

Skater Michelle Kwan Goes for the Gold



U.S. figure skater Michelle Kwan has been a national and world figure skating champion, but she has never won an Olympic gold medal. She is getting another chance to win that gold medal this month at the Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy.

Kwan was chosen for the U.S. Olympic team January 27 after a five-person panel watched her skate. She was not able to skate at the U.S. national championships in January when the rest of the team was picked because she was hurt. Kwan asked to be part of the Olympic team anyway. Before deciding, the U.S. Olympic Committee asked the five people to watch her skate to see if she was well enough to go to the Olympics. The people liked what they saw, and put her on the team.

This will be Michelle Kwan's third and last try to win an

Olympic gold medal. Even though she is only 25, she already has skated in two Olympics. She came in second at the 1998 Olympics and third at the 2002 Olympics. She also has been the U.S. champion nine times and the world champion five times. The Olympics are held every four years and the national and world figure skating championships are held every year.

Besides competing against skaters from all over the world for the gold medal, Kwan will have to skate against two other U.S. female skaters, Sasha Cohen, 21, and Kimmie Meissner, 16. The first women's skating event is February 21.

MORE FACTS ABOUT MICHELLE KWAN

- Michelle Kwan began skating at age 5, after watching her brother play ice hockey.
- She always wears a Chinese good luck charm that her grandmother gave to her.

NEWS WORD BOX

Olympic Committee
panel competing
championship

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Do you agree with the Olympic Committee's decision to let Kwan skate in the Olympics even though she was unable to skate at the national championships? Explain your answer.