

ICE-COOL FIRST EDITION



WINTER SPORTS RECORDS

**ALPINE SKIING • BIATHLON
BOBSLEIGH • CURLING • FIGURE SKATING
FREESTYLE SKIING • ICE HOCKEY • LUGE
NORDIC COMBINED • SKI JUMPING
SNOWBOARDING • SPEED SKATING**



WINTER SPORTS RECORDS

常州大学图书馆
藏书章

CHRIS HAWKES

CARLTON

This edition published in 2012

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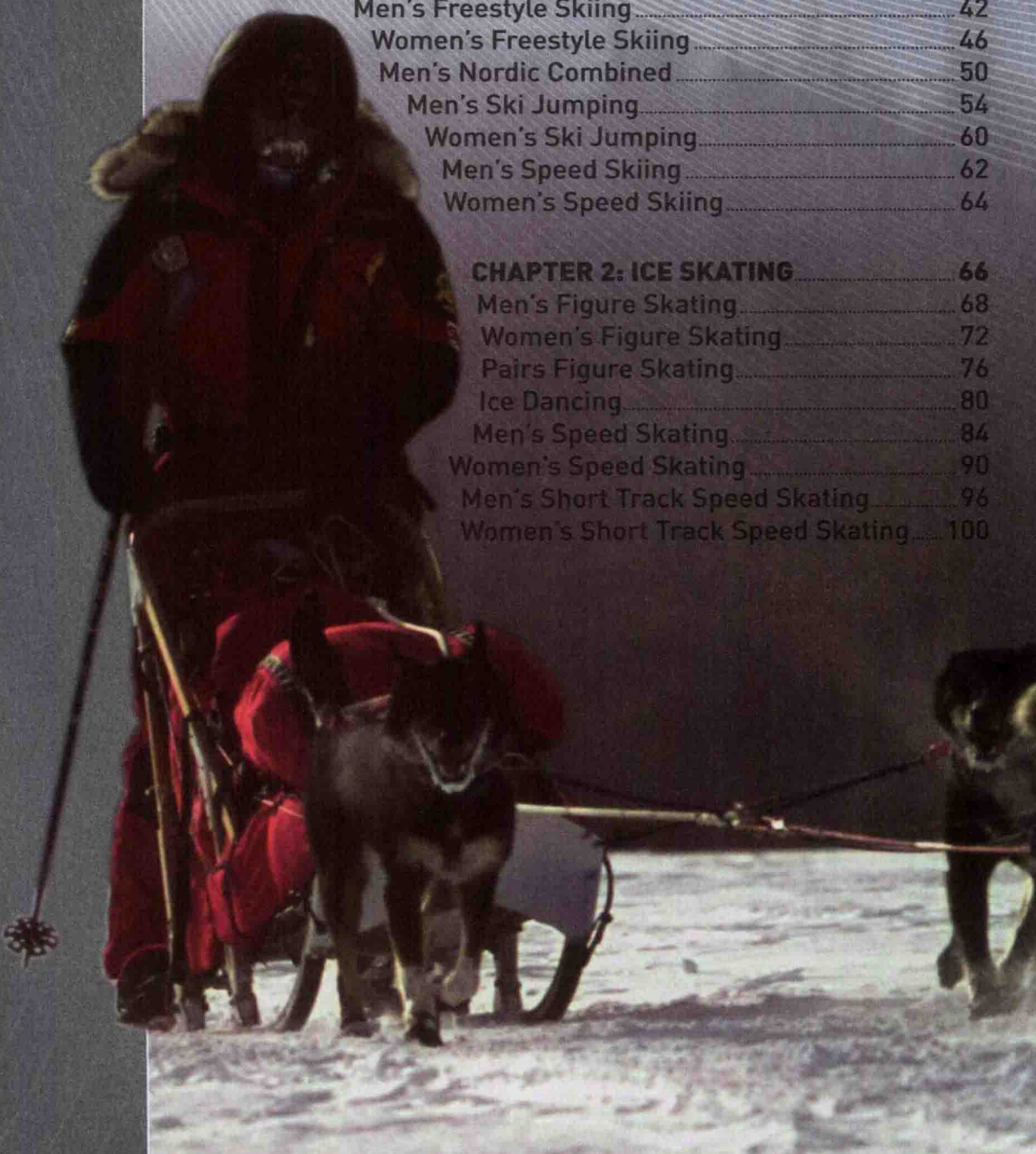
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Above: Blair Morgan powers his snowcross bike to quarter-final victory at the 2006 Winter X Games.

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Above: The call of the wild is at its loudest as Iditarod mushers drive forward their teams of dogs across the ice and frozen snow of Alaska.

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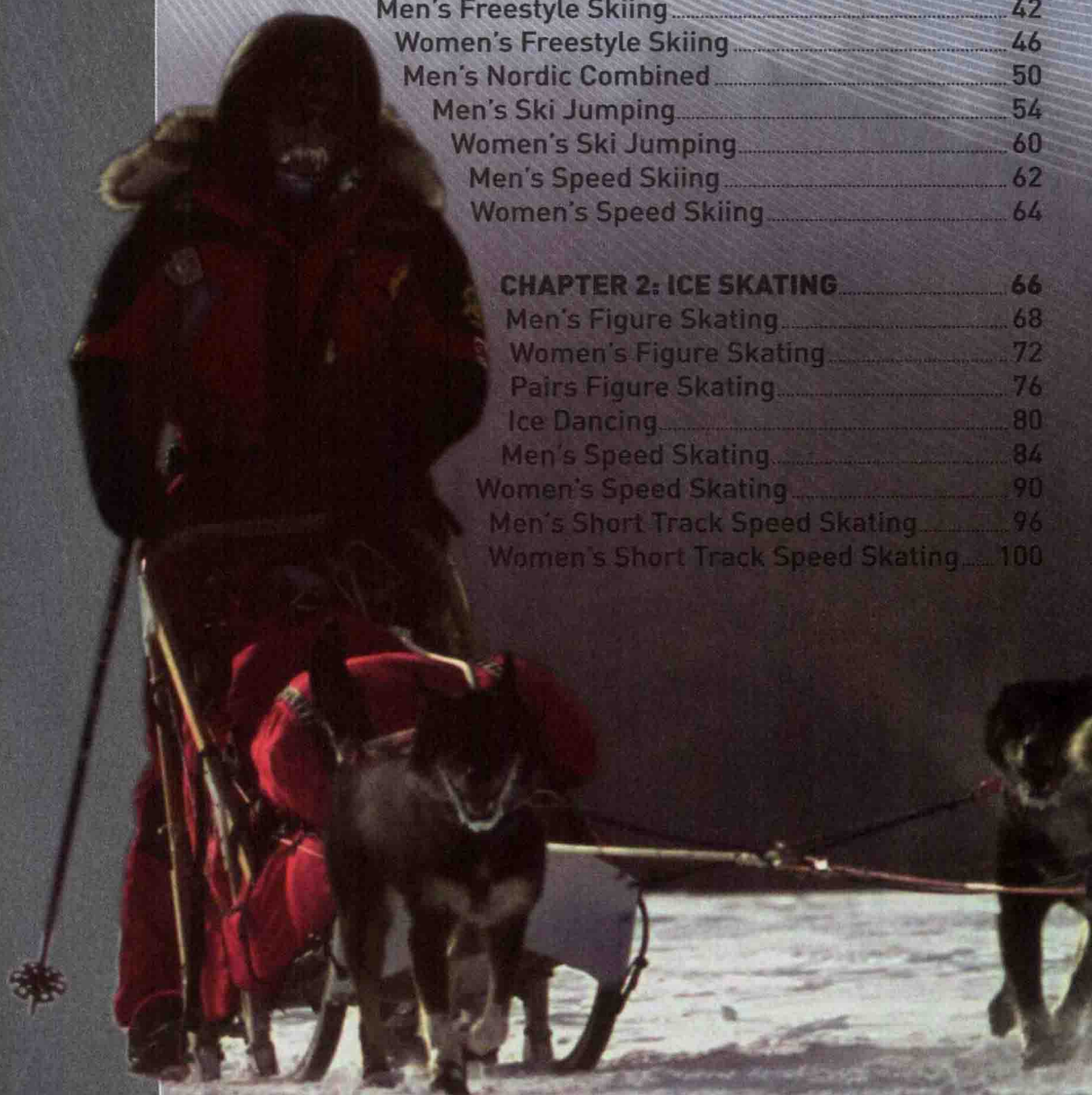
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of *Winter Sports Records*, a book that celebrates the finest achievements in the vast world of winter sports, from the fast-paced, adrenaline-fuelled action on the alpine slopes and bobsleigh tracks, to the grace and sheer athleticism found on figure-skating rinks, to the more sedate, strategic battles that occur in curling arenas around the world.

One of the marvels of mankind has been not only its endless capacity to adapt to the varied environments in which it finds itself, but then to take the most perfunctory of actions and turn it into a form of competition. Winter sports, perhaps more than any other of the vast array of sports practised by people around the globe, fall directly into this category. Take alpine skiing and dog-sled racing, for example: both, essentially, find their roots as a means of transport, an innovative way in which to get from A to B across a difficult terrain, and both of which now feature heavily on the winter sports calendar. In short, mankind's mantra over the centuries, a particularly refreshing one, has been, if there's an ice-covered slope, we shall race down it; if there's a frozen pond, we shall find a way of sliding across it – and from such a mantra hundreds of sports have been born.

The aims of this book were numerous: to represent as many of the vast number of winter sports as possible; to highlight as many of the incredible personal achievements of a manifold number of athletes as possible – feats that, too often perhaps, pass unnoticed in a world more familiar with football and Formula One; and to bring those

achievements back to life in as innovative a way as possible to a new generation of readers.

Fortunately, that task was made much easier by the vast platform of statistics available in this digital age: databases recording the achievements of numerous athletes in various arenas are readily available to all who choose to delve into them – and without the considerable efforts of others, a book such as this would not be possible. I owe a huge debt of thanks to those who have put together websites on all the sports covered in this book.

I also owe a huge thank you to the number of individuals who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put a book such as this together: to my editor Martin Corteel, whose unflagging words of encouragement and cajolement continue to help me across the finishing line; to copy-editor Steve Dobel, whose assiduous eye to the finest of details ensures the copy in the book is as fine-tuned as it is possible to be; to Darren Jordan, whose creative flair helps lift the pages in this book; to Paul Langan, whose tireless search through archives to find the relevant photographs have helped bring the words contained in this book to life; and to Rachel Burgess, whose production skills ensure the work of others is brought together in as seamless a manner as possible.

My final thanks go to you, the reader. I hope the time you spend among the pages of this book is as enjoyable as it was to put them together.

Chris Hawkes
Savigny-le-Vieux, May 2012



Above: Stefan Gimpl flies high during his winning run in the 2007-08 FIS Snowboarding World Cup Big Air finals; it was the second of four World Cup victories for the Austrian.





Above: The United States' Lindsey Vonn, who won Winter Games gold medals in the downhill and Super-G at Vancouver 2010 is right on her edges as she skis to victory the March 2012 FIS Alpine Ski World Cup women's giant slalom event at Are, Sweden.

Chapter 1

SKIING

Alpine skiing sports (defined as sliding events in which competitors use skis with fixed- or free-heel bindings) include: downhill, giant slalom and Super-G skiing; ski jumping; cross-country skiing; and Nordic combined (a combination of ski jumping and cross-country skiing). All of these disciplines are governed by the International Ski Federation, which oversees skiing competitions at World Cups and World Championships, and are considered to be among the blue riband events at the Winter Olympic Games.



Below: Swiss downhiller Ambrosi Hoffman launches himself out of the gate at the start of a practice run at Wengen, Switzerland.



Men's Alpine Skiing: Olympic Games

Men's alpine skiing made its Winter Olympic Games debut at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, in 1936 with a combined event; downhill and slalom competitions were added in 1948; the giant slalom made its first appearance on the roster four years later, and the Super-G was contested for the first time at Calgary 1988.



Below: Kjetil André Aamodt is both the youngest and oldest Olympic Alpine skiing medallist.

THE MADMAN OF DOWNHILL

Born in Paris, but a resident of Val d'Isère from the age of six, Henri Oreiller earned a reputation as an audacious skier in his youth and, after becoming France's national champion, earned the nicknames "The Parisian of Val d'Isère" and, memorably, "The Madman of Downhill". His crowning moment came at the 1948 Winter Games in St-Moritz, Switzerland, when he stormed to the gold medal in the men's downhill (the first time the event had been staged) with an all-time record four-second winning margin. And the glory didn't end there; Oreiller also went on to pick up the combined title.



Above: Henri Oreiller was the first Olympic downhill champion.

MOST MEDALS WON (OVERALL): TOP FIVE

Pos	Medals	Name (country)	G	S	B
1	8	Kjetil André Aamodt (Norway)	4	2	2
2	5	Alberto Tomba (Italy)	3	2	0
3	5	Lasse Kjus (Norway)	1	3	1
=	5	Bode Miller (USA)	1	3	1
5	4	Hermann Maier (Austria)	2	1	1
=	4	Benjamin Raich (Austria)	2	0	2
=	4	Stephan Eberharter (Austria)	1	2	1

THE WINTER GAMES' FIRST CHAMPION

Given his status as one of the pre-event favourites, Franz Pfnür would have been disappointed to find himself 4.4 seconds behind the leader following the downhill section of the men's combined event at Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936 (in alpine skiing's first appearance at the Winter Games), albeit that his strongest discipline, the slalom (at which he was world champion in 1934), was still to come. And what a performance the 27-year-old German produced, clocking the fastest time in both runs (72.1 and 74.5 seconds) to storm to gold and etch his name in history as the Winter Games' first-ever alpine skiing champion.