CROATIAN OLYMPIC DELEGATION
VANCOUVER 2010.

vancouver 2010

CROATIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
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Dear athletes, members of the Croatian Olympic delegation, and members of the world Olympic movement,

The participation of the Croatian Olympic delegation in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games marks the sixth time that the Croatian athletes will be participating in the Winter Olympic Games since the country’s independence. We are very proud of the past – in the 18 years since international recognition of the Croatian Olympic Committee, Croatian Olympians have won seven medals at the Winter Olympic Games, and we believe that Vancouver and Canada will also provide some nice memories.

In addition to the athletic results and successes that write the history of winter sports, the Olympic Games also send an important message to society. We must appreciate the world in its best appearance and try to keep it this way by sending a message of peace, tolerance and friendship. This is the primary task of every national Olympic Committee and all of the athletes performing under their national flags.

Investing in sport and making it popular among young people is extremely important for every community, including the Olympic one. Croatian athletes and their potential have also been recognized by the Olympic solidarity of the International Olympic Committee, which has contributed to their athletic development. I am convinced that Croatian athletes will do their best and achieve their best personal results.

I wish a lot of success and personal satisfaction to all of the participants in the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, and to the happiness and joy of all of us in the homeland.

dr.sc. ZLATKO MATEŠA
President of the Croatian Olympic Committee
Here it comes, it’s about to start! After four years of supporting our candidates for the Winter Olympic Games, both in terms of financing and programs, the world’s largest athletic competition, with athletes from over 80 countries and lasting 17 days, is about to start.

Almost three billion people will be sitting in front of their televisions or laptops, or they will be a part of the crowds next to the tracks or in halls to support their athletes.

The lights will be on in many homes around the world, in the dead of night, while shouts of satisfaction or disappointment will be echoing. The tables will be crowded with popcorn or uneaten chips, empty or half-empty glasses.

Nothing in the world involves so many different things as sport does, and especially for the Olympic Games.

We are expecting joy and hope as well.

In 2002 in Salt Lake City, we had 14 athletes and won 4 medals. Four years later in Turin we had 24 athletes and won 3 medals. Now, for Vancouver, we will be sending 19 athletes and ... how many medals? We would be happy if the trend were to continue – we wish for two medals, but even one medal in Vancouver would make us happy. And we must be aware that, unlike the previous two Olympic Games, Janica Kostelić is no longer a member of our national team.

However, our results cannot be predicted. The magic of all sporting events, even the greatest ones, is that the best ones do not always win. At least according to expert forecasts on current form. There is always something new, unexpected and therefore dearer. We hope that this is the way it will be for us this time.

I wish that all athletes and participants in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games will make the Games a festival of sports, of sporting friendships, of fair play, but also a place from which a message of peace will be sent all around the world (to those places suffering from unrest or war), a message of normal life (where there are no earthquakes or poverty) and a message of tolerance (where differences are not accepted).
Republic of Croatia is a country at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, Central Europe, and the Balkans. Its capital is Zagreb. Croatia borders with Slovenia to the west and Hungary to the north, Serbia to the northeast, Bosnia and Herzegovina to the east, Montenegro to the far southeast, and the Adriatic Sea to the south. Croatia is a candidate for membership of the European Union. Croatia entered into NATO’s Partnership for Peace in 2000, which began the process of accession into the alliance. The country received an invitation to join at the 2008 Bucharest Summit and became a full member on April 1, 2009. On October 17, 2007 Croatia became a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2008-2009 term.
Croatia is situated close to densely populated and industrially developed European countries. Many internationally important transport routes cross Croatia. The importance of the geographical position of the Republic of Croatia is also enhanced by the Adriatic Sea, the northernmost gulf of the Mediterranean.
Belonging to the Middle-European and Mediterranean cultural and civilisation circle and tradition, Croatia is extremely rich with valuable cultural and historical heritage, pointing to the millennium old presence of Croatia in the area. The specific urban culture of coastal and island areas is easily seen in towns such as: Poreč, Rovinj, Pula, Zadar, Šibenik, Hvar, Korčula and Ston, with Split (Diocletian’s Palace) and Dubrovnik representing a part of the world cultural heritage under UN.
Around 4 million Croats live in Croatia and another 600,000 live in Bosnia and Herzegovina, around 100-200 thousand Croats live in other former Yugoslav Republics, and in Gradišće (Burgenland) in Austria. The number of Croats living abroad is estimated to be around the same number as in the homeland. This number is dependant on the criteria by which someone can be regarded as a Croat, because mostly the decendants of Croats don’t speak Croatian language.

The biggest emigration groups live in Western Europe, mostly Germany, then Italy, Sweden, France, Great Britain, etc... On other continents, the biggest Croatian community lives in the United States of America (Ohio, California, Pittsburgh was the second largest city in the world inhabited by Croatians) and in Canada (Mississauga), as well as in Argentina, Chile (on the north, around Santiago and on the south), Peru, Brasil and Bolivia. There are important Croatian communities in Australia (Perth, Sydney), New Zealand and in South Africa.
Snow Queen is the name of a women’s and men’s slalom race held as part of the Alpine skiing World Cup. It takes place on Zagreb’s mountaintop “Sljeme” (Medvednica mountain) since 2005. The race was originally called the “Golden bear”, but later the name was changed in honor of Janica Kostelić whose victories in the sport helped gain the race for Croatia and Zagreb.

As the journalists of the Italian newspaper Corriere Della Sera said: “The World Cup will never be the same after Sljeme race.”
The Croatian Olympic Committee, the highest sports body in Croatia, was founded in Zagreb on 10 September 1991. The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee led by its then President Juan Antonio Samaranch granted the Croatian Olympic Committee provisional recognition on 17 January 1992, thus including it in the Olympic family and making it possible for Croatian athletes to participate under the Croatian flag in the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville and in the Games of the Olympiad in Barcelona that very same year. The IOC granted the Croatian Olympic Committee outright recognition at its 101st Session, held in Monaco on 24 September 1993. Since 1995, the Croatian Olympic Committee has been marking 17 January, the date of the provisional recognition by the IOC, as the Great Day of Croatian Sport.

The first President of the Croatian Olympic Committee was Antun Vrdoljak (1991–2000), who was appointed to the IOC at its
Since 2002, the President of the Croatian Olympic Committee has been Zlatko Mateša, a prominent sports official, who earned his doctoral degree in Organization of Olympic Games at the Beijing Sport University in 2008. Zlatko Mateša is a member of the EOC Executive Board (2009), the EOC Commission for the Preparation of the Olympic Games (2006) and the Executive Board of the International Committee of Mediterranean Games (ICMG) (2009).

Members of the Croatian Olympic Committee are national sports associations (39 of them are Olympic and 38 non-Olympic sports), 20 county sports associations and the City of Zagreb and 9 associations and institutions of interest for Croatian sport and the activities of the Croatian Olympic Committee.

The Croatian Olympic Committee is a full member of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the International Committee of Mediterranean Games (ICMG) and the European Non-Governmental Sports Organizations (ENGSO).

The Croatian Olympic Committee is the founder of the Croatian Olympians Club (1993), the Croatian Olympic Academy (1996), the Sports Arbitration Council and Sports Arbitration Tribunal (1999), and the co-founder of the European Fair Play Movement (1994), the Croatian Athletes Foundation (2006), the Croatian Fair-Play Committee (2006), the Female Sports Coordinators Network (2006) and a number of other organizations belonging to the Croatian and international Olympic movement.

104th Assembly in Budapest in 1995. As an IOC Member, Antun Vrdoljak was appointed to the IOC Radio and Television Commission in 1996 and to the IOC Culture and Olympic Education Commission in 2006.

**Croatian Athletes since 1992**

Since their first participation under the Croatian flag in 1992 and including the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Croatian athletes have won a total of 24 Olympic medals: 17 at the Summer and 7 at the Winter Olympic Games.

Out of the 17 medals won at the Games of the Olympiad, three were gold (two in handball and one in weightlifting), six were silver (athletics, basketball, gymnastics, rowing, swimming, water polo) and eight were bronze medals (three in tennis, two in taekwondo, and one in rowing, shooting and weightlifting). Out of the 7 medals won at the Olympic Winter Games, six were won by Janica Kostelić (four gold and two silver medals) and one silver medal was won by her brother Ivica Kostelić.

The first Olympic participation of the Croatian delegation was in the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, and it went down in history, but Croatian athletes won their first Olympic medals only later that year. A silver medal was won by the basketball team, led by Dražen Petrović, one of the best basketball players in the world, who had won three Olympic medals (Los Angeles 1984, Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992) and was the first European basketball player to play in the NBA. Unfortunately, he died in a tragic car accident in 1993. Tennis player Goran Ivanišević, one of Croatia's best athletes, won two bronze medals – one in the singles event and the other in the doubles with Goran Prpić.

In Atlanta in 1996, the Croatian national anthem was played for the first time ever at the Olympic Games thanks to the Croatian handball team. This was the first Olympic gold medal won by a Croatian team.

The 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano were the beginning of the rocketing career of the then 16-year-old Alpine skier Janica Kostelić, who would win six Olympic medals later on (Salt Lake City 2002 and Turin 2006) and become the Croatian athlete who has won the most Olympic medals ever.
CROATIAN ATHLETES PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES IN CHAMONIX IN 1924
The first and only participation of Croatian skiers in the pre-war Olympic Winter Games was at the first Olympic Winter Games in the small French town of Chamonix 1924 as part of the then Yugoslav Olympic delegation. Out of the four skiers and one substitute, Dušan Zinaja and Miroslav Pandaković were from Croatia and they participated in the 18 and 50 km cross-country skiing races. In the 18 km race, Pandaković withdrew from competition due to his skis breaking while Zinaja finished the race in thirty-sixth place. Pandaković did not finish the demanding 50 km race but Dušan Zinaja managed to finish the race in the spirit of sportsmanship under heavy snow conditions crossing the finish line four hours after the jury had finished its task.

PARTICIPATION AT THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR
After the Second World War the first Croatian Olympic team member, a female respectively, took part in the VI Olympic Winter Games in Oslo, Norway in 1952 as a member of the Yugoslav Olympic team. In the 10 km race Nada Birko-Kustec placed fourteenth. At the following VII Olympic Winter Games in Cortina D’Ampezzo in 1956 Nada Birko-Kustec was joined by Blaženka Vodelnić. In the 10 km race they placed thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth. They also competed in the 3x5 km relay race. At the IX Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck in 1964 Croatian athletes Ivan Ratej, Miran Krmelj and Boris Renaud participated as members of the Yugoslav hockey team. At the following X Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble in 1968, the hockey team achie-
CROATIAN ATHLETES AT THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES UNDER THEIR FLAG

The participation of Croatian athletes at the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville in 1992 was the first performance at the Olympic Games under the Croatian flag and for this reason this event will forever remain recorded in “gold letters” in the annals of Croatian Olympic history. Moreover, it will also be remembered that the Croatian Olympic Committee had been provisionally recognized (17 January 1992), and invited by the International Olympic Committee to participate in both the XVI Olympic Winter Games in Albertville and the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona that same year. This was also the last year that the Summer and Winter Olympic Games were held in the same year. The Croatian Olympic Committee received its outright recognition on 24 September 1993.

Albertville 1992

Sarajevo '84

Calgary 1988

CROATIAN ATHLETES

At the Olympic Winter Games

1976

Ivo Ratej and Boris Renaud were members of this winning team. These two hockey players participated once again in the XI Olympic Winter Games in Sapporo in 1972. Hockey player Miroslav Gojanović took part in the following XII Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck in 1976. The largest number of Croatian athletes wearing the Yugoslav team jersey participated in the XIV Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo in 1984: Franjo Jakovac in the biathlon, 4x7 km, Miljan Begović and Sanda Dubravčić in figure skating and Nenad Žvanut and Dubravka Vukušić in speed skating. Sanda Dubravčić was the most successful, placing tenth. Željka Čizmešija was the last Croatian athlete who represented Yugoslavia in figure skating at the Olympic Winter Games in Calgary in 1988.
CROATIAN ATHLETES AT THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

XVI OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, ALBERTVILLE 1992
8-23 February 1992

64 National Olympic Committees
1,801 competitors out of which 488 female athletes
57 disciplines

Croatian Olympic delegation:
4 competitors out of which 1 female athlete

Alpine skiing
Slalom: Vedran Pavlek, 36th place
Giant slalom: Vedran Pavlek, no placement
Super-G: Vedran Pavlek, no placement

Cross-country skiing
10 km: Siniša Vukonić, 75th place
15 km: Siniša Vukonić, 69th place
50 km: Siniša Vukonić, 60th place

Figure skating
Men’s: Tomislav Čizmešija, 28th place
Women’s: Željka Čizmešija, 24th place
XVII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, LILLEHAMMER 1994
12-27 February 1994

67 National Olympic Committees
1,739 competitors out of which 522 female athletes
61 disciplines

Croatian Olympic delegation: three athletes

Alpine skiing
Giant slalom: Vedran Pavlek, 41st place
Super-G: Vedran Pavlek, fell in the first race

Cross-country skiing
10 km: Siniša Vukonić, 56th place, Antonio Rački, 79th place
15 km: Siniša Vukonić, 44th place, Antonio Rački, 71st place
30 km: Siniša Vukonić, 44th place, Antonio Rački, 62nd place
50 km: Antonio Rački, 52nd place, Siniša Vukonić, 54th place
CROATIAN ATHLETES AT THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

XVIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, NAGANO 1998
7-22 February 1998

72 National Olympic Committees
2,302 competitors out of which 814 female athletes
68 disciplines

Croatian Olympic delegation:
6 competitors out of which 2 female athletes

Alpine skiing
Downhill (w): Janica Kostelić, 25th place
Slalom (w): Janica Kostelić, withdrew from competition
Giant slalom (w): Janica Kostelić, 24th place
Combined (w): Janica Kostelić, 8th place
Super-G (m): Vedran Pavlek, 30th place, Renato Gašpar, 32nd place
Giant slalom (m): Vedran Pavlek, 28th place, Thomas Lodler, 23rd place,
Renato Gašpar, withdrew from competition

Cross-country skiing
10 km: Antonio Rački, did not participate due to illness

Figure skating
Ivana Jakupčević, 25th place
XIX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, SALT LAKE CITY 2002
8-24 February 2002

77 National Olympic Committees
2,399 competitors out of which 886 female athletes
78 disciplines

Croatian Olympic delegation:
14 competitors out of which five female athletes

Alpine skiing – 4 medals (3 gold, 1 silver)

Slalom (w): Janica Kostelić, 1st place
Nika Fleiss, 12th place, Ana Jelušić, 23rd place

Giant slalom (w): Janica Kostelić, 1st place
Nika Fleiss, 36th place, Ana Jelušić, 37th place

Super-G (w): Janica Kostelić, 2nd place

Combined (w): Janica Kostelić, 1st place

Slalom (m): Ivica Kostelić, did not finish the second race

Giant slalom (m): Ivica Kostelić, 9th place

Cross-country skiing
15 km (w) freestyle: Maja Kezele, 55th place
10 km (w) classical: Maja Kezele, 57th place
5 km (w) classical + 5 km freestyle: Maja Kezele, 66th place

30 km (m) freestyle: Damir Jurčević, 63rd place, Denis Klobučar, 66th place
15 km (m) classical: Denis Klobučar, 58th place, Damir Jurčević, 61st place
10 km (m) classical + 10 km freestyle: Denis Klobučar, 67th place (first race classical),
Damir Jurčević, 72nd place (first race classical)
1.5 km (m) freestyle sprint: Damir Jurčević, 48th place
50 km (m) classical: Damir Jurčević, 53rd place, Denis Klobučar, 54th place

Biathlon
20 km, individual (m): Žarko Galjanić, 83rd place
10 km, sprint (m): Žarko Galjanić, 84th place

Figure skating
Idora Hegel, 19th place

Bobsleigh
Four-man, 26th place
(Ivan Šola, Boris Lovrić, Đulijano Koludra, Igor Boraska, Niki Drpić)
XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, TORINO 2006
10-26 February 2006

80 National Olympic Committees
2508 competitors out of which 960 female athletes
84 disciplines

Croatian Olympic delegation:
23 competitors out of which 7 female athletes

Alpine skiing – 3 medals (1 gold, 2 silver)

Slalom (w): Janica Kostelić, 4th place, Ana Jelušić, 15th place, Nika Fleiss, 23rd place,

Giant slalom (w): Janica Kostelić, did not participate, Nika Fleiss, 19th place,
Ana Jelušić, did not finish the second race
**Super-G (w): Janica Kostelić, 2nd place**

**Combined (w): Janica Kostelić, 1st place**

Slalom (m): Ivica Kostelić, 6th place  
Danko Marinelli- did not finish the first race  
Dalibor Šamšal, did not finish the first race  
Natko Zrnčić-Dim, 33rd place

Giant slalom (m): Ivica Kostelić, did not participate

Super-G (m): Ivica Kostelić, 6th place  
Ivan Olivari - 49th place, Ivan Ratkić, 36th place

**Combined (m): Ivica Kostelić, 2nd place**

**Cross-country skiing**
- 10 km (w) classical: Maja Kezele, 66th place,  
- 15 km Pursuit: (7.5 + 7.5), 64th place  
- Sprint: did not qualify for the second race  
- 15 km (w) classical: Alen Abramović 82nd place  
  Damir Jurčević, 71st place  
  Denis Klobučar, 67th place  
Sprint(m): Alen Abramović, did not qualify for the second race  
  Damir Jurčević, did not qualify for the second race  
  Denis Klobučar, did not qualify for the second race  
Team sprint: Damir Jurčević, 11th place, Denis Klobučar, 11th place

**Biathlon**
- 7.5 km sprint (w): Petra Starčević, 79th place  
- 15 km individual: 79th place

**Skeleton (m)**
Nikola Nimac, 26th place

**Bobsleigh (m)**
Four-man, 23rd place (Ivan Šola, Slaven Krajačić, Dejan Vojnović, Jurica Grabušić, Alen Osmanović)

**Figure skating**
Idora Hegel, shorth programme, 17th place,  
freestyle, 19th place

**Bobsleigh**
Four-man, 26th place  
(Ivan Šola, Boris Lovrić, Đulijano Koludra, Igor Boraska, Niki Drpić)
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MISSION

CHEF DE MISSION

DAMIR ŠEGOTA

Date of birth: May 22, 1966
Place of birth: Zagreb

MISSION MEMBER

MIROSLAV ŽEČIĆ

Date of birth: September 9, 1975
Place of birth: Zagreb

MISSION MEMBER

ZORAN ŠTEFEC

Date of birth: July 30, 1971
Place of birth: Koprivnica

PRESS ATTACHÉ

GORDANA GAĆEŠA

Date of birth: June 13, 1975
Place of birth: Zagreb

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

NATAŠA DESNICA

Date of birth: September 3, 1969
Place of birth: Zagreb
MATEA FERK

Past participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Turin 2006

Athletic achievements:
Turin 2006 – Giant Slalom, DNF
Turin 2006 – Slalom, DNF
5th place in slalom at Mt. St. Anne World Junior Championships (Canada) 2006

Matea Ferk is another member of the Croatian national team and of the Croatian Olympic team at these Games. She comes from the city of Rijeka, whose nearby ski resort at Platak has played an important role in Croatian winter sport. Matea was born on June 8, 1987. She started to ski when she was only 3 years old. As a young member of the national team, she made her first Olympic appearance at Turin in 2006.

Despite several injuries suffered in past seasons that affected her results, Matea remains faithful to her choice of sport, gaining confidence from this year’s physical preparations and the qualification test for participation in the Vancouver Games.

Matea Ferk is distinguished by her perseverance and responsibility to decisions she has made. Her idol in sport and life is the great Croatian athlete Janica Kostelić. Matea speaks English and Italian. Her motto is “Don’t worry, be happy”. Besides skiing, she is also fond of another Olympic sport – ice hockey. Her hobbies are music and books. Her favorite book is The Alchemist by Paolo Coelho and her favorite musical group is the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Matea Ferk is a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
NIKA FLEISS

Past participation in the Winter Olympic Games
Salt Lake City 2002
Turin 2006

Athletic achievements:
Salt Lake City 2002 – Slalom – 12th place
Salt Lake City 2002 – Giant Slalom – 36th place
Turin 2006 – Giant Slalom – 19th place
Turin 2006 – Slalom – 23rd place
Turin 2006 – Super G – 40th place
8th place in Slalom at St. Moritz World Ski Championships 2003 (Switzerland)
10th place in Slalom at St. Moritz World Ski Championships 2005 (Italy)

Nika Fleiss, from Samobor, was born on December 14, 1984 in Brežice near Zagreb. When she was only three, she made her first ski steps and has remained entirely devoted to skiing. Her Olympic experience and results, especially the 12th place in the slalom at Salt Lake City in 2002 has greatly defined her skiing career and placed her among the best Croatian skiers.

In junior competition she participated in races such as the Pinocchio and Topolino Prizes in Italy and the Loka Cup in Slovenia. She was one of the best skiers of her generation, often leaving her rivals “behind”. In spite of injuries that have periodically taken her from the ski slopes, she has not given up and she achieved significant results in the World Ski Cup 2005. At the Lenzerheide FIS World Cup (Switzerland) she was the 6th in the slalom. That same year she was 8th at the “Snow Queen” World Cup Sljeme, Zagreb. In the 2008-2009 season she was 10th in the slalom at the Garmisch Partenkirchen World Cup event (Germany).

Besides skiing, the versatile Nika also adores surfing. She likes travelling and extreme sports. She is fluent in three languages: English, German and Slovenian. The peculiar Nika, with the nickname Fika, in her moments of relaxation listens to R&B, soul and classical music; her favorite movie is “Big Blue”, and her favorite actor is Jack Johnson. In December 2009, she married former French skier Michel Lacteally.

Nike Fleiss is a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the International Olympic Committee in the period from March 1, 2009 to the end of February 2010.
She is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
ANA JELUŠIĆ

Past participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Salt Lake City 2002
Turin 2006

Athletic achievements:
Salt Lake City 2002 – slalom, 23rd place
Turin 2006 – slalom, 15th place

2nd place in slalom at the Sljeme World Cup, Zagreb (Croatia) 2007; 3rd place in slalom at the Panorama World Cup (Canada) 2007; 4th place in slalom at the World Championships (Sweden) 2007; 4th place in slalom at the Garmisch Partenkirchen World Cup (Germany) 2009; 7th place in slalom at the Val d’Isère World Championships (France) 2009; 9th place in slalom at the Santa Caterina World Championships (Italy) 2005

Ana’s appearance in Vancouver will be her third participation in the Winter Olympic Games. When she participated in Salt Lake City in 2002 as a 15-year old girl, she was the youngest athlete in the Games.

Ana Jelušić, born on December 28, 1986 in Rijeka, is one of Croatia’s best skiers. She started with training when she was only seven years old with the Ski Club Platak, where she still trains. Her skiing idols are Janica Kostelić and Alberto Tomba.

Her favorite venues are Lenzerheide, Val d’Isère and Whistler in Canada, where, we believe, the always smiling Ana will surpass her best career result – 2nd place in the slalom at the FIS World Ski Cup Sljeme 2007 in Zagreb.

Ana is fond of skiing but she is also interested in other sports like athletics and gymnastics. She enjoys in going out with friends and relaxes by reading and listening to music - R&B, pop, soul and classical. The favorite movie of this young woman from Rijeka is ‘La vita e bella’; Brad Pitt is her favorite actor.

Ana is a collector of race accreditations, ski tickets and stuffed animals, especially cows.

Ana is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the International Olympic Committee for the period from March 1, 2009 to the end of February 2010. She is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
SOFIJA NOVOSELIĆ

Participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Vancouver will be her first appearance at in the Winter Olympics

Athletic achievements:
3rd place in Giant Slalom at the European Youth Olympic Festival in Jaca 2007 (Spain); 4th place in Slalom at the European Youth Olympic Festival in Jaca 2007 (Spain); 27th place in Slalom at the World Junior Ski Championships 2007

Sofija Novoselić was born on January 18, 1990 in Zagreb into a family of musicians, journalists, writers and teachers.

Sofija started skiing when she was only five years old, when her father Jurij, a passionate skier and a member of the rock group “Psihomodo Pop”, took her to Tuškanac to ski on small plastic skis. She started serious skiing seriously when she was eight at the Medveščak Ski Club along with her elder brother Janko. Since then, she has become so fond of skiing that the difficult training and long absences from home are not a problem for her.

The saying, “Be happy, have fun”, describes the philosophy of this young girl from Zagreb, who likes to enjoy everything she is doing and to do everything she enjoys – with skiing of course, in first place.

She inherited a love of reading from her late grandfather, the writer and translator Antun Šoljan. As she likes to say “she reads anything that comes into her hands”. She is currently attending “Tituš Brezovački” High School, the same school that fellow national ski team member Natko Zrnčić Dim attended. After finishing secondary school, Sofija intends to enroll in the Faculty of Medicine and to become a physician or a physical therapist.

The Vancouver Winter Olympic Games will be the first appearance for 20-year old Sofija in the Winter Olympics. The ski slope at Whistler is her favorite one after Sljeme. Finally, let us say – Sofija “Be happy, have fun”!

Sofija Novoselić is a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2009 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
ALPINE SKIING

TEA PALIĆ

Participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Vancouver will be her first appearance at in the Winter Olympics

Athletic achievements:
30th place in Slalom at the World Junior Championships 2009

High school student Tea Palić was born on April 29, 1991 in Zagreb. She is a member of the “Medveščak” Ski Club in Zagreb. Vancouver will be her first appearance in the Winter Olympic Games.

Eighteen-year old Tea started skiing at the age of eight. She is characterized by her persistence and consistency and even in somewhat “hard” times, she remains – as she says – the strongest. For this conscientious, industrious young athlete who is just beginning her athletic career, the important motto is “Don’t leave anything for tomorrow!”

Her sports idol is the most successful Croatian skier and Olympic athlete Janica Kostelić. Her life and athletic wish are the same – to win at the Winter Olympic Games.

Tea adores her mother’s home cooking, but she also likes Mexican food. She enjoys listening to R&B and pop music. Besides skiing, her favorite sports are badminton and roller skating.

Tea Palić is a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
IVICA KOSTELIĆ

Past participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Salt Lake City 2002
Turin 2006

Athletic achievements:
Turin 2006 – Combined – 2nd place
Turin 2006 – Slalom – 6th place
Salt Lake City 2002 – Giant Slalom – 9th place
First place in Slalom at St. Moritz World Championships 2003
First place in Slalom in the World Cup 2002 overall standings
Second place in Combined in the World Cup 2008 overall standings
Second place in Slalom in the World Cup 2009 overall standings

For Ivica Kostelić, Olympic athlete, winner of a silver medal at Turin in 2006, and the first and only Croatian man to win an Olympic medal in winter sports, Vancouver will mark his third participation in the Winter Olympic Games. In his first Olympic appearance at Salt Lake City in 2002 he finished a respectable 9th in the giant slalom and, in a way, foretold of an Olympic medal for Croatian winter sport.

Ivica Kostelić was born on November 23, 1979 in Zagreb. From an early age he showed an exceptional talent for skiing and persistence. He won his first major medal in junior competition in the slalom at the World Junior Championships in Schladming, Austria. Since then, Ivica has a number of impressive achievements. He was the world champion in the slalom (2003.), He won an Olympic silver medal in the combined in 2006. He has won 30 FIS World Cup races and the Crystal Globe at the FIS World Cup (2001-2002), among other achievements. His motto, “If I were not a skier I would be a skier”, is the best evidence of his true love for skiing and his zeal and devotion, all of which are characteristic of Ivica’s personality as an athlete, which is also exemplified by his diligence, discipline and responsibility.

Despite the demands of travel, which are unavoidable in alpine skiing, Ivica finds moments of relaxation by playing the guitar, listening to music, drawing and diving, which he enjoys a lot in the summer.

He also enjoys authentic Croatian delicacies: cheese from the Island of Pag, prosciutto from Imotski and fresh cheese and cream. He also likes to watch movies; his favorite movie is The Wild Bunch and his favorite actor is Marlon Brando.

Ivica is a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the International Olympic Committee in the period from March 1, 2009 to the end of February 2010. He is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
Danko Marinelli was born in Rijeka on May 30, 1987. Like most of his colleagues on the national team, he started serious skiing when he was eight years old. His first and current trainer is Rajko Šamšal, assisted by Danijel Andesilić. The best results in his career are: three giant slalom wins in FIS races and four “Top 3” places in FIS slalom and giant slalom races. His goal is to make progress in skiing, to participate in World Cup races and enter the second run and, naturally, to win an Olympic medal.

Danko finished high school and speaks fluent English and Italian. His hobby is another Olympic sport – curling. Before skiing, he used to play football and participate in orientation running. His athletic idol is the famous Croatian Olympic basketball player Dražen Petrović. He describes himself as honest, persistent and somewhat irresponsible in fulfilling small daily tasks, but he is also industrious and patient. In his leisure time he relaxes by listening to Croatian music. His favorite singers are Toni Cetinski, Gibonni and Dino Dvornik. He likes all sorts of food, but his favorite is roasted lamb.

He is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
Past participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Turin 2006

Athletic achievements:
Turin 2006 – Super G 36th place
13th place in Super Combined at the Val d’Isère (France) World Championships 2009; 38th place in Super Combined at the Sestriere (Italy) World Cup 2009

Ivan Ratkić was born on February 22, 1986, in Zagreb. He is a member of the “Medveščak” Ski Club in Zagreb. He started to ski at the age of 9. Ivan is a fourth-year student at the Libertas Higher Business School in Zagreb. He speaks fluent English and German. His favorite ski race is the “Snow Queen” of Medvednica near Zagreb but his favorite ski venue is Whistler in Canada.

His athletic idol is the great Hermann Maier. His wish is to be physically well prepared for all athletic activities and his studies since he is responsible and industrious meeting his obligations.

Music and books are his favorite ways to relax.

He describes himself as rather stubborn and “impatient” at the same time. But these characteristics are rather beneficial in his chosen sport. His other favorite sports are football and tennis. He likes to play these for recreation when he has free time, which is not so much because of his obligations as a skier and student.

He is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
Dalibor Šamšal was born on December 25, 1985 in Rijeka. He started with skiing at the age of eight with his father Rajko, who was his first coach.

Since an early age, he has shown an affinity for sports. In addition to skiing, he is especially interested in the “queen of sports” – athletics – as well as tennis and snooker. He spends an average of four hours per day in training so that he does not have much free time for reading or for relaxing with music or movies.

Dalibor Šamšal speaks fluent English, German and Italian. He describes himself as steadfast, altruistic, devoted and very emotional. Skiing is practically his life and his motto is “If something does not kill you – it will strengthen you”. His wish is to win an Olympic gold medal in the slalom.

Dalibor is a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the International Olympic Committee in the period from March 1, 2009 to the end of February 2010. He is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
NATKO ZRNČIĆ DIM

Past participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Turin 2006

Athletic achievements:
Turin 2006 – Giant Slalom – 26th place
3rd place in Combined at the World Ski Cup Kitzbühel 2009 (Austria);
3rd place in Super Combined at the World Ski Championships Val d’Isère 2009 (France);
3rd place in Super Combined at the World Ski Cup Val d’Isère 2008 (France);
5th place in Downhill at the World Junior Championships Le Massif 2006 (Canada);
8th place in Super G at the World Junior Championships Le Massif 2006 (Canada)

“In all you are doing – give the maximum” is the motto of the young Croatian skier Natko Zrnčić Dim, a student at the Faculty of Law in the University of Zagreb. Natko was born on March 7, 1986 in Zagreb. He started his training in skiing at the age of six with his father Mika. His favorite ski slopes are Sljeme, Platak, Val d’Isère and Whistler. He has good memories of France and Val d’Isère, where he achieved the greatest result in his career by winning a bronze medal in the super combined at the World Championships in 2009. Natko is exceptionally strong in the high speed disciplines, but he would like to make progress in technical ones in order to become even better in the combined.

Besides skiing, Natko also likes ice hockey and other sports like sailing, diving, water polo, basketball, handball, table tennis, tennis and especially the “second most important thing in the world” – football.

In his athletic career he would like to win a Crystal Globe and an Olympic Medal. In his private life, in addition to good health, he wants to earn a degree from the Faculty of Law and a job in his profession at the end of his athletic career. In addition to skiing, Natko enjoys many other “small” things – listening to music, especially rock, new wave and hip hop; reading interesting books; watching movies; and going out with his friends. He is very persistent, disciplined, enduring, consistent and devoted to what he is doing.

Natko is a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the International Olympic Committee in the period from March 1, 2009 to the end of February 2010. He is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
ALPINE SKIING

TEAM LEADER
VEDRAN PAVLEK
Date of birth: April 27, 1973
Place of birth: Zagreb

PRESS ATTACHÉ OF ALPINE SKIING
NENAD EROR
Date of birth: January 20, 1953
Place of birth: Dvor

COACH
RADOSSLAV ĐUKIĆ
Date of birth: December 22, 1966
Place of birth: Hallein, AUT

COACH
ANTE KOSTELIĆ
Date of birth: August 11, 1938
Place of birth: Zagreb

COACH
PETER PEN
Date of birth: August June 14, 1963
Place of birth: Maribor, SLO

COACH
SENY SEVER
Date of birth: May 5, 1973
Place of birth: Frankfurt, GER

COACH
SLAVIŠA WEINER
Date of birth: November 24, 1964
Place of birth: Zagreb
DOCTOR
IGOR BORIĆ
Date of birth: May 22, 1966
Place of birth: Makarska

PSYSIOTHERAPIST
ZORAN PRŠO
Date of birth: February 6, 1969
Place of birth: Pula

PSYSIOTHERAPIST
MARIO NOVAK-STANKO
Date of birth: January 12, 1974
Place of birth: Zagreb

PSYSIOTHERAPIST
DANKO BUTALA
Date of birth: March 26, 1970
Place of birth: Karlovac

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
DAMIR RAOS
Date of birth: January 6, 1965
Place of birth: Vinkovci

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
SLAVEN RUŽIĆ
Date of birth: February 21, 1982
Place of birth: Zagreb

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
DANIJEL ANDESIĆ
Date of birth: August 1, 1978
Place of birth: Rijeka

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
ZORAN PRŠO
Date of birth: February 6, 1969
Place of birth: Pula

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
DANIJEL ANDESIĆ
Date of birth: August 1, 1978
Place of birth: Rijeka

DOCTOR
IGOR BORIĆ
Date of birth: May 22, 1966
Place of birth: Makarska

PSYSIOTHERAPIST
ZORAN PRŠO
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Date of birth: January 12, 1974
Place of birth: Zagreb

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Date of birth: March 26, 1970
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TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
DAMIR RAOS
Date of birth: January 6, 1965
Place of birth: Vinkovci

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
SLAVEN RUŽIĆ
Date of birth: February 21, 1982
Place of birth: Zagreb

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
DANIJEL ANDESIĆ
Date of birth: August 1, 1978
Place of birth: Rijeka
Plitvice lakes
(National park)
BIATHLON

ANDRIJANA STIPANIČIĆ MRVELJ

Past participation in the Winter Olympic Games:
Vancouver will be her first appearance in the Winter Olympics

Athletic achievements:
23rd place - Individual 15 km, at the Bansko World Championships 2007 (Bulgaria); 24th place - Sprint 7.5 km, at the Novo Mesto European Championships 2008 (Czech); 29th place - Sprint 7.5 km, at the Bansko European Championships 2007 (Bulgaria); 39th place - Individual 15 km, at the Pyeong Chang World Championships 2009 (Korea); 58th place - Individual 15 km, at the Ostersund World Championships 2008 (Sweden)

Andrijana Stipaničić Mrvelj was born on September 18, 1981 in Rijeka. At the age of six she became acquainted with the pleasures of Nordic skiing – the training and the learning – and since that time she has been aiming for the realization of her great childhood dream – to participate in the Winter Olympic Games and become an Olympic athlete. After completing her studies at the Faculty of Kinesiology in Zagreb, she has again dedicated herself entirely to the sport of biathlon – a combination of cross-country skiing and shooting. This is a relatively new sport in Croatia that attracted Andrijana by its physical demands and complexity.

Andrijana speaks fluent English and German. Her greatest support has always come from her family and, since her marriage to football player Mato Mrvelj, her husband. She comes from an athletic family. Her father was a football player and her elder sister Anamarija also trained in cross-country skiing. Her former coaches, Duško Zatezalo and Georgij Fortunov, and her current coach, Dejan Brajdić, have contributed a lot to her growth as an athlete.

Andrijana Stipaničić Mrvelj, a 28-year old biathlon athlete is a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the International Olympic Committee in the period from March 1, 2009 to the end of February 2010. She is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2009 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
Jakov Fak was born on August 1, 1987 in Rijeka. He started his sport career as a cross-country skier. A few years ago he decided to shift to biathlon. He has achieved excellent results in junior competition. Jakov Fak won his first medal at the World Championships in the 12.5 km run at the Haute Mariennau World Junior Championships in the summer biathlon in September 2008. It was the first medal for Croatia in biathlon whose organization was separated from the Croatian Ski Association in 2006 with the formation of the Croatian Biathlon Association. Jakov Fak has shown exceptional talent by winning 10th place at the World Junior Championships 2008 in Rupholding, Germany.

Jakov is training with the Slovenian team. In the opinion of his coach, Uroš Velepec, who has had the most important influence on the development of Jakov’s athletic career, he is a great talent among current biathletes; he is an excellent marksman and will improve his in skiing technique.

The most important moment in Jakov’s athletic career was winning the bronze medal at the World Championships in Pyoeng Chang in February 2009. Jakov became the first Croatian athlete to win a medal in Nordic skiing.

Jakov finished high school and speaks fluent English with a passive knowledge of German. He often points to his father as the person who has had the most influence on him, giving him unconditional support with strong belief in his athletic potential.

Jakov is a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the International Olympic Committee in the period from March 1, 2009 to the end of February 2010. He is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
TEAM LEADER
ŽARKO GALJANIĆ
Date of birth: May 1, 1948
Place of birth: Gerovo

COACH
DEJAN BRAJDIĆ
Date of birth: September 11, 1975
Place of birth: Rijeka

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
ROBERT KONTAK
Date of birth: November 9, 1966
Place of birth: Zagreb
Slaven Krajačić was born on September 14, 1980 in Zagreb. After completing secondary school, he enrolled in an associate-degree college in Zagreb to become an athletics coach. Slaven once practiced taekwondo and he spent the major part of his career in athletics. He participated in the Sydney Olympic Games 2000 where he was 29th in 4 x 100m relay race.

He then participated in the Turin Winter Olympic Games in 2006. At the invitation of Ivan Šola, the founder of Croatian bobsleighing, and together with his other athletic colleagues, Jurica Grabušić and Dejan Vojnović, he joined the Croatian four-man bobsled team for the Turin Games. Vancouver will be his third appearance in the Olympic Games, and his second one in the Winter Olympic Games.

Having participated in the Turin Games, Slaven has joined a small group of Croatian athletes who have participated in both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games that includes Igor Boraska, Jurica Grabušić and Dejan Vojnović.

Slaven Krajačić is a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
Igor Marić was born in Split, on 15 August, 1982. He comes from a sports family – his mother was a sport gymnast and a one-time champion of Croatia, his father was an active football player and his brother Goran is an athletic representative. Prior to his bobsleigh engagement, Igor was a basketball player in the “Split” basketball club, an athlete in the “Hajduk” athletic club and a kick-boxing fighter in the “Split” club.

He graduated from the Commercial School in Split and has an active knowledge of English. His sporting role model, according to his own confession, is the top-notch Croatian and world renowned tennis player, the winner of Wimbledon and an Olympic representative with two bronze Olympic medals and Igor’s fellow city-man, Goran Ivanišević. Throughout his life he was guided by the Olympic principle – faster, higher, stronger.

He pays special attention to a healthy diet and does a lot of reading on the subject in his spare time, and he is also interested in yoga. He enjoys reading sportsmen’s biographies.

Igor Marić is a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2009 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
Mate Mezulić was born on July 15, 1981 in Pula. He started to practice athletics at the age of 10 and is a long-time member of the Athletic Club “Istra” in Pula. Athletics was his first choice for a sport, but as is often the case with talented sportsmen, as a youth he also played football, handball and practiced rowing. Having completed training with the Croatian Athletic Association he became an athletic referee.

After completing secondary school, he entered polytechnic studies at the Higher Technical School in Pula. He speaks English and Italian.

At the invitation of Ivan Šola, the founder of Croatian bobsledding, he joined the Croatian bobsled team with the aim of participating in the Winter Olympic Games and he has succeeded. Mate’s path to the Olympic games in Vancouver with the four-man bobsled team started with the first race of the European Cup 2008 in Innsbruck (Austria) with the respectable 22nd place. Having passed all tests through the seven races in American Cup in 2009, Mate and the Croatian bobsled team qualified for the Vancouver Games. Vancouver will be the first appearance at the Olympic Games for the versatile, talented and industrious Croatian athlete, Mate Mezulić. Mate Mezulić is is a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2009 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
IVAN ŠOLA

Participation in Winter Olympic Games:
Salt Lake City 2002
Turin 2006
Vancouver 2010

Athletic achievements:
26th place, four-men bobsleigh at Salt Lake City 2002
23rd place, four-men bobsleigh at Turin 2006

Ivan Šola, better known as the “founder” of Croatian bobsleigh, was born in Split on December 12, 1961. He was a graduate student at the Law School of the University of Zagreb and graduated from the medical high-school in Split. He is married and a father of three.

Raised in the sports spirit, with a feeling for the diversity of the sporting challenge, he showed exceptional skill in motorsport in his youth, taking the first place and the title of the Croatian champion in Class 250 in 1995. Apart from motorsport, Šola especially likes sailing. Led by sports inspiration, he brought together the first bobsleigh enthusiasts early in the millennium year 2000, an Olympic sport which, it must be admitted, no one in Croatia even thought of. But, his enthusiasm and enormous sports energy enabled him to form the first bobsleigh team, appearing at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City in 2002, where they came 26th. He shared the first Croatian Olympic bobsleigh experience with his friends from the world of sports and colleague-athletes Igor Boraska, Niki Drpić, Bujljano Koludra and Boris Lovrić.

The Vancouver competition will be his third Winter Olympic Games appearance. His favorite sports-Olympic moment is the appearance at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City in 2002 and he believes that his greatest sporting success in this Olympic sport is the silver medal won at the America Cup in 2001.

Ivan Šola is a beneficiary of the Olympic Program Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2007 until the end of Olympic Games in Vancouver.
András Haklits was born on September 23, 1977 in Szombathely, Hungary. He is an athlete – a hammer-thrower – and competed for Hungary until he moved to Croatia in 1998. Since then, he has been a member of the Athletic Club “Dinamo Zrinjevac” in Zagreb. Besides the hammer-thrower he is a disc-thrower as well.

As a member of the Croatian Olympic Team he has already participated in three Olympic Games: Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 – as an athlete, naturally. But the Vancouver Games will be the fourth Olympic Games for András. It will also be a turning point in the sporting sense and a new challenge for this outstanding and experienced Croatian athlete.

At the invitation of Ivan Šola, the founder of Croatian bobsledding, he joined the Croatian bobsled team with the aim of participating in the Winter Olympic Games and he has succeeded. András is joining a group of Croatian athletes who have had the privilege of participating in both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. They include: rower Igor Boraska (winner of the Olympic Bronze Medal in Sydney 2000) and athletes Jurica Grabušić, Slaven Krajačić and Dejan Vojnović, who have already participated in the bobsled competition.
TEAM LEADER
DAMIR NOVOSELAC
Date of birth: November 29, 1970
Place of birth: Nova Gradiška

COACH
BERNHARD MICHAEL STRECKFUSS
Date of birth: June 18, 1950
Place of birth: Ulm, GER

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
VLADIMIR DUGANDŽIĆ
Date of birth: September 11, 1961
Place of birth: Rijeka

DOCTOR
LUCIAN VUKELIĆ
Date of birth: January 26, 1963
Place of birth: Beograd, SRB
Beautiful view of the Adriatic sea from the Velebit mountain
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

NINA BROZNIĆ

Participations in Winter Olympic Games
Her first appearance at the Vancouver WOG

Athletic achievements:
20th place - sprint at the European Youth Olympic Festival 2009
Slask-Beskidy (Poland); 45th place – 5 km classic at the EYOF 2009,
Slask-Beskidy (Poland); 3rd place - team Sprint at the Alps-Adriatic
Youth Games, Hinterstroder 2007 (Austria); 8th place – 5 km freestyle
at the Alps-Adriatic Youth Games, Hinterstroder 2007 (Austria);
58th place - sprint at the Praz de Lys World Junior Championships 2009,
Sommand (France).

Nina Broznić was born on February 19, 1991
in Rijeka. She completed secondary school
specializing in physiotherapy and is currently
enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine, University
of Rijeka.

She took up sports at the age of nine, passing
through all stages of curiosity and finding
motives and interest in various sports – from
rollerblading and mountaineering to her final
choice of cross country skiing, something she
finds extraordinary joy and challenge in.

She enjoys reading, especially books on
psychology and sport psychology. Nina speaks
English fluently and is well acquainted with the
secrets of traditional Chinese acupuncture and
massage since she attended special courses.

Her parents and her elder brother Andro,
also a cross country skier, are her strongest
supports. Her life motto is “Those who climb
the steps of success never regret losing their
breath”.

Nina Broznić is a beneficiary of the Olympic
Solidarity Program of the International Olympic
Committee in the period from March 1, 2009 to
the end of February 2010.
She is also a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidar-
ity Program of the Croatian Olympic Commit-
tee in the period from January 1, 2009 to the
April 1, 2009.
Andrej Burić was born on February 6, 1989 in Rijeka. He completed secondary school in Karlovac, specializing in forestry and carpentry, and is currently enrolled at the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Zagreb.

He became acquainted with the sport when he was only five and considers those first steps crucial for what would later be serious training of cross country skiing. Alongside his studies, skiing fills up most of his young life. Andrej is a member of the Budućnost Ski Club in Brod Moravice and spends a minimum of three to four hours a day in training. Andrej is pleased to say that his current coach Zoran Skender contributed a great deal to his development in the sport, and that his parents and relatives were a great support network.

In addition to cross country skiing, Andrej is fond of football and his ideal football player is Luka Modrić, member of the Croatian National Football Team. He loves music, saying it helps him relax and look for inspiration, especially before competitions. His favourite song is Srce vatreno (Flaming Heart), theme song of the Croatian National Football Team.

Andrej Burić is a beneficiary of the Olympic Solidarity Program of the Croatian Olympic Committee in the period from January 1, 2009 to the end of the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

TEAMLEADER
ZLATKO MALEC

Date of birth: May 9, 1959
Place of birth: Zagreb

COACH
ZORAN SKENDER

Date of birth: September 21, 1968
Place of birth: Ravna Gora
OTHER PARTICIPANTS FROM CROATIA AT THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES VANCOUVER 2010

PRESS JOURNALISTS
Renata Beluhan
Dražen Brajdić
Dan Figenwald
Zlatko Horvat
Bojan Koprivica
Matko Rak
Goran Razić
Virginia Romo

RADIO JOURNALISTS
Krešimir Gotlin
Davor Iljadica
Lovorko Magdić
Ognjen Naglić
Božidar Rožman

TV JOURNALISTS AND TECHNICIANS
Saša Anetić
Nenad Ban
Lana Banely
Ivan Blažičko
Robert Brkić
Slavko Cvitković
Drago Ćosić
Mićo Dušanović
Hrvoje Hostić
Žvonimir Jukica
Bruno Kovačević
Davor Kralj
Dražen Lipka
Damir Lovrenčić
Dag Modrić
Robert Petrinec
Dragan Ruljančić
Marko Šapit
Sanja Žvanović

CROATIAN ALPINE SKI TEAM
Janica Kostelić
Walter Hubman
Tješimir Peranić
Matej Ćuješ
Igor Jakopović
Dubravko Lalić
Renato Gašpar
Sandi Murovec
Zoran Sobol
Rajko Šamšal
Davor Lažeta
OTHER PARTICIPANTS FROM CROATIA AT THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES VANCOUVER 2010

PRESIDENT:
dr.sc. Zlatko Mateša

SECRETARY GENERAL:
Josip Čop,

COUNCIL COC:
Zlatko Mateša
(President)
Antun Vrdoljak
(IOC Member and COC honorary president)
Slavko Goluža
(Vice-president)
Danko Radić
(Vice-president)
Nada Senčar
(Vice-president)
Luciano Sušanj
(Vice-president)
Duško Mrduljaš
(Member)
Ivan Škoro
(Member)
Morana Paliković Gruden
(Member)
Zvjezdana Tuma Pavlov
(Member)
Miho Glavić
(Member)
Goran Sukno
(Member)
Marijan Maras
(Member)
Marijan Klanac
(Member)
Boris Mesarić
(Member)
Ivo Goran Munivrana
(Member)
Dragutin Kamenski
(Member)
## VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES COMPETITION SCHEDULE

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<td>Short Track Speed Skating Pacific Coliseum</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freestyle Skiing</td>
<td>Cypress Mountain</td>
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<td>Ice Hockey Canada</td>
<td>Rogers Arena</td>
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<td>Ice Hockey UBC Thunderbird Arena</td>
<td>Save-on Ice Park</td>
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<td>Speed Skating</td>
<td>Save-on Ice Park</td>
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</tbody>
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**Legend:**
- **M** Men/Women
- **T** Tuesday
- **W** Wednesday
- **F** Friday
- **S** Saturday
- **Su** Sunday
- **G** Games
- **C** Ceremonies
- **D** Day
- **N** Night

*Victory Ceremonies start at 18:30 and medal presentations start at 19:00 at BC Place for city events and at Whistler Medals Plaza for Whistler events.

**In-village Victory Ceremonies are not included in session time.**

All information in this schedule is subject to change.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 SAT</td>
<td>Alpine Skiing: Super G</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAY 9</td>
<td>Alpine Skiing: Giant Slalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY 10</td>
<td>Cross-Country Skiing: Pursuit (15 Classic=15 Free) 13:30-15:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 MON</td>
<td>Biathlon: M 15 km Mass 10:45-11:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAY 11</td>
<td>Cross-Country Skiing: Sprint Free 10:45-12:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 TUES</td>
<td>Nordic Combined: M Team 10:00-10:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAY 12</td>
<td>Nordic Combined: Individual LH 10:00-10:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 WED</td>
<td>Cross-Country Skiing: 4x10 km Relay 11:15-13:10</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAY 13</td>
<td>Nordic Combined: 4x10 km Relay Individual 10 km 10:00-10:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 THURS</td>
<td>Cross-Country Skiing: 4x5 km Relay 11:30-13:05</td>
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<td>DAY 14</td>
<td>Nordic Combined: Individual LH 10:00-10:50</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 FRI</td>
<td>Biathlon: M 4x7.5 km Relay 11:30-13:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAY 15</td>
<td>Cross-Country Skiing: 50 km Mass Start Classic 11:45-13:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 SAT</td>
<td>Cross-Country Skiing: 50 km Mass Start Classic 9:30-12:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY 16</td>
<td>Snowboard: Parallel Giant Slalom 10:00-12:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 SUN</td>
<td>Snowboard: Parallel Giant Slalom 10:00-12:15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **ICE HOCKEY**
  - M 12:00-14:30
  - NOR - SWE - 16:30-19:00
  - LAT - FIN - 19:30-21:30
  - GER - BLR - 21:00-23:30

- **ICE HOCKEY**
  - W 14:30-17:00
  - SWE - FIN - 19:30-21:30

- **SPEED SKATING**
  - M 1.500 m 16:15-18:00
  - W 1.500 m 15:00-16:35
The KOSTELIĆ Family

I first met Ante Kostelić when I was a 14-year old handball player in the “Borac” Club. We shared the same hall, known as the “Matchbox”, at Trešnjevka in Zagreb on a 50:50 basis – men handball players, nicknamed the “borčeki” and the women handball players of the club “Trešnjevka”, coached by Ante. He would shout at his players with a glowering face and coarse voice. Not much more than any Dan Figenvald, a journalist from Zagreb, has shared almost all of the career of the Kostelić family (father Ante and his children Ivica and Janica). This is a Kostelić family story seen from his point of view.
other coach would do, but I did not like him too much at the first sight.

Then we had a brief encounter on skis on Sljeme Mountain: naturally Papa Kostelić (or “Gips” as people called him) had no idea who the kid who said hello to him was. Some years later, when I was a rookie on the staff of “Večernji list” newspaper wanting to write only about skiing, Ante popped into the editorial office and asked my editor at the time, Darko Draženović, if he had somebody who could write a few lines about his children.

Full of confidence, he was telling all of us that his then 13-year old son Ivica might become a serious skier and that his 10-year old daughter Janica would be a real “sensation”. Yes, he said it just like that. When the editor sent him to “that kid in the corner”, I entered the world of skiing and into the story of the Kostelić family – surely the greatest ever sports story in Croatia.

The coming years were marked by Janica’s domination of the junior races, with times that were often better than those of the boys in her age group. Ivica may not have been quite so dominant, but seeing how he skied it was easy to conclude that, one day, he would be knocking on the door of the World Cup.

At that time, Croatia had only one skier competing at the elite level, Vedran Pavlek, but he could never repeat his results from the FIS races in the higher level competitions. Pavlek never won a single point in the World Cup, but sensing that a Croatian ski blizzard was on it way, he became director of the Croatian national ski team with Janica and Ivica as its leading lights.

In the junior category (up to the age of 15), Janica defeated all her rivals and one season she won all 22 of the international ski races in which she participated. This included the famous “Topolino”, the most competitive of the junior races.

Somehow it seems logical that Ante would choose to coach his daughter Janica, not because he did not have faith in his son’s ultimate success, but because as a coach who achieved his best results in a women’s handball, he knew that it would be faster and easier to reach the top in the women’s competition. Whenever possible Janica and Ivica trained together, but when it was time for the international races, Ante spent his time on the ski slopes with his daughter, while Ivica continued to train with another group of coaches.

Janica’s first success was in the United States – a third place at Park City, Utah. It was her first appearance on the podium and she was still only 16. Just a few months later she scored her first win at St. Anton, Austria in the combined. It was the beginning of the period of her great domination, which would have been even greater had she not suffered some serious injuries. For example, the injury that she suffered in St Moritz was almost predicted by her father who wrote in his diary: “I don’t have a good feeling. The jump, as it is now set on the course, is
unnatural and cut incorrectly. I hope everything will be alright.” Unfortunately, it was not and Janica suffered a serious injury and went through a long recovery. Her doctors were even skeptical that she would be able to make a comeback in professional skiing.

Yet, Janica would not be who she is if she did not have that vision of coming back. Already the following spring, she was making her first turns on skis. During the summer, she did her best to prepare for the upcoming season and then she won her first Crystal Globe – one of the three in her career.

She reached her peak in 2002 at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games. Three gold medals, one silver medal and a place in history as one of the greatest world ski champions. She added another gold and a silver at Turin, to go along with five World Championship titles (two in the slalom, two in the combined and one in the downhill)
and then in 2006 – to the surprise of many – she said goodbye to skiing. Perhaps it was a pity, since she could have achieved even more, but her injuries were a crucial factor. She simply did not want to think anymore about the operating table and scalpel – the inevitable “friends” of every top skier. She went out when she was at the top.

Ivica Kostelić has been at the very top, or close to it, since 2001. He achieved his historic first win at Aspen, Colorado with the highest starting ever. Ivica started down the hill of this jet-set ski resort with the number 64.

He now has a gold medal in the slalom from the World Championships in St. Moritz in 2003, an Olympic silver medal from Turin in 2006, a Small Crystal Globe from the 2002 World Cup and on 17 January 2010 in won his scored tenth World Cup victory.

Ivica’s road has also been filled with injury and many complicated surgeries. On several occasions, he has started practically from last place. Yet, his brilliant technique, extraordinary feeling for his skis and his extremely rational approach to each run, have brought him to the top, where he is still resides. Ivica Kostelić remains one of the best skiers in the world today, finishing last season in overall fourth place in the World Cup.

The story of an ordinary, but also an unusual, Croatian family has not yet finished. As they both say – Papa Ante and Mother Marica (who used to be a handball player with Ante as her coach and she seems now still to be in love with her Tonko), Ivica is prepared for great things – all the way to the Sochi Winter Olympic Games in 2014.
Regardless of its size, Croatia is a very sporty nation. With only a 4.5 million inhabitants, achieved and still achieves numerous successes. Almost every other Croat has something to do with sports or knows something about them.
Sport Tradition
Regardless of its size, Croatia is a very sporty nation. With only a 4.5 million inhabitants, achieved and still achieves numerous successes. Almost every other Croat has something to do with sports or knows something about it. Croatia is famous for being a country which knows how to create an atmosphere. The nation itself, the common and ordinary people are very proud of their sport legends, whether they do the individual or the team sports.

Let's start with individuals. The siblings, Janica and Ivica Kostelić are Croatian most successful alpine skiers. Even though Janica retired from skiing, she still represents a role model and a symbol of success for many people. She won 3 gold medals in alpine skiing at the Winter Olympic Games at Salt Lake City (2002) and she was proudly wearing the title of a World Cup Champion in 2001, 2003 and 2006. Her brother Ivica specializes in slalom and his greatest achievement was an Olympic silver medal in a combined in 2006.

Duje Draganja is a famous Croatian swimmer. His best accomplishment was the silver medal in the Men’s 50-meter Freestyle at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. Draganja won a silver medal in 2005 World Aquatics Championships held in Montreal in 50 m freestyle. He has 4 medals from World Short Course Swimming Championships. In 2006 and 2008 he won a gold medal in 50 meter freestyle. Also he has bronze medal in

History of Croatian Sport:

Probably the earliest known description of a sporting event in Croatia is from the 18th century (1764). It referred to the regatta of two fishing boats representing the cities of Split and Makarska, from an islet near Milna on the island of Brač to the Split harbour.

The first international football match where Croatia participated with its national name had been held in 1907 (with Czechia). The Croatian Sporting Union was founded in Zagreb in 1909.

The oldest Croatian soccer club is Bačka, founded in Subotica in 1901, playing in the then Croatian league. It is also the oldest soccer club in this part of Europe.
Sanja Jovanović is a female backstroke swimmer from Dubrovnik, On 12 December 2009 she broke the world record in 50 meters backstroke on European Short Course Swimming Championships. Goran Ivanišević is a former tennis player but the sound of his name still echoes around the world. He won the men’s singles at Wimbledon in 2001. Another famous name in tennis is the name of Ivan Ljubičić and his best accomplishment is the bronze medal in tennis doubles at the Olympics in 2004 when he teamed up with Mario Ančić. Together with Ivo Karlović they also win a Davis Cup (2005).

Marin Čilić is a young and also very successful player with a bright future (semifinalist - Australian Open 2010)

Let’s also mention Iva Majoli, Roland Garros champion 1997.

Blanka Vlašić is another great sporty individual. She is world champion (2007, 2009) and silver medal bearer on Olympic games in Beijing 2008.

When it comes to team sports, football, handball, basketball, water polo... You name it.

At Croatia’s first FIFA World Cup in 1998 the team finished third and provided the tournament’s top scorer, Davor Šuker.

The Croatian Handball Team is very successful, regardless of its short history. At the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996, they won the gold medal and the same happened in Athens 2004. World
CROATIAN SPORT

Martina Zubčić & Sandra Šarić (taekwondo) - olympic bronze in Beijing 2008

Luka Modrić, Ivica Olić, Vedran Ćorluka

Croatia became the 12th nation to win the Davis Cup, winning the 2005 Final in Bratislava, defeating Slovak Republic 3-2 and becoming the first unseeded nation to win in World Group history.


Let us also here remember the great Dražen Petrović who made a big splash in the NBA but unfortunately died too early in a car accident (June 7, 1993).

The Water Polo Team has achieved some memorable results: Croatia won silver at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. The team also won silvers at the 1999 and 2003 European Water Polo Championship. In 2007, Croatia won the World Water Polo Championship in Melbourne for the first time and took bronze at the 2009 FINA World Championships in Rome.
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