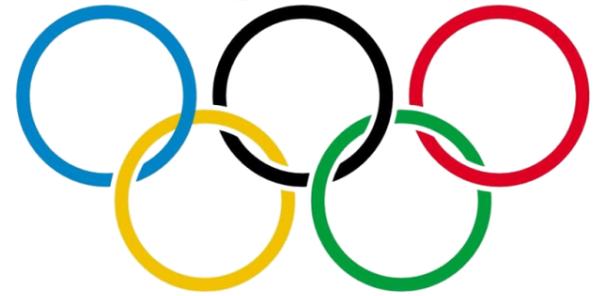


Sochi Olympics 2014

February 21, 2014

By Sarah Forbes, for Kanazawa Technical College



Giant robotic mascots at the Sochi 2014 Olympic opening ceremony
(From www.foxnews.com)

Have you been watching the winter Olympics this year?

It's been an exciting Olympic games, starting with the amazing opening ceremony. At the opening ceremony, there was a small problem with the Olympic rings. Did you hear about it? Five giant snowflakes became the five Olympic rings, but, one of them didn't work. So, there were only four Olympic rings and one small snowflake. But, the rest of the show was **impressive** (印象的). These three large robotic mascots **paraded** (練り歩いている) around the **stage** (ステージ) waving and blinking their eyes. The fireworks and many **performers** (パフォーマー) were also great.

What's your favorite Olympic sport to watch?

Figure skating is always beautiful, snowboarding and skiing thrilling, and ski jumping and skeleton scary. It is fun to watch some of the best **athletes** (スポーツ選手) from different countries compete on the Olympic **stage**.

This year, Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu **impressed** (印象づけた) the world with his near perfect short program routine. He did two challenging jumps and made them look easy, the quadruple toe loop and triple lutz-triple toe combination. He broke the world record with a score of 101.45, and won the gold medal. Patrick Chan of Canada won silver.



Yuzuru Hanyu of Sendai competes in the 2014 Olympics Men's Figure Skating Short Program
(Getty Image from <http://bleacherreport.com/>)

In women's figure skating, Russian Adelina Sotnikova won gold, while Korean Yuna Kim took silver. This **disappointed** (失望した) many fans of Japanese Mao Asada. Sadly, Mao fell on her first big jump. But, the Russians were happy with Adelina's **performance** (業績).



Adelina Sotnikova wins gold at the 2014 Olympics
(From www.newstimes.com)



Ayumu Hirano, 15, and Taku Hiraoka, 18, win silver and bronze
(From www.japantimes.co.jp)

Do you like snowboarding?

Japan also won some medals in the mens' halfpipe in snowboarding. Ayumu Hirano, only fifteen years old, won silver, and Taku Hiraoka got bronze in the event. Many snowboarders and reporters **complained** (ぼやいた) that the halfpipe conditions were not good. The weather was warm in Sochi, and the snow was too soft. But, that didn't stop Hirano or Hiraoka from giving great **performances**. In the women's halfpipe event, two Americans, Kaitlyn Farrington and Kelly Clark won gold and bronze, and Australian Torah Bright took silver. Kaitlyn, 24, Kelly Clark, 30, was born in Vermont, where Burton got its start.



Womens' Snowboard Halfpipe Medal winners
(From www.latimes.com)

Finally, Japan's Noriaki Kasai

won two medals in the mens' ski jumping events. Called the "grand old man of ski jumping," Noriaki has been ski jumping for 25 years. This was his seventh Olympic games! A reporter asked him why he continues to **compete** (競争する) in the Olympics, and he said, "because...

"...I haven't won a gold medal yet!" - <http://www.olympic.org/>