

I Love Speed Skating

I think my very first skating memory is late January 2010 at the Olympic Oval. There, I've found my talent and continued to skate on. On my journey, I have discovered a big dream for me. I wanted to be a proud representative of Canada in the Winter Olympics. I watched the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics and admired every athlete and their courage and strength.

The speed skaters really stood out to me. Especially Charles Hamelin and Clara Hughes. I admire Charles Hamlin for his courage and strength. Charles skates in a very tough sport and shows a good example of a skater that NEVER gives up. When he falls, Charles gets right up and tries again. Charles also stood out to me for his passion. I can tell he loves this sport just by his actions. He doesn't need to go up to the camera and say "Oh, I love this sport." With Charles's spirit, you can tell the love of speed skating right from him.

Clara Hughes has passion in speed skating too. She takes racing seriously but has the positivity all around her. I admire her because of all her effort. She always has a smile on her face. Clara tries hard and managed medals of her dreams. If she doesn't reach her goal, Clara is more determined to succeed. She is very committed. Clara is willing to make sacrifices that may not be pleasing. Even so, Clara will do what it takes to be a proud Canadian Olympian.

Late in August, I entered a speed skating camp. The speed skaters of the Olympics have inspired me to try it myself. They have inspired me so much that I wanted to eat like an Olympian from the Fuel for Gold lunches. This program showed me what Olympians ate. I was ecstatic and started to feel like an Olympian myself. Well, in the camp, I learned the basics of speed skating. I had so much passion myself that I wanted to do more. My parents loved me and my dream and is willing to help me reach my goal. They have sacrificed a lot and put in lots of money just for me in the speed skating club. From then on, I am now a proud member of the 2010/2011 Calgary speed skating club. I will do what it takes to be an Olympian.

I have done something that lots of Olympians have done before, donating money for RIGHT TO PLAY. Hayley Wickenheiser, Cherrie Piper and Brianne Jenner have come to my school and told us about this organization. I have learned a lot from them. They have encouraged our school to raise money for kids in the world without sports to play. Our school has raised over 1000 dollars and this has encouraged me to do the same when I am an Olympian.

I think I should win the contest because skating with Olympians on a brand new, never used before ice is an honour to me. Even if it's just 10 minutes, I am thankful for having this once in a life time opportunity. If I were skating with world class athletes on new ice, it will be the biggest event of my life. It'll be wonderful even if I don't get to be an Olympian. This will show that I didn't succeed to be an Olympian, but I have been with one. This will encourage me to try harder and end up like Christine Nesbitt, Elvis Stojko and Hayley Wickenheiser, proud Canadian Olympians.

- Hee-Won S.