tickets or are planning to watch some of the competition on television – or find something else to do while others in your family are glued to the screen – I hope you will find these Winter Olympics an enjoyable diversion.

I appreciate being able to be of service to you and your family.

Regards,

Ross Marino

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