

WORLD-CLASS ATHLETES JOIN McDONALD'S® BALANCED, ACTIVE LIFESTYLES INITIATIVE

Athlete Biographies

McDonald's has enlisted a worldwide team of **Olympic Athletes, Hopefuls and Moms** – athletes who are moms themselves or have been “life coaches” to their own Olympic hopefuls. These role models excite and inspire young people through their compelling and powerful personal stories and will share their perspectives on how to achieve balance and how McDonald's fits into their everyday lives.

McDonald's countries will coordinate with their National Olympic Committees to form a local team to spread the Balanced, Active Lifestyles message through public service programs, education campaigns and sports and fitness events, among other initiatives.

Leading the team are world-renowned hockey player **Wayne Gretzky** (Canada) and five-time gold-medal winning speed skater **Bonnie Blair** (U.S.).

Wayne Gretzky

Wayne Gretzky announced his retirement as a professional hockey player on April 16, 1999, after dominating the National Hockey League (NHL) for 20 seasons unlike any player in history. Gretzky helped win four Stanley Cup Championships and three Canada Cup tournament titles during his legendary career. He became the NHL's all-time leading goal, assist and point producer for both regular season and playoffs. He holds nearly every offensive record in the NHL and his support of the game has contributed significantly to its popularity today.

In 1998, Gretzky competed for Canada at the Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. Gretzky served in a managerial role in 2002 with Team Canada as the Executive Director of their Olympic Hockey team. He was responsible for assembling Canada's best ice hockey players at the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City and, under Gretzky's leadership, Team Canada won the gold medal for the first time in 50 years.

At a ceremony in Salt Lake City in February 2002, Gretzky also received the Olympic Order, the highest honor bestowed by the International Olympic Committee, for his "outstanding contributions to the game of hockey."

Gretzky has enjoyed a longtime relationship with McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited. He has played a key role in several of McDonald's Canada's marketing initiatives, starring in advertising campaigns centered around the Olympic Games and hockey-related in-restaurant promotions. He has also embraced the philanthropic spirit of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), acting as an RMHC ambassador for the national charity. Over the years, through a number of fund raising activities, including the Wayne Gretzky and Friends Golf Tournament, Wayne has raised well over a million dollars to help RMHC in Canada. He has given generously of his time and has been a spokesperson on TV, and on in-restaurant materials, encouraging people to support RMHC.

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Bonnie Blair

At 19, Bonnie Blair competed in her first Olympics at the 1984 Olympic Games in Sarajevo, finishing eighth. Over the next three Olympic Games, Blair won five gold medals and one bronze medal. Blair retired from competition in 1995 as the most decorated Winter Olympian in U.S. history.

Her accolades include being named Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year (1994), *Sports Illustrated* Sportsperson of the Year, and *Glamour* magazine's Woman of the Year. Today she is a motivational speaker and active in various charities.

In 2001 on behalf of McDonald's, Blair helped cheer on McDonald's U.S. Crew members at the All American Crew "Olympic Trials" as they competed for top honors to travel to the 2002 Salt Lake Games and serve the athletes. At the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, Blair served as a team captain for the McDonald's Olympic Champion Crew at a special skills exhibition.

Guo Jingjing

Guo Jingjing, celebrated diver from the People's Republic of China, was born in the Baoding, Hebei province and left her family at the age of 11 to begin training. Jingjing represented China at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, earning a gold medal in the 3m women's synchronized springboard with Wu Minxia. She also won her first individual Olympic gold medal in the 3m women's springboard. Jingjing has been working with McDonald's China since last year as part of their "i'm lovin' it™" campaign, Olympic sponsorship promotions and Balanced, Active Lifestyles efforts.

Janet Evans

Throughout her Olympic career, Janet Evans won four gold medals, tying Mark Spitz as the only U.S. swimmer to win four individual Olympic titles. Evans won gold at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, breaking her own world record by four seconds. She returned to the Olympic Games in 1992 in Barcelona and again in Atlanta in 1996.

Evans set three world records that still stand today. She is the only woman to win back-to-back Olympic and World Championship titles in any event (800m freestyle).

Evans also holds a place in Olympic history out of the pool. At the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, she took the final lap with the Olympic torch before passing it to Muhammad Ali who lit the cauldron. In Athens, at the 2004 Olympic Games she helped honor the McDonald's Olympic Champion Crew by participating in a special crew skills exhibition and crew rally.

Sarah Ulmer

Sarah Ulmer won a gold medal in cycling and set world records at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. She was the first New Zealander to win an Olympic cycling gold medal. Ulmer broke the world record with a qualifying time of 3 minutes 26.4 seconds. She astounded spectators, when in dominating the final on August 22, 2004, she slashed almost two full seconds off her best time to win the gold medal.

After Athens, Ulmer held the Olympic title, Olympic and world records, Commonwealth Games title and the Commonwealth Games record for the 3000m individual pursuit.

Sarah has been actively involved in McDonald's New Zealand's "Eat Smart. Be Active" campaign and McDonald's annual bike race event, among other activities.

Vonetta Flowers

In 2002, Vonetta Flowers became the first African-American to win a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. Together with driver Jill Bakken, the pair won gold in women's bobsledding.

In 2001, Flowers finished eighth with veteran Bonny Warner at the 2001 World Championships in Calgary, Alberta. The Warner-Flowers duo finished in the top ten in all seven 2001 World Cup races and closed the season with four consecutive top three finishes.

Flowers is an inspirational speaker who was featured as one of *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People." She met with McDonald's owners and operators at their April 2002 Worldwide Conference, months after she won the gold medal in Salt Lake City.

Diego Hypólito

At 18, Brazil's Diego Matias Hypólito is poised to become one of the world's top gymnasts. At the age of 7, he began competing in gymnastics and by age 10, he moved to Rio de Janeiro and started training at Flamengo Club, where he became the best Brazilian gymnast placed in a World Cup Championship. Hypólito, the first South American athlete to earn a medal in World Cup, trains seven hours daily and is currently preparing for the 2007 Pan-American Games in Rio De Janeiro and 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Hypólito's sister, Daniele, also a gymnast, competed for Brazil at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Together in Athens, he as a spectator and she as a competitor, frequently visited the McDonald's restaurant at the Olympic Village. He lists his favorite menu items as the McChicken® sandwich and coconut water (a Brazilian staple), while Daniele enjoys the Grilled Chicken Premium Salad.

Amy Hatch

As a mother of two U.S. Olympic hopefuls, Amy Hatch represents the inspiration of Olympic moms that support Olympic hopefuls around the world. Hatch's daughters, Brianna (15) and Caitlyn (11), are aspiring Olympians that have amassed a remarkable collection of skating medals. Brianna has been a member of the U.S. Junior National Figure Skating Team since 2001 and will compete as a member of the USA Young International Team in Luxembourg later this month. Caitlyn is a first-year member of the Junior National Figure Skating Team and was also invited to join in the USA Young International Team in Luxembourg.

Both girls train six hours a day, six days a week, and skate for the Broadmoor Skating Club in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Steven Lopez

Steven Lopez is a two-time Olympic gold medalist in taekwondo. He took the gold in the Olympic Welterweight Division at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and earned his first gold medal in the Olympic Featherweight Division at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. He is also the two-time reigning World Champion (2001 and 2003).

Lopez will compete for his third consecutive World Championship title at the 2005 World Taekwondo Championships next month in Madrid. He recently topped the U.S. National Taekwondo Team Trials, guaranteeing him a spot on the U.S. team that will compete in the 2005 World Championships. His younger brother and sister, Mark and Diana, also made the team. This will be the second straight World Championships in which all three will compete on the same U.S. Team. In 2003, Lopez won gold and Mark took silver.

In 2004, Lopez was featured on McDonald's Olympic packaging in the U.S. and participated in on-site McDonald's crew events in Athens. He is also fluent in Spanish.