2006 U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team

GAME NOTES
Team USA vs. Finland
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006
Palasport Olimpico, 8:30 p.m.

Team USA Schedule & Results

Date   Opponent          Arena          Time/Result
Feb. 11 Switzerland*   Esposizioni    W, 6-0
Feb. 12 Germany*       Palasport      W, 5-0
Feb. 14 Finland*       Palasport      8:30 p.m.
Feb. 17 Semifinal*     Palasport      5:00 p.m.
           * Television coverage by USA Network
           ** No Media Availability At Game Day Skates
Feb. 20 Bronze-Medal Game^ Palasport    4:30 p.m.
           # Television coverage by NBC
           ^ Television coverage by MSNBC

TONIGHT’S TOP STORIES

• TONIGHT’S GAME -- The United States Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team faces Finland tonight in both teams’ final preliminary round game of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Both teams are 2-0-0 entering tonight, ensuring them of a place in the semifinal round to take place Feb. 17. The winner of tonight’s game will take on the loser of the Canada vs. Sweden preliminary round match-up, while the loser of tonight’s Group B contest will take on the Group A winner. The United States is 2-0-0 against Finland in Olympic competition, with a 4-2 win coming at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, and a 5-0 victory at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Overall, Team USA owns a 19-0-2 advantage over Finland in games sanctioned by the International Ice Hockey Federation.

• SHOOTING FOR SUCCESS -- Team USA’s 60 shots fired against Germany on Feb. 12 marked the highest U.S. total in Olympic history. The United States’ previous high came on Feb. 14, 2002, when Team USA fired 59 shots against Canada at the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

• FINNISH FLARE -- Team USA’s Natalie Darwitz (Eagan, Minn.) is looking forward to facing Finland in Olympic competition once again. The last time the United States took on Finland in the Olympics, the then 18-year-old notched a hat trick, putting herself in the elite company of Cammi Granato and current teammate Katie King (Salem, N.H.) as the only Americans to achieve such a feat.

• PRACTICES AND AVAILABILITY -- The upcoming practice schedule is as follows:
  Date   Time          Arena
  Wednesday, Feb. 15  1:00-2:15 p.m.  Esposizioni
  Thursday, Feb. 16  2:30-3:45 Via Massari
                  (availability at Esposizioni at 4:00 p.m.)
  Friday, Feb. 17  9:00-9:45 a.m.* Palasport
                  Semifinal Game

• FOUR THREE-TIMERS -- Team USA’s roster is highlighted by four veterans entering their third Olympic Winter Games. The quartet of Jenny Potter (Edina, Minn.), Katie King (Salem, N.H.), Tricia Dunn-Luoma (Derry, N.H.) and Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.) has played every U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey game in history (11 games). The foursome is well-decorated as well, each with a gold and silver medal.

• LOCKER ROOM GOES MULTI-PLATINUM: The U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team had a special visitor at practice yesterday. Multi-platinum country recording artist Jo Dee Messina and her tour manager met with the players. Jo Dee chatted and posed for pictures with the many country music fans in the room. Defenseman Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.) presented Jo Dee with a team-autographed hockey stick.

• YOU’RE HIRED!: Angela Ruggiero is among a group of 12 U.S. Olympic athletes nominated to compete on the sixth season of the NBC hit, “The Apprentice.” Fans will chose six of the 12 athletes via a public vote on NBCOlympics.com to compete on the show with Donald Trump. Voting continues until Feb. 26. “While we’ve let the viewers do the hiring… I’m still doing the firing,” said Trump in an NBC press release.
TODAY’S GAMES:
1:00 p.m.  Italy vs. Russia
3:30 p.m.  Canada vs. Sweden
6:00 p.m.  Switzerland vs. Germany
8:30 p.m.  USA vs. Finland

PRELIMINARY ROUND STANDINGS:

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LAST TIME OUT: Forward Sarah Parsons (Dover, Mass.) had two goals and an assist to help the U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team earn its second shutout and improve to 2-0 at the XX Olympic Winter Games with a 5-0 win over Germany. At 18 years old, Parsons is the youngest member of Team USA.

“It was a good win for our team,” said Ben Smith, head coach of Team USA. “We showed a lot of determination and I give Germany credit as well. I thought they played hard throughout the game.”

Jenny Potter (Edina, Minn.) opened the scoring for Team USA at 4:45 of the opening stanza when she fired a backhanded shot into the upper corner with the U.S. on the power play. Katie King (Salem, N.H.) upped the U.S. lead to two when she re-directed Potter’s shot low to the near-side of German goaltender Jennifer Harss with Team USA up a man.

Less than two minutes into the second period, Parsons made it 3-0 when she took an Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.) pass at the doorstep and went high to the short side. Natalie Darwitz (Eagan, Minn.) struck next when she re-directed a Parsons shot high to the near side at 9:57.

Just past the midpoint of the final session, Parsons scored her second of the night when she carried the puck in low and pushed it just inside the near post to account for the 5-0 final margin.

Last Game’s Box Score:
February 12, 2006 - United States vs. Germany
Olympic Winter Games Preliminary Round - Torino, Italy

Scoring By Period
USA 2-2-1 -- 5
GER 0-0-0 -- 0

First Period – Scoring: 1, USA, Potter (Ka.King), 4:36 (pp); 2, USA, Ka.King (Potter, Chu), 17:13 (pp). Penalties: USA, Kr.King (hooking), 0:39; GER, Sheytt (interference), 4:02; GER, Lanzle (body-checking), 5:05; GER, Oswald (body-checking), 9:10; USA, Stephens (tripping), 12:45; GER, Tamas (hooking), 15:17; GER, Becker, (body-checking), 18: 03.

Second Period – Scoring: 3, USA, Parsons (Ruggiero, Stephens), 1:11; 4, USA, Darwitz (Parsons, Ka.King), 9:57. Penalties: GER, Becker (hooking), 2:56; USA, Engstrom (slashing), 6:02; USA, Stephens (hooking), 10:24; USA, Ruggiero (interference), 10:34; GER, Grundmann (Interference), 14:25; USA, Ruggiero (hooking), 15:48; GER, Gotz (Interference), 18:28.

Third Period – Scoring: 5, USA, Parsons (Ruggiero) 10:54. Penalties: GER, Seiler (tripping), 6:01; USA, Kennedy (roughing), 14:02; GER, Oswald (Interference), 14:29

Shots By Period

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GER

| 1 | 7 | 2 | 10 |

| Goaltending (SH-SV) | USA | 1-1 | 7-7 | 2-2 | 10-10 |

GER, Harss

| 21-19 | 13-11 | 26-25 | 60-55 |

Power Play
USA 2-10; GER 0-8
Penalties
USA 8-16; GER 10-20

Officials: Referee-Anu Hirvonen Linesmen- Annica Floden, Marte Hove

Attendance: 7,794

NOTES: Jenny Potter leads the team with six points (2-4) in two games ... Sarah Parsons scored her first two Olympic goals and added an assist in the game ... Team USA outshot Germany by a 60-10 count in the game and has outshot its first two opponents in the Olympic Winter Games by a 116-19 margin.
TOUR-DE-FORCE: The 2005-06 U.S. Women’s National Team completed its 22-game pre-Olympic tour on Jan. 1 having posted a 15-7-0 record against international opponents from Canada, Finland and Sweden and collegiate all-star clubs from the Eastern College Athletic Conference Hockey League, Hockey East Association and Western Collegiate Hockey Association. Team USA’s schedule included a silver-medal-winning performance at the Women’s Four Nations’ Cup in Hameenlinna, Finland; a second-place finish at the Pre-Olympic Test Event held in Torino, Italy; and a 9-2-0 record during the Hilton Family Skate to 2006 Tour, which included games in 10 cities across America in front of a total of 30,799 fans.

Team USA captain Krissy Wendell led the squad with 23 points (6-17), while Katie King and Jenny Potter tied for the team lead in goal scoring with nine tallies apiece.

IN JUST TWO YEARS: Natalie Darwitz ranks second on Minnesota’s high school all-time scoring chart with 468 points in her career. The two-time Olympian had 316 goals and 152 assists to rank second despite only playing two years. Darwitz spent her junior year with the U.S. Women’s National Team and spent her senior year with the U.S. Women’s Olympic Team.

TEAM USA ROSTER STATS:

YOUNGEST/OLDEST
Overall: Parsons (7/27/87)
Dunn-Luoma (4/25/74)

Goalkeepers:
Dreyer (8/9/81)
Gunn (1/27/80)

Defense:
Resor (10/18/85)
Kennedy (3/29/79)

FORWARDS: Parsons (7/27/87)
Dunn-Luoma (4/25/74)

BY STATE
3 Massachusetts
Minnesota
New York
Connecticut
2 New Hampshire
1 Alaska
California
Michigan
Ohio
Washington
Wisconsin

BY COLLEGE
5 University of Minnesota
4 Brown University
Harvard University
1 Dartmouth College
Univ. of Minnesota Duluth
Univ. of New Hampshire
Northeastern University
University of Wisconsin
Yale University

USA HOCKEY VETERANS: The 2006 U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team is full of players with international experience. Nine players have competed in past Olympic Winter Games, with four (Katie King, Tricia Dunn-Luoma, Jenny Potter and Angela Ruggiero) capturing a the first-ever gold medal awarded in women's hockey at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. Julie Chu, Natalie Darwitz, Courtney Kennedy, Lyndsay Wall and Krissy Wendell joined the four pioneers at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, and helped Team USA capture silver.

Of the 11 Olympic newcomers, 10 (Caitlin Cahow, Molly Engstrom, Chanda Gunn, Jamie Hagerman, Kim Insalaco, Kathleen Kauth, Kristin King, Sarah Parsons, Helen Resor and Kelly Stephens) represented the United States at the 2005 International Ice Hockey Federation Women’s World Championship this past April in Linkoping and Norrkoping, Sweden. Following a thrilling 1-0 shootout victory over rival Canada, Team USA captured gold, marking the first time in the tournament’s history that a team other than Canada captured the top prize.

Pam Dreyer returned to Team USA and the U.S. Women’s National Team on September 30, 2005, after suffering an injury at the 2004 Women’s Four Nations Cup in Lake Placid, N.Y.
### STAT COMPARISON:

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### TEAM LEADERS:

#### USA

- Goals: Five Tied At 2
- Assists: Potter (4)
- Points: Potter (6)
- Points/Game: Potter (3.00)
- Plus/Minus: Three Players (+5)
- Power Play Goals: Potter (2)
- Shorthanded Goals: Dunn-Luoma (1)
- Game-Winning Goals: Ka. King, Potter (1)
- Game-Tying Goals: None
- Penalty Minutes: Ruggiero (6)
- Wins: Dreyer, Gun (1)
- Goals-Against Average: Dreyer, Gun (0.00)
- Save Percentage: Dreyer, Gun (1.000)
- Shutouts: Dreyer, Gun (1)

#### Finland

- Goals: Pehkonen (2)
- Assists: Pelttari (2)
- Points: Pelttari (3)
- Points/Game: Pelttari (1.50)
- Plus/Minus: Two Players (+4)
- Power Play Goals: Two Players (1)
- Shorthanded Goals: Palvila (1)
- Game-Winning Goals: Two Players (1)
- Game-Tying Goals: None
- Penalty Minutes: Sirvio (4)
- Wins: Hassinen, Raty (1)
- Goals-Against Average: Hassinen, Raty (0.00)
- Save Percentage: Hassinen, Raty (1.000)
- Shutouts: Hassinen, Raty (1)

### ALL-TIME OLYMPIC SERIES WITH FINLAND:

The United States leads the series, 2-0-0. Team USA defeated Finland, 4-2, at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, and earned a 5-0 win at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### TEAM USA OLYMPIC STATS VS. FINLAND

| Natalie Darwitz (3-0-3) | Jenny Potter (1-1-2) |
| Angela Ruggiero (0-2-2) | Katie King (0-1-1) |
| Krisy Wendell (0-1-1)  |                        |

### TEAM USA PRE-OLYMPIC RECORD VS. FINLAND

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<td>Hameenlinna, Finland</td>
<td>W, 5-2</td>
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<td>Nov. 7, 2005</td>
<td>Torino, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 18, 2005</td>
<td>Trenton, N.J.</td>
<td>W, 3-1</td>
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ALL-TIME OLYMPIC RECORDS:

FASTEST GOAL SCORED - GAME
USA - C. Granato, 1:19 (Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
Overall -- J. Ikonen [FIN], 1:08 (Feb. 14, 1998 vs. China)
E. Holst [SWE], 1:08 (Feb. 13, 2002 vs. Kazakhstan)

FASTEST GOAL SCORED - PERIOD
USA -- S. Parsons, 1:11 (2nd Period, Feb. 12, 2006 vs. Germany)
Overall -- G. Apps [CAN], 0:25 (2nd Period, Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Italy)

FASTEST TWO GOALS SCORED BY A TEAM
USA -- 0:22 (Feb. 12, 1998 vs. Japan)
Overall -- 0:06 [CAN] (Feb. 19, 2002 vs. Finland)

FASTEST TWO GOALS SCORED BY A PLAYER
USA -- 2:43 (Katie King, Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
Overall -- 0:16 (Caroline Oullette [CAN], Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Italy)

MOST GOALS SCORED IN A GAME - TEAM
USA -- 24 (Dec. 18, 2005 vs. Finland)
Overall -- 16 [CAN] (Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Italy)

MOST GOALS SCORED IN A GAME - TEAM
Team USA scored two goals or less: 3-8-0
Tied after second: 3-3-0
Opponent led after second: 0-5-0
Team USA led after second: 11-0-0
Tied after first: 4-3-0
Team USA led after second: 11-0-0
Opponent led after second: 0-5-0
Tied after second: 3-3-0
Team USA scored three goals or less: 3-8-0
Team USA scored three goals: 3-0-0
Team USA scored four goals or more: 8-0-0
Opponent scored two goals or less: 12-1-0
Opponent scored three goals: 2-2-0
Opponent scored four goals or more: 0-5-0
One-goal games: 2-2-0
Two-goal games: 5-2-0
Games decided by three or more: 7-4-0
Outshot opponent: 12-2-0
Opponent outshot Team USA: 1-0-0
Shots tied: 1-0-0
Team USA had less than 20 shots: 12-1-0
Team USA had 20-29 shots: 3-0-0
Team USA had 30-39 shots: 5-1-0
Team USA had 40 shots or more: 3-1-0
Opponent had less than 20 shots: 11-0-0
Opponent had 20-29 shots: 3-1-0
Opponent had 30-39 shots: 0-7-0
Opponent had 40 shots or more: 0-0-0
Team USA scored a PPG: 10-1-0
Team USA did not score a PPG: 4-7-0
Opponent scored a PPG: 5-6-0
Opponent did not score a PPG: 9-2-0

2005-06 U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM NOTES:

Multiple Goal Games:
Natalie Darwitz (2) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Natalie Darwitz (2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Natalie Darwitz (2) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Natalie Darwitz (1-1-2) -- 12/11 vs. HEA
Natalie Darwitz (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Natalie Darwitz (0-2-2) -- 1/1 vs. CAN
Tricia Dunn-Luoma (2-0-2) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Jamie Hagerman (1-1-2) -- 12/11 vs. HEA
Kathleen Kauth (1-1-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Katie King (1-2-3) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Katie King (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Katie King (1-1-2) -- 12/18 vs. FIN
Sarah Parsons (1-1-2) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Sarah Parsons (1-1-2) -- 12/18 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 8/31 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 9/3 vs. WCHA
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 12/15 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (1-2-1) -- 12/17 vs. FIN

Multiple Assist Games:
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 12/1 vs. ECAC
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 12/2 vs. FIN
Krissty Wendell (2) -- 9/3 vs. WCHA
Krissty Wendell (2) -- 12/15 vs. FIN
Krissty Wendell (2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN

Multiple Point Games:
Natalie Darwitz (2) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (2) -- 12/15 vs. FIN
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 12/1 vs. ECAC
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 12/1 vs. ECAC
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 12/2 vs. FIN
Krissty Wendell (2) -- 9/3 vs. WCHA
Krissty Wendell (2) -- 12/15 vs. FIN
Krissty Wendell (2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN

2005-06 U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM BREAKDOWN:

Record when--
Team USA scored first: 10-1-0
Opponent scored first: 4-7-0
Team USA led after first: 8-0-0
Opponent led after first: 2-5-0
Tied after first: 4-3-0
Team USA led after second: 11-0-0
Opponent led after second: 0-5-0
Tied after second: 3-3-0
Team USA scored two goals or less: 3-8-0
Team USA scored three goals: 3-0-0
Team USA scored four goals or more: 8-0-0
Opponent scored two goals or less: 12-1-0
Opponent scored three goals: 2-2-0
Opponent scored four goals or more: 0-5-0
One-goal games: 2-2-0
Two-goal games: 5-2-0
Games decided by three or more: 7-4-0
Outshot opponent: 12-2-0
Opponent outshot Team USA: 1-0-0
Shots tied: 1-0-0
Team USA had less than 20 shots: 12-1-0
Team USA had 20-29 shots: 3-0-0
Team USA had 30-39 shots: 5-1-0
Team USA had 40 shots or more: 3-1-0
Opponent had less than 20 shots: 11-0-0
Opponent had 20-29 shots: 3-1-0
Opponent had 30-39 shots: 0-7-0
Opponent had 40 shots or more: 0-0-0
Team USA scored a PPG: 10-1-0
Team USA did not score a PPG: 4-7-0
Opponent scored a PPG: 5-6-0
Opponent did not score a PPG: 9-2-0

TEAM USA'S HILTON FAMILY SKATE TO 2006 TOUR:

Date       Opponent         Location     Score
Sept. 30    WCHA All-Stars  St. Paul, Minn. W, 5-1
Oct. 1      WCHA All-Stars  Duluth, Minn.  W, 5-2
Nov. 1      ECAC All-Stars  New Haven, Conn. W, 6-2
Nov. 27     Canada          Columbus, Ohio W, 2-1SO
Dec. 1      Canada          Chicago, Ill.  L, 3-1
Dec. 11     Hockey East All-Stars  Durham, N.H.  W, 5-2
Dec. 14     Finland         Reading, Pa.  W, 3-1
Dec. 15     Finland         Rochester, N.Y. W, 3-1
Dec. 17     Finland         Hartford, Conn. W, 5-3
Dec. 18     Finland         Trenton, N.J.  W, 3-1
Dec. 30     Canada          St. Paul, Minn. L, 4-2
HEAD COACH BEN SMITH: Ben Smith is making his third appearance as head coach of the U.S. Women’s Olympic Team and his fourth Olympic appearance overall. Smith was appointed by USA Hockey as the first full time head coach of the U.S. Women’s National and Olympic Teams in June of 1996.

A native of Gloucester, Mass., Smith guided the United States to a gold and silver medal at the 1998 and 2002 Olympic Winter Games. In April 2005, he led the U.S. Women’s National Team to its first-ever gold medal at the International Ice Hockey Federation Women’s World Championship. Smith’s teams have also won five silver medals at the IIHF Women’s World Championship and a gold and six silver medals at the Women’s Three/Four Nations Cup.

On February 17, 1998, Smith helped put U.S. women’s hockey on the map. He guided Team USA to a 3-1 victory over Canada at the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, as the United States claimed the first-ever Olympic gold medal awarded in women’s ice hockey. The team’s 6-0-0 run at the Olympics came after a 32-game pre-Olympic tour that saw the U.S. team finish with a 24-7-1 record.

In 2002, Smith again guided Team USA to a podium finish as the team earned the silver medal at the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. The performance followed a perfect 31-0-0 run by the 2001-02 U.S. Women’s National Team during the Visa Skate To Salt Lake Tour, which included an 8-0-0 mark against Canada.

On the men’s side, Smith served as an assistant coach for three-straight U.S. National Junior Teams (1985-1987), and helped guide the 1986 team to the United States’ first-ever medal – a bronze – at the IIHF World Junior Championship. In addition, he has twice served on the coaching staff for the U.S. Men’s National Team (1987 and 1990) and served as an assistant coach for the 1988 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team. Smith’s most recent men’s assignment was as head coach of the 1998 U.S. Select Team.

A 1968 graduate of Harvard University, Smith spent nine seasons (1981-90) as the top assistant for the Boston University men’s ice hockey program. In 1991, he accepted the reins of the Northeastern University men’s ice hockey program and guided the team to an appearance in the 1994 NCAA Tournament. Smith also spent five years as an assistant men’s ice hockey coach at Yale University (1976-81).

THEY SAID IT...

**Jenny Potter** on seeing her daughter in the stands as quoted by USA Today:  
"I took my helmet off and waved to her, and I made her cry because she wanted to see me."

**Karen Ruggiero** (Mother of Angela) on her cheerleading plans a quoted in the Detroit Free Press:  
"Angela's sister, Pam, is bringing her gold eyelashes and a gold wig. I'm bringing a suitcase filled with my cheerleading supplies - hand-held flags to give to all the other parents, face paint, posters and banners. Everything in my wardrobe will be red and blue."

**Art Bergland**, USA Hockey International Consultant, on Sarah Parson’s goal as quoted in USA Today:  
"Her first goal was the best goal I've seen in women's competition," said retired USA Hockey senior director Art Berglund.  
"That puck had some sizzle on it."

**Coach Ben Smith** on finding talent in non-traditional hockey markets as quoted in The Mercury News:  
"We're getting a good representation of outstanding players from Florida, California, Texas, New Mexico. That's a tribute to what that '98 team delivered and what the spread of the NHL has meant, too."

**On Title IX as quoted in The Mercury News:**  
"This continent has had the upper hand because of Canadian tradition and what the laws of the land are in the USA to the point where Title IX is so influential that it helps other countries. Good players from there are coming to school to play here."

**Krissy Wendell** on her pre-game mindset as quoted in The Denver Post:  
"I try not to think about the game. The more I think about it, the worse I do. If I'm not thinking about it, it's like being a child again, just going out and having fun. That's when I feel like I perform the best."

**Molly Engstrom** on remembering her roots as quoted in The Burnett County Sentinel:  
"It's nice to get phone calls from home and so nice to have support back home. I don't feel like I'm in it on my own. It's very much appreciated. I'll never forget where my roots are."

**Kelly Stephens** on the support she receives from her family as quoted in The Shoreline Enterprise:  
"I was very blessed, I have a really supportive family... I was very adamant this is what I wanted to do. They knew worst-case scenario I could always come home. They knew I was a pretty independent person. They kind of went with it and let me make some big decisions."
STORYLINES

Traveling Chu’s: Julie Chu’s parents, Wah and Miriam, have busily been seeing the world one hockey tournament at a time. A fixture in the USA cheering section, the Chu’s have visited Sweden, Finland, Canada and Salt Lake City to watch Julie and the U.S. team compete in various tournaments. The Fairfield resident Chu’s are at tonight’s game, and will attend 10 of the 11 Hilton Family Skate to 2006 Tour games. If that wasn’t enough to show their support, the three (Julie, Wah & Miriam) have matching tattoos of the Olympic rings and Julie’s number 13.

Smart Jocks: Of Team USA’s 20 rostered players, 10 have or are in the process of earning their degrees from Ivy League Institutions. Angela Ruggiero and Jamie Hagerman are Harvard products while Caitlin Cahow and Julie Chu are still students in Cambridge. Kathleen Kauth, Katie King, Pam Dreyer and Kim Insalaco make up a quartet of Brown University grads Local product, Kristin King is a Dartmouth alumnus. Rounding out the group of Ivy Leaguers, Helen Resor is a student at Yale. A 12th student, Sarah Parsons, will join the illustrious 10 when she enters Dartmouth College next fall.

Team Mom: Jenny Potter, a two-time Olympic medalist, is the only mother on the team. Potter and her husband Rob are parents to four-year-old Madison, who was born in January, 2001. Less than three months after Madison was born, After intense training, which often meant tot-ing young Madison to the gym with her, Jenny returned to international competition with the U.S. Women’s Team. Her new daughter watched the game with Rob. Madison is here in Torino and will see her mom play the opening game on Saturday.

No Joke: Courtney Kennedy is known by her teammates for her quick wit and ability to tell a joke. But another Kennedy is known by the laughter-loving crowds of Chicago. Courtney’s older brother, Mike, is currently part of the cast at Chicago’s famous Second City, well-known as the training ground for SNL.

Glamour Girls: Five members of the U.S. Women’s National Team played model for the day, shooting for the February issue of Glamour Magazine. Krissy Wendell (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Natalie Darwitz (Eagan, Minn.), Tricia Dunn-Luoma (Derry, N.H.), Kelly Stephens (Seattle, Wash.), and Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.) braved the 105 degree-heat in Death Valley, Calif., to be photographed for the magazine’s “Strong Women are Beautiful” feature.

People Who Know People: Seven U.S. hockey players were featured in last week’s (Feb. 12) issue of People Magazine. The publication, which reaches 3.5 million readers, shot Jenny Potter (Edina, Minn.), Krissy Wendell (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Katie King (Salem, N.H.), Chanda Gunn (Huntington Beach, Calif.), Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.), Kelly Stephens (Seattle, Wash.) and Julie Chu (Fairfield, Conn.) on the frozen Mirror Lake in Lake Placid, N.Y.