

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2	Soccer	
Olympic Foreword	3	Mia Hamm	36
by Anita DeFrantz		Softball	
Aerial Skiing		Dot Richardson	40
Nikki Stone	4	Speed Skating	
Basketball		Bonnie Blair	44
Ann Meyers Drysdale	8	Chris Witty	45
Figure Skating		Swimming	
Sonja Henie	12	Janet Evans	48
Michelle Kwan	13	Amy Van Dyken	49
Gymnastics		Tennis	
Nadia Comeneci	16	Steffi Graf	52
Mary Lou Retton	20	Track & Field	
Ice Hockey		Joan Benoit	56
Cammi Granato	24	Gail Devers	60
Luge		Babe Didrikson	64
Bonny Warner	28	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	68
Skiing		Florence Griffith-Joyner	69
Picabo Street	32	Wilma Rudolph	72
Donna Weinbrecht	33	Biographical Sketches	76
		Answer Key	80



INTRODUCTION

Women in Olympic Sports presents photographs and biographies of 23 awe-inspiring women athletes who successfully competed in the Olympic Games. This book also includes a variety of motivational activities, many of which require students to use critical-thinking skills. At the back of *Women in Olympic Sports*, there are Biographical Sketches, which provide a quick look at the lives of 16 more female Olympians.

MICHELLE KWAN

Figure Skating



DOUG PENNINGER/GETTY IMAGES



When Michelle Kwan was born in Torrance, California, on July 7, 1980, her parents never imagined that their youngest of three children would someday be an Olympic champion. Michelle was inspired to learn to skate after seeing her older brother play ice hockey. She was five years old at the time. A year later, she competed in her first skating contest and earned first prize. Only eight years after that, she entered her first World Championships and finished eighth. In 1995, she came in fourth; and, in 1996, she finished first and won the world title. She earned three more world titles in 1998, 2000, and 2001. In the 1998 Olympic Winter Games, Michelle won the silver medal. Four years later, Michelle competed in the Olympic Winter Games again and earned the bronze medal.

Michelle wrote her autobiography and titled it *Michelle Kwan: Heart of a Champion*. It was first published in 1997 and continues to be popular. Michelle became the spokesperson for the “Champions Across America” program, which is sponsored by the Children’s Miracle Network. In 1999, Michelle worked with a company called Electronic Arts to create the first video game featuring interactive figure skating. She has been honored with nine USOC Sportswoman of the Month awards.

GYMANSTICS SCOREBOARD

Part A: The perfect score for a gymnastics event is 10. Judges award points based on the difficulty of the element and skill in which it is accomplished. They subtract points for missed moves or flaws in the planned routine.

Nadia Comaneci was the first gymnast to receive a perfect score in Olympic competition. She was 14 years old when she earned seven perfect scores at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada. Name the events in which Nadia won medals at the 1976 and 1980 Olympic Games.

Gold (1976):

--	--	--

Gold (1980):

--	--

Silver (1976):

--

Silver (1980):

--	--

Bronze (1976):

--

Part B: To answer the following question, begin at **Start**. Follow the arrow to move clockwise around the box, writing every other letter. When you have completed the first two words, begin at reverse, move counter-clockwise, and write every other letter to find the last two words. Use the four words you have uncovered to answer the question below.

	<u>Reverse</u> ←		Finish	→ <u>Start</u>		
S	T	T	E	T	R	H
O						O
E						E
T						C
H	A	G	L	I	S	H

Question: What must you have in order to be the best all-around gymnast in a competition?
