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## FAVORITE THINGS



# Olympic champions

By LINDA O'FLANAGAN

The Winter Olympics are in full swing in Vancouver this week.

Some 5,000 athletes from 80 countries are taking part in the games to find the best at sports some of us didn't even know existed.

Take curling, that game of bowls played with a brush. Or how about mogul — that's when they make skiers slide over bumps — deliberately!

Local man John Daley will be jumping on his skeleton at this year's games — that's like sledding on a toothpick down a tunnel of ice!

Then there's the more popular sports, like snowboarding — made popular by that flying tomato himself, Shaun White — ice hockey, a national pastime in Canada, and the ski jump (one of my personal favorites).

So all in all, there's plenty for everyone who cares to tune in for the duration. This week, we polled brokers to find out what they'd be catching on NBC ...

**Chris Randolph of Barak Realty** is a real Winter Olympics fanatic and will be rivetted to the screen for the duration of the games.

He said, "The luge, the bobsled, downhill skiing, the bialthalon — I love them all. I'll skip the Super Bowl, but I'll watch the Winter Olympics for hours!"

**Takk Yamaguchi of DJK Residential** has been an avid snowboarder since middle school, so it's no surprise he's glued to Shawn White and the US snowboard team all the way through the Games.

**Gia Williams**, a senior associate at Citi Habitats, will also be tuning in for the snowboarding.

"I just learned how to snow board at Heavenly Mountain in Lake Tahoe a few weeks ago. I had no idea how much energy and work the sport took," said Williams. "I am looking forward to the Olympics and learning some new moves!"

At **Bond New York**, **Karen Chan** will be watching the snowboarding, while **Mitch Constantinescu** will be tuning in for the bobsled and lounge.

**Kathryn Swift of Barak Realty** is another bobsledding fan. She said, "It makes me think of Cool Runnings [the movie about the first Jamaican bobsled team to make it to the Olympics]."

**Scott Wolf**, meanwhile, said he'll be watching the downhill racing. **Kathryn Higgins of DJK Residential** likes to watch ice skating, as does **Laurielle Noel of Platinum Properties**.

Said Noel, "My favorite event is couples figure skating. Unlike other winter sports, there is a real sense of passion as the music carries each couple over the ice with speed, agility and beautiful artistry."

**James P. Johnson at Citi Habitats** is eager to see the figure skating, too. "It is always a fierce competition, there are lots of great outfits. It's one of the only sports I know of where style counts."

**Ori Degani**, a broker with **One NYC RE's** favorite Olympic Sport is ice hockey, "because it's a very intensive game with lots of energy and emotions."

**Victoria Stainer at Prudential Douglas Elliman** is an ice hockey fan.

"I love hockey. I watch the games on television. I love to go to the Rangers games at Madison Square Garden. My son, who is 8-years-old, plays at City Ice Pavilion in Long Island City. He is on the team. I try not to miss his games on Sundays. I love the speed and the fierceness of the game."

**Halstead Property's Steve Kliegerman** will be tuning in for the Mogul Competition.

For those not in the know, mogul skiing is when the skiers race down a 27-degree hill that is between 755 and 885 ft high and full of bumps, called moguls. The winner is the skier who not only does it the fastest, but who performs the most impressive flips and turns en route to the bottom!



Clockwise from top: Gia Williams, James Johnson, Ori Degani and Laurielle Noel