TORINO 2006
DAY BY DAY PROGRAMMING
ON EUROSPORT

THE GAMES
LET SPORT
BE THE STAR

10-26 FEBRUARY
24 HOUR COVERAGE
From the 10th to the 26th February 2006, Eurosport will provide amazing full coverage when it opens its doors to the greatest competition in the world, the Olympic Games. Over 16 days, Eurosport will be completely dedicated to this unique event by broadcasting these Torino Olympic Games LIVE, 24 hours a day.

Eurosport's commitment to these 20th Winter Olympics: to give full priority to the event, to capture all of the sporting action, suspense and emotion of the Games, whatever the nationality of the participants, so that all sports lovers throughout Europe can experience the Games in their entirety, following all the events, disciplines and historic moments.

10-26 February 2006
16 days of non-stop coverage to watch the greatest possible star: the Olympic Games
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<td>08:30</td>
<td>OLIMPIC GAMES OPENING CEREMONY</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>NORDIC COMBINED: Normal Hill</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
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<td>NORDIC COMBINED: Normal Hill and 15km Individual</td>
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In 2002, Samppe Lajunen achieved the first individual Olympic double in Nordic Combined history with his victories in Sprint (7.5km) and Individual (15km) events. The retirement of the Finnish genius after the 2003-2004 season leaves space on the podium in Torino. Finland will rely on Hannu Manninen, winner of the 2004-2005 World Cup but the main favourite is the German Ronny Ackermann, who also achieved a glorious double in Sprint and Individual events during the 2005 World Championships.

13:00
**Live** BIATHLON: 20km Individual Men

The 20km men (or its equivalent for women, the 15km) is the mythical event in Biathlon. Competitors fear it as shooting mistakes are more penalised than in the other events: a 1-minute penalty, instead of a penalty loop of 150m taking around 25 seconds. Some people would like to see this event disappear but it remains the quintessence of Biathlon and all complete biathletes must win this event at least once in their career. The event is always full of surprises as the suspense remains up to the end: just a slight gust of wind can make a bullet veer off course, meaning competitors can immediately fall several places in the rankings.

19:00
**Live** FIGURE SKATING: Pairs Short Programme

There is a new ISU judging system in place since the 2003-2004 season. The idea was to copy the gymnastics system in order to give more objective and precise marks and avoid some scandals. The result is not yet a success. In gymnastics absolutely all the gestures have been codified, year after year, for a century. Figure Skating does not have such a long tradition and its vocabulary of gestures is much less precise. Consequently there are still great differences in marks from one judge to another.
**ALPINE SKIING:**

The Olympic downhill race has often been won by skiers who had never won a World Cup event before! This was the case for 4 out of the last 7 Olympic Champions: Leonhard Stock (Austria) in 1980, Patrick Ortlieb (Austria) in 1992, Tommy Moe (USA) in 1994 and Jean-Luc Crétié (France) in 1998. The title holder Fritz Strobl (Austria) was a more “logical” Olympic Champion in 2002, having already won 6 downhill World Cup events before the Salt Lake City Games. If he qualifies for Torino, he will still be one of the favourites to win.

**SKI JUMPING:**

In Salt Lake City, Simon Ammann (Switzerland) took the normal hill and long hill titles, achieving one of the most beautiful doubles in Olympic history and probably the most surprising one, as, before Salt Lake, Ammann had never won a World Cup event. And since Salt Lake, Ammann has won just one World Cup event, in Oslo, on 17 March 2002, one month after his Salt Lake triumph. Four years later, in Torino, will Simon Ammann once again be propelled to glory by the Olympic atmosphere?

**SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING:**

In Salt Lake City, Australian Steven Bradbury only reached that final because another skater was disqualified in the semi-final. Then, in the final, Bradbury was on course to finish the race in last place when a mass tumble on the last lap took out his four competitors. Lucky Bradbury coasted to the finish line and gave Australia its first Winter Olympics’ Gold medal ever! So, who knows what could happen this time around?
12:00 **Live** BIATHLON: 15km Individual Ladies

The 15km Individual is the most open event in the Ladies competitions. The German Andrea Henkel won this event in the 2005 World Championships after 3 years in the wilderness after her Olympic title in 2002! Nevertheless no biathlete has ever successfully defended their Olympic title in an individual event since Magnar Solberg did so in 1968 and 1972.

14:15 **Live** SNOWBOARD: Half Pipe Finals Ladies

Half Pipe is the most spectacular snowboarding event. Doriane Vidal (France), the 2005 World Champion and 2002 Olympic Silver medallist, will be one of the main favourites. Also keep an eye on her teammate Sophie Rodriguez, probably one of the future stars of Snowboard. She is only 17 but already has all the necessary qualities to shine in Torino.

19:00 **Live** FIGURE SKATING: Pairs Free Skating

The Russians Tatiana Totmianina / Maxim Marinin and Maria Petrova / Alexei Tikhonov as well as the Chinese Qing Pang / Jian Tong are almost sure to be on the podium of the Pairs event. The question is: in what order?
10:00 **Live**

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:**

**Team Sprint Men and Ladies**

The Team Sprint event first appeared in the 2005 World Championships in Oberstdorf and makes its Olympic debut in Torino. This event is particularly popular as the on-site spectators can see the whole race without giant screens, as opposed to longer races. **Norway** became the first Team Sprint World Champions last season, for the men as well as for the women. That event was raced in “free skate” style. In Torino the Team Sprint will be raced in “classic” style. It’s not certain that the results will be different however as the Norwegian teams are pretty good in classic too!

12:15 **Live**

**ALPINE SKIING:**

**Combined Men**

Combined is a thrilling event that takes viewers from 12:00 to 20:30 with one downhill and two slalom legs. Lasse Kjus (Norway) won the Olympic title in 1994. In Torino Kjus is still the main favourite. If he wins 12 years after Lillehammer, it will be an amazing feat. As Kjus, 35, is in his last season, a victory in Torino would be the crowning achievement in the career of one of the greatest overall skiers in history.

18:00 **Live**

**LUGE:**

**Single Ladies**

The German **Sylke Otto**, 4-time World Champion and 2002 Olympic Champion, is today’s great favourite. She is a true star whose fans fight over her signed photos on specialised internet sites. Her popularity has increased even more since she won her 34th World Cup event in 2005 in Winterberg, setting a new record on the Luge World Cup circuit, ahead of two other legends Georg Hackl and Markus Prock, 33 victories each.
### Wednesday, 15 February

**10:30 (AND 15:00) Live**

**NORDIC COMBINED:**

Team event

Rules sometimes change in wintersports... fortunately for Norway’s Halldor Skard. In 1998 in Nagano the Nordic Combined Relay included 4 participants per team for the first time. Skard became Olympic Champion with his three other teammates. Four years before in Lillehammer, Skard had failed to qualifying for the 3-man relay as he was only considered as the 4th best athlete in his country. The change of rules in Nagano came as a blessing for him as Nagano’s Gold was the only Olympic title in his career.

**12:00 Live**

**ALPINE SKIING:**

Downhill Ladies

Anja Paerson (Sweden) has always been a great specialist and a great champion in the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. Recently, she has also focused on the speed events to become an overall champion. This proved successful as at the beginning of 2005 she achieved her first career victories in the following events: Super-G on 30 January and 25 February and Downhill on 26 February. This Downhill victory took place in San Sicario, the venue of today’s Olympic Downhill. Will this be a good omen for Anja Paerson?

**18:00 Live**

**FREESTYLE SKIING:**

Moguls Finals Men

The American Jeremy Bloom is a true star in the USA and in Freestyle. Voted one of the “sexiest men in sports” by Sports Illustrated for Women in 2002, he won the 2003 World Championships in Moguls and the 2005 Overall World Cup. His dreams: to become Olympic Champion in Torino and, right after, to play in the American NFL (National Football League). He has already played two seasons at Colorado University in 2002 and 2003 where he displayed great talent. “I know I will have to work hard to gain the 10kgs I lost for freestyle” he said on 1 April 2005 but anything seems possible for this young man, 23, whose motto is: “Compete like you are number one, train like you are number two”.

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### Day 5

**WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY**

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**10:30**

**NORDIC COMBINED: Team event**

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**WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY**
“For me, to end second is a defeat. My obsession is to win at any price. Each time I get to the final I push myself to the limits. I love this build up of the pressure until I cross the finish line in leading position. I fully savour these moments. The SBX event at the Games will be, I hope, my consecration because the Games is the only event that really promotes my sport by touching a large audience.” said Xavier Delerue (France). Delerue, triple World Champion in SBX is the hot favourite today. The SBX event is one of the events making its Olympic debut in Torino.

Speed Skating in Olympic history has always been individual. In Torino, for the first time, a team event will make its Olympic debut: team pursuit. With this event Speed Skating becomes more and more similar to Track Cycling, especially in terms of the format of the race. The similarities between Speed Skating and Track Cycling are not recent. In 1988 the German Christa Luding-Rothenburger won the Olympic Gold medal in Calgary in the 1,000m Speed Skating event and, a few months later, the Olympic Silver medal in Seoul in the 1,000m Track Cycling.

Evgeny Plushenko has won everything in his career, except the Olympic Gold. He hopes to be present in Torino but nobody knows yet if he will be able to compete. Plushenko has undergone surgery and needs time to recover and get back on form. If he gets back up to his usual level, he will be the undisputed favourite of the men’s competition. In case of Plushenko’s absence, Brian Jeanvert (France), Stéphane Lambiel (Switzerland), Jeffrey Buttle (Canada) and Johnny Weir (USA) are the four best placed skaters to take the Gold.
12:00 (AND 17:00 AND 19:30) LIVE ALPINE SKIING: Combined Ladies

Janica Kostelic (Croatia) was the queen of the 2002 Olympic Games, winning three Gold medals in Salt Lake City, a record in women's Alpine Skiing history. Amongst her three Olympic titles was the Combined event. She also won this event in the 2003 and 2005 World Championships, making her the undisputed favourite of the Combined in these 2006 Games, provided she is not injured.

The list of injuries of the Croatian star is almost as impressive as the list of her titles. The fact she was able to win so many events in all competitions - World Cup as well as World Championships and Olympic Games - despite all these injuries, just makes Kostelic's legend even more impressive.

18:00 LIVE SKI JUMPING: Long Hill Individual Qualifying

Eurosport is there where the other channels are not with its broadcast of the qualifying event in Pragelato. Pragelato's Olympic hill has for the moment hosted just one international official competition: it was on 11 February 2005 and Finland's Matti Hautamaeki won the World Cup event with two jumps at 134.5 and 132.5 metres. But the best moment happened during the qualifying event, held the previous day, when Poland's Adam Malyz set the record of Pragelato's hill with a jump at 140.5 metres. So, why not a record today during the qualifications?

00:30 DELAYED SKELETON: Single Men 2nd Leg

In Skeleton, this high speed sport, the hundredths of a second count. To improve their performances, more and more often the athletes don suits normally used in the swimming pool by professional swimmers. For the best aerodynamics and to reduce muscle tiredness these swimming costumes are very popular on the Skeleton pistes.
ALPINE SKIING: Super-G Men

Kjetil-André Aamodt (Norway) with the Super-G and Alberto Tomba (Italy) with the Giant Slalom are the only two skiers in history to have won two Olympic titles in the same discipline. Aamodt won his first Super-G title in Albertville in 1992 and his second one... 10 years later in Salt Lake City. This is quite simply one of the greatest feats achieved in this sport. Aamodt, for his last season, is the title holder in Torino, but it will be pretty hard for him as he will face the Austrians and the American Bode Miller.

BIATHLON: 12.5km Pursuit Men

The Pursuit event is the most spectacular event in Biathlon. Open to the first 60 athletes in the Sprint event, Pursuit always produces furious battles and amazing comebacks. An excellent shot, the German Rico Gross won two of the last three World Championships in this event. The question is: how would he have managed the Sprint event and will he be able to resist the competition from Ole Einar Bjørndalen (Norway) and Raphael Poirée (France)?

SKI JUMPING: Long Hill Individual

Over the past 5 seasons Adam Małysz (Poland) and Janne Ahonen (Finland) have won every possible title, World Cup as well as World Championships. Everything except the Olympic Gold. If he wins Gold in Torino, Małysz will have the full Olympic set after his Silver and Bronze medals in Salt Lake. Ahonen, on his side, has never won an Olympic medal individually. It’s now time for these two great champions to achieve their Olympic dream. In Vancouver in 2010 they will almost be 33 years old and it could be too late for them then.
12:00
**LIVE** ALPINE SKIING: Super-G Ladies

The venue of the Super-G event, San Sicario, was a controversial subject last season. A group of skiers, led by Hilde Gerg, Renate Goetschl and Michaela Dorfmeister, criticised the slope, judging it too easy, too flat and not fast enough, which would play against skiers ready to take any risk to win.

They even threatened to go on strike, but finally competed in San Sicario’s World Cup event on 25 February 2005. Today they will have to deal with their frustration and face skiers who perform better on this kind of slope. The local hero Isolde Kostner is one of them.

17:00
**LIVE** SPEED SKATING: 1000m Ladies

Can women reach the mythical 1 minute and 10 seconds mark in the 1000m event? Find out today at 17:00!

19:15
**LIVE** FIGURE SKATING: Ice Dancing Original Dance

Figure Skating is not only a sport you watch, it is a sport you listen to. Music plays an essential role in the quality of the overall performance of the skaters. When people remember the 1984 Olympic Games and the legendary performance by Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, they immediately think of the poignant Ravel’s Bolero, the beauty of the skating and the choice of music was just a perfect match. Let’s hope there will be other treasures to watch during these Games... and listen to.
ALPINE SKIING: Giant Slalom Men 2nd Leg

The Austrian Hermann Maier won the Olympic Giant Slalom title in 1998 in Nagano. As he is also the 2005 World Champion, he is regarded as the favourite in today’s event. If he wins he will be the second skier to be Olympic Champion twice in Giant Slalom, along with the Italian Alberto Tomba (1988 and 1992).

SKI JUMPING: Long Hill Team

No doubt Finland will want revenge over Germany in this team competition which includes a total of 8 jumps per team (two jumps for each of the four jumpers). In Salt Lake City the German team, after 8 jumps, took the Olympic Gold by a margin only of 18cm! Germany and Finland are the favourites but will have to keep an eye on Austria, Norway and Slovenia.

FIGURE SKATING: Ice Dancing Free Dance

The Ice Dancing event will be well worth watching with two couples coming out of retirement: Barbara Fusar Poli / Maurizio Margaglio (Italy) and Margarita Drobiazko / Povilas Vanagas (Lithuania). Two other couples to look out for are the Americans Tanith Belbin / Benjamin Agosto and Bulgaria’s Albena Denkova / Maxim Staviski. Both couples present risky and spectacular programmes showing true choreographic research.
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**NORDIC COMBINED: Long Hill and 7.5km Sprint**

The Sprint competition first appeared in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. Samp P Lajunen (Finland) took the title ahead of Ronny Ackermann (Germany) and Felix Gottwald (Austria). As Lajunen retired, bets are open for today's victory.

**11:00 (AND 14:00) Live**

**BIATHLON: 4x7.5km Relay Men**

Norway is without any doubt the fastest team in Biathlon with Frode Andrésen, Lars Berger and Ole Einar Bjørndalen. As the Olympic title holders and the 2005 World Champions, they are the indisputable favourites of the men's Relay. However their shooting capacities sometimes fluctuate and Norway will have to control the experienced German team, Olympic winners in 1992, 1994 and 1998, as well as the Russians and outsiders such as France, Austria and the young Swedish team.

**19:45 Live**

**FIGURE SKATING: Ladies Short Programme**

The short programme judging system has evolved recently. There is now a better balance between the 3 categories of elements: jumps, steps and spins. In the past the jumps elements were overmarked, giving priority to the athletic performance. A skater who managed a quadruple and triple combination was sure to finish among the first, even if the rest of the programme was rather weak. With the steps and spins elements having gained in importance, the short programme is now much more complex, dense and spectacular to watch, as all technical elements have to be successful.
12:30  
**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:**  
*Sprint Final Ladies*

The Sprint super star is **Marit Bjoergen** (Norway), undefeated in all Sprint World Cup events last season. She is the main favourite today provided she avoids repeating what happened in the 2005 World Championships. In Oberstdorf she failed in the qualifying Sprint event because she was exhausted as she had wanted to participate and win all the events held the previous days. She will have to better pace her efforts in Torino to be fresh enough to qualify and win today’s Sprint.

17:45  
**ALPINE SKIING:**  
*Slalom Ladies 2nd Leg*

The Ladies’ Slalom features the shortest skis in this sport. Nowadays these skis are only 155cm long, over 20cm less than 10 years ago. These shorter skis have changed the technique of the competitors: they are easier to handle and allow greater speed. **Anja Paerson** and **Janica Kostelic** are the two queens of the Slalom event, Kostelic having set a record in 2000-2001 by winning 7 out of 8 slaloms that she competed in.

21:30  
**ICE HOCKEY:**  
*Quarter-finals Men*

The NHL (National Hockey League) is the best league in the world. It only includes American and Canadian teams but has been more and more open to European players in recent years. Three hundred Europeans played in the NHL in the 2003-2004 season, 30 percent of the league, according to the International Ice Hockey Federation. Consequently, like in Basketball, the level of the European nations has strongly raised over the last few years. In 1998 in Nagano the podium was exclusively European, with the Czech Republic winning ahead of **Russia** and Finland. In 2002 Canada’s victory over the USA showed the desire of the North American teams to take back their leadership. Will they achieve it in Torino 2006?
Russia has dominated the Relay event for a few years, having won 4 out of the last 5 World Championships and 4 out of the last 5 World Cup events held last season. Their main opponents are the German team, double Olympic Champions in 1998 and 2002, led by the insatiable Uschi Disl (it will be her fifth Games!), the Norwegian team with Liv Grete Poirée and the French squad with Sandrine Bailly.

Contrary to the men's event where Plushenko is the undisputed favourite, the ladies' competition is much more open. It will be a match between the Russian Irina Slutskaya, the Americans Sasha Cohen and Michelle Kwan and the Japanese Fumie Suguri, Miki Ando and Shizuka Arakawa. Michelle Kwan is quadruple World Champion but never took the Olympic Gold. Torino 2006 is her last chance.

Otherwise the local hero Carolina Kostner, third at the 2005 World Championships, will be an interesting outsider. Eurosport's viewers will have had the opportunity to see her preparation for the Games, as Kostner is one of the athletes featured in the Mission to Torino series on Eurosport.
13:00
**Live** ALPINE SKIING: Giant Slalom Ladies 2nd Leg

There is an Italian tradition in Giant Slalom. Deborah Compagnoni, the great queen of the discipline for many years, won the event in the 1997 World Championships in Sestriere, on today’s Olympic slope. 9 years later, Denise Karbon, Karen Putzer, Manuela Möllg, Daniela Merighetti and Nadia Fanchini all dream to be part of the Italian team and succeed their glorious compatriot.

14:15
**Live** CURLING: 3rd Place Men

Whilst Bobsleigh is sometimes called Formula One on ice, **Curling** is often called Chess on Ice because of the highly strategic aspect of this sport. Indeed, as in Chess, players have to forecast their strategy 4 or 5 stones in advance to score as many points as possible. Nevertheless, contrary to Chess, in Curling strategy is not everything: you also need to have dexterity in the throw to be efficient. On this point the differences can be significant between nations. In France for instance the players are still amateurs and may practice their throwing for only 2 hours a week while players in Nordic and North American countries are professionals and have enough time to throw stones 25 hours a week. These players have developed an incredible dexterity which supports their perfectly set-out strategy.

21:30
**Live** ICE HOCKEY: Semi-finals Men

Wayne Gretzky from Canada is regarded as the best ever player in Ice Hockey history. After having been devastated by Canada’s loss in the 1998 Olympics as a player, Gretzky returned in 2002 to the Winter Olympics as Canada’s executive director and Canada won its first men’s Ice Hockey Gold medal in 50 years. In June 2005, he committed to return as executive director for Team Canada at the 2006 Torino Olympics. Will he have the same success?
### SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY

**06:30** **BUONGIORNO TORINO**
**PREVIEW OF THE DAY**

**08:30** **FIGURE SKATING**
**GALA EXHIBITION**

**09:30** **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**
**30KM MASS START LADIES**

**10:00** **BIATHLON**
**12.5KM MASS START LADIES**

**11:00** **CLUiNG**
**FINAL MEN**

**12:00** **BIATHLON**
**15KM MASS START MEN**

**13:00** **OLYMPIC NEWS FLASH**
**ALL THE LATEST NEWS**

**13:15** **FIGURE SKATING**
**GALA EXHIBITION**

**15:00** **ALPINE SKIING**
**SALOM MEN 1ST LEG**

**16:00** **BIATHLON**
**15KM MASS START MEN**

**16:45** **SPEED SKATING**
**5000M LADIES**

**18:15** **OLYMPIC NEWS FLASH**
**ALL THE LATEST NEWS**

**18:30** **ALPINE SKIING**
**SLALOM MEN 2ND LEG**

**19:30** **BOBSLEIGH**
**FOUR-MAN EVENT 4TH LEG**

**20:30** **SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING**
**500M FINAL MEN**

**22:00** **ICE HOCKEY**
**3RD PLACE MEN**

**00:00** **DARING GIRLS**
**THE GAME WITHIN THE GAMES**

**00:15** **BIATHLON**
**12.5KM MASS START LADIES**

**01:15** **BIATHLON**
**15KM MASS START MEN**

**02:15** **ALPINE SKIING**
**SALOM MEN**

**03:00** **BOBSLEIGH**
**FOUR-MAN EVENT 4TH LEG**

**04:00** **ICE HOCKEY**
**3RD PLACE MEN**

**04:30** **SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING**
**500M FINAL MEN**

**05:30** **ALPINE SKIING**
**SALOM MEN**

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### 12:00 Live BIATHLON: 15km Mass Start Men

With a simultaneous start with competitors neck and neck, the Mass Start is an exciting event to watch. “Mass Start is MY event” says Raphael Poiree (France) who loves fighting. Poiree won three world titles in this event while Ole Einar Bjørndalen (Norway) took two titles, the last one in 2005.

In Salt Lake City Bjørndalen won an incredible collection of 4 Gold medals on top of his first title in Nagano. With the Mass Start event joining the Olympic programme for the first time, there will be 5 Gold medals up for grabs in Torino. If Bjørndalen wins all events like in 2002, he will reach the mythical 10 Olympic titles mark, setting a new Olympic record ahead of the legendary Carl Lewis (athletics), Mark Spitz (swimming), Paavo Nurmi (athletics) and Larissa Latinina (gymnastics).

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### 18:30 Live ALPINE SKIING: Slalom Men 2nd Leg

In Sapporo in 1972 Francisco Fernandez Ochoa became the first Spanish Olympic Champion. 20 years later his sister Blanca took the Olympic bronze in Albertville, also in Slalom. In Torino, brother and sister, Janica and Ivica Kostelic, could also transform the Olympics into a family affair. Janica is the great favourite with Anja Paerson in the ladies slalom, while Ivica is favourite in the men’s Slalom. Ivica Kostelic is the 2003 Slalom World Champion.

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### 19:30 Live BOBSLEIGH: Four-man event 4th Leg

Today could see a great feat in Bobsleigh. Andre Lange (Germany) is the main favourite in the 4-man event. If Lange successfully defends his 2002 Olympic title he will be the first athlete to retain his Olympic crown in this event. By winning in Torino he would undoubtedly enter the history books by becoming, in the 4-man event, the first athlete undefeated in the major Championships over a whole Olympiad: winner in Salt Lake City, in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 World Championships and winner in Torino 2006. Nevertheless today’s event is still very open with rivals such as Martin Annen (Switzerland), Alexandr Zoubkov (Russia), Todd Hays (USA) and Pierre Lueders (Canada).
The 50km Cross-Country Skiing event ends the Winter Olympic Games as the 42.5km marathon ends the Summer Olympic Games. In both cases it is an event characterised by courage and a beautiful way of closing these 16 days of Olympic competitions. It is the first time the 50km has a mass start.

The USA have some unfinished business with the Olympic Ice Hockey tournament. When the NHL players were authorised to compete for the first time in the Olympics in 1998 in Nagano, the USA sent a dream team to take the Gold. But the American players crashed out finishing only sixth in the tournament. Then in 2002 the USA were close to victory in a nail-biting final but Canada grabbed the Gold. In 2006 the USA hope to erase these bad memories and take the Olympic title that has been denied to them since their legendary victory over Russia in 1980.

The Closing Ceremony is always an incredible moment. In contrast to the formal parade of the Opening Ceremony, all athletes enter the stadium in joyful disorderliness, flags and nationalities mixed. Athletes will have socialised together in the Olympic village, will have learnt to appreciate each other and can now celebrate the Games together after 16 days of hard competition. It is a beautiful image of Olympic fraternity.

The other great moment of this closing ceremony will be the handing over of the Olympic flag to the Mayor of Vancouver, when the world’s youth will look forward to the next Games in 2010.
NB: ALL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE THE MOST ACCURATE INFORMATION (AS OF 12/10/2005) BUT PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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