

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## On the Ice

Sasha Cohen



We're live at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. There was great excitement this week as the world's finest female figure skaters came together to compete for Olympic gold.

In the most anticipated event at the Torino Games, ladies figure skating took center stage on Tuesday night. After nearly every gold-medal contender skated well, it was Sasha Cohen's turn as the U.S. national champion took to the ice to perform her short program. Sasha quickly wowed the audience and showed her competitors what they were up against. She performed four magnificent jumps and did spectacular spirals. The judges were impressed, putting Sasha into first place with a score of 66.73, just ahead of Russian cofavorite Irina Slutskaya, with 66.70, and Japanese skater Shizuka Arakawa, with 66.02. Fellow Americans Kimmie Meissner finished in fifth, while Emily Hughes finished in seventh place.

Years of training to hone her technique and presentation skills had led Sasha to this moment. She said, "It was difficult to skate at the end after so many strong performances and I just took it one step at a time. I stayed strong and I believed in myself. To finish with a strong program, have a standing ovation, and then have judges give me great marks on top of that...."

Now that Sasha has won the short program, she will move on to skate the long program on Thursday. Will she bring home the gold for the United States?

1. What elements of Sasha's performance impressed her fans?
2. Name two skills that Sasha must practice in order to excel in skating?
3. In what ways was Sasha successful at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games?

Visit [www.nbcolympics.com](http://www.nbcolympics.com) for up-to-the-minute results and the latest information!

On a separate sheet of paper, write a short essay about a time when you worked hard to achieve a goal. Be sure to include details about what inspired you to work toward your goal and how you felt when you achieved success.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Sasha Cohen keeps a journal on her Web site. In it, she describes her rehearsals, her upcoming competitions, and her hopes and dreams for the future. Sasha keeps a journal so her fans can have a personal look at her life and career.

