



2006 Winter Olympics Do you care? Will you watch?

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The opening ceremony for the games of the XXth Winter Olympiad is set for Friday night in Torino, Italy, and competition continues through Feb. 26.

But if you stop people on the street and ask them or listen to sports-talk radio, it may be difficult to find anyone who will notice or care that the Olympics are set to be staged.

Much has changed in our world since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America, but this is a chance to show potential evil-doers that the world can unite for the common good. Though sports pale in comparison to what's really important, the games should be a welcome respite from what's wrong in our world for a couple of weeks.

Perhaps apathy toward the Olympics has set in because they now occur every two years. The Summer Olympics are held in years containing Leap Day and a U.S. presidential election, such as 2000 and 2004. The Winter Olympics, which used to be on the same cycle, became two years removed starting in 1994, so those games were staged in 1998, 2002 and again this year.

But these are the Olympics, and you get a chance to see some of the world's best athletes. So what if you don't know anything about some of the sports, such as curling, luge, skeleton or snowboardcross, a new sport for these games. It's time to expand your craniums.

Army communities should have an extra-special interest in the games. Three Soldiers will compete and two others will serve as head coaches in their Olympic sports. Spc. Steve Holcomb, a combat engineer from Park City, Utah, and Capt. Lorenzo Smith III, an ADA officer from Kankakee, Ill., earned spots on the U.S. men's bobsled team. Another Soldier, 2002 Olympic bronze medalist Spc. Mike Kohn, an infantryman from Chantilly, Va., was chosen as an alternate to the bobsled team.

Sgt. Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour will serve as head coach for the U.S. men's bobsled team, and Spc. William "Bill" Tavares is the head coach for the U.S. women's bobsled team. All Soldiers participating are members of the Army's World Class Athlete Program.

So how will American athletes fare? America has a wealth of good skaters, skiers, snowboarders and speedskaters, as well as strong entries in bobsledding, women's curling and women's hockey. Team USA took home an American-record 34 medals from Salt Lake City in 2002, second to Germany's 36. It will be hard to duplicate or exceed that feat, but 30 medals are probably an attainable total.

Sports predictions are always a tough call, but keep an eye on alpine skiers Ted Ligety, Bode Miller and Daron Rahlves for the U.S. men and Lindsey Kildow for the women. In freestyle skiing, watch Ryan St. Onge in men's aerials, Toby Dawson in men's moguls and Michelle Roark in women's moguls. Driver Todd Hays could medal again in men's bobsled.

Sasha Cohen is a medal favorite in women's figure skating, but don't count out Michelle Kwan, who was a bronze medalist in 2002, a silver medalist in 1998 and who made this year's team after being granted a medical exemption from the Olympic trials in January for a groin injury. Johnny Weir could medal in men's figure skating. In ice dancing, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto are U.S. medal hopefuls.

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WILSON A. RIVERA

Chief Warrant Officer DJ Worthy counts off two seconds and then calls the pin for the offensive wrestler to end the match.

Soldier prioritizes time to officiate wrestling

WILSON A. RIVERA

Monitor Staff

With a blow of a whistle, referees like Chief Warrant Officer Dedrick J. Worthy, "DJ," of the Directorate of Combat Development, keep a constant look out for illegal moves and violations as well as making calls awarding points to a wrestler by making quick decisions. Paying close attention to detail and staying physically fit are not only characteristics of a wrestling official, but also the traits of a Soldier.

"I enjoy being on the wrestling mat making split second decisions, but I don't like the politics when coaches protest certain calls that are made, because then things can get ugly," said DJ.

DJ has been a wrestling referee with the Greater El Paso Wrestling Officials Association for the last four years. GEPWOA covers wrestling events all throughout Texas. He is also a member of the U.S.A. Wrestling Officials Association. DJ also spends time officiating weekend youth wrestling tournaments with children from ages 4 to 14.

"I really like wrestling and it keeps me in touch with the sport. In addition, it gets me out in the civilian community, and I feel like I'm giving something back," he said.

A veteran wrestler himself, DJ competed in junior high and high school for five years. His greatest accomplishment was winning a silver medal at the Central European Junior High Wrestling Championships in 1984. The two previous years he placed fourth in this championship.

"Plain old fun," is how DJ describes officiating a wrestling match. He prioritizes the everyday tasks as a Soldier in the Army, at college, and time with his family.

"Since I was little, I have seen my dad referee wrestling ... he has one of the coolest jobs," said Tanya Worthy, 14, DJ's youngest daughter.

His family supports him in many ways. Tanya was taught to keep score during matches and statistics for wrestlers. Now in high school, she is the wrestling manager for Irvin High School.

His previous chain of command with the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade afforded him the time off to perform duties as a table official during last



After blowing the whistle to start the match, Chief Warrant Officer DJ Worthy steps back to get a better view of the action on the mat.

year's high school regional championships. Children of members within his current chain of command, wrestle in the city youth league and he can be seen officiating them at some of the key wrestling tournaments in El Paso.

Normally DJ spends two days a week officiating around his two college courses at Webster University. He will be finished with his master's degree this summer, as well as testing for a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He attends Cielo Vista Church, helping with the children on Sunday mornings.

"I think my father is a respectable referee and a good people person," said Tanya.