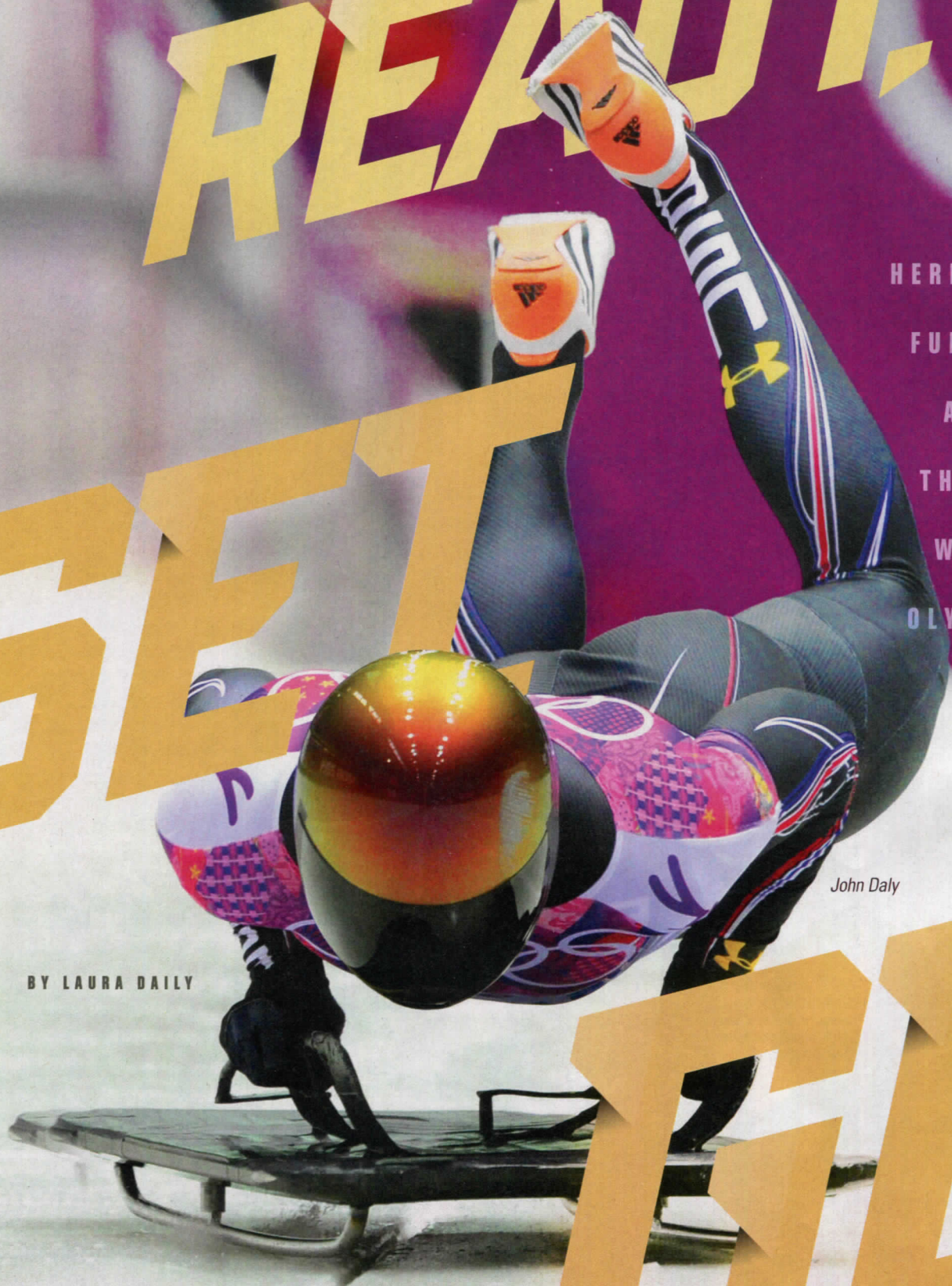




READY!

SET

HERE'S SOME
FUN STUFF
ABOUT
THE 2018
WINTER
OLYMPICS.



John Daly

BY LAURA DAILY

GO

THE XXIII WINTER OLYMPICS
ARE TAKING PLACE THIS MONTH
IN SOUTH KOREA. HERE'S
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
TO WATCH THE GREATEST SHOW
ON ICE AND SNOW.

HEAVY MEDAL Olympic medalists will hang some weight around their necks. Experts believe **this year's medals will be the heaviest in Olympic history.** The gold medals weigh 1.29 pounds, silver medals 1.28 lbs. and bronze medals 1.09 lbs. The Korean Hangeul alphabet was incorporated into the medals' edges to spell what translates to "Pyeongchang Winter Olympics."



MIGHTY MASCOT

Sohorang is a white tiger, long considered Korea's guardian animal. "Soho" means "protection" in Korean. "Rang" comes from the middle letter of "ho-rang-i," the Korean word for "tiger." Sohorang not only has spirit and passion, but also is a trustworthy friend who protects the Olympic athletes and spectators.

COMEBACK STORY?

If he succeeds in qualifying for the Games, American **John Daly** will cap one of the greatest comeback stories in skeleton, a sport in which competitors race down one mile of ice head first at about 90 miles per hour. At the 2014 Winter Games, Daly was sitting in bronze-medal position (third place) after entering the fourth and final heat. After an error put him out of medal contention, Daly thought he was done with the sport. Now he's back and hoping for another chance. **CONTINUED>>>**



GO FIGURE U.S. champion figure skater **Nathan Chen** will skate for his first Olympic team after becoming the first American man to break 300 points total in both domestic and international competition. Chen is the only skater to complete all five quadruple jumps (Salchow, toe loop, loop, flip and Lutz) in international competition.

NO NHL The National Hockey League sent its stars to five straight Olympics from 1998 to 2014 but won't be participating this year. **The league decided a 17-day break to accommodate the Games was too disruptive to its schedule.** The 2018 USA Hockey team is expected to be a mix of college players, European-league players, minor leaguers and maybe even retired NHL players. Twelve teams have qualified for the men's tournament, with Russia and Canada likely to have an edge. The USA women's team will enter its tournament as top seed.

STRAIGHT SHOOTER

The U.S. Biathlon (cross-country skiing and rifle shooting) Team **looks to capture its first-ever Olympic medal.** Three-time Olympians Lowell Bailey and Tim Burke are primed to compete at their fourth Olympics. Coming off the most successful season of his career, Bailey (the first U.S. athlete to qualify for the 2018 Games) made history during the 2016-17 season when he became the first American biathlete to win a gold medal at a world championship, with a perfect 20 for 20 in shooting.

Lowell Bailey

Nathan Chen

SPEED SKATING

Dutch speed skaters won eight of 12 gold medals and **23 medals total at the last Winter Olympics.** Expect these skaters from The Netherlands to be contenders again. While typical speed-skating competitions have racers duel head to head, there's a new event at these Olympics: In mass start, up to 24 skaters will start at the same time and race for 16 laps.

MIXING IT UP

Curling will have a new medal opportunity. **Mixed doubles — a team of one man and one woman — will debut as a medal sport.**

This varies from the traditional men's and women's disciplines that feature four athletes per team. Mixed double teams have only five stones each (instead of eight), and sweeping can be done by both team members. **COOL FACT:**

Curling stones weigh 42 pounds and are made of a specific dense granite found in only one place in the world: Ailsa Craig in Scotland.

FIND OUT WHICH OLYMPIC ATHLETES HAVE A SCOUTING CONNECTION AT go.boyslife.org/olympics

A BIG DEAL

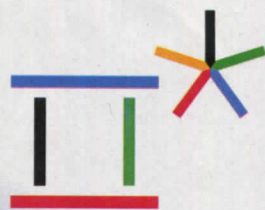
Snowboarders with big tricks will have a chance to wow the crowds (and the judges) at a new medal event. Big air features just one single jump per run. We're talking the biggest, toughest, most jaw-dropping spins, switches and grabs. The final consists of three runs with scores from each competitor's best two runs added together for the final result. Scoring for big air is based on **D-E-A-L**: **D**ifficulty, **E**xecution, **A**mplitude (how "big" the athlete goes) and **L**anding.



Shaun White



Erin Hamlin



PyeongChang 2018



Fast Facts

WHAT: The Olympic Winter Games, a worldwide sports competition held every four years

WHERE: Pyeongchang, South Korea

WHEN: Feb. 9-25

WHO: Team USA expects to send about 245 athletes. Most weren't named until January, during team trials or national championships (after our press date).

WATCH: On NBC and its family of TV channels, and online at NBCOlympics.com

COMPETITION: Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded in each of 102 events in 15 sports: alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsled, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, Nordic combined, short track speed skating, skeleton, ski jumping, snowboard and speed skating.

NEW FOR 2018: There are six medal events new to the Winter Olympics, including men's and women's big air snowboarding, men's and women's mass start speed skating and mixed doubles curling. A new team event will mix men and women in alpine skiing.

TRICKY CURVE

USA Luge teams have trained and raced on the Olympic course. Their report: Curve 9 is especially tricky, so competitors will need to strategize to successfully navigate it. Look for Team USA to contend for medals in all four events: men's and women's singles, doubles and team relay. But the **competition in luge is stiff, and the races are very close.**

COOL FACT: Luge is one of just two winter Olympic sports judged to the thousandth of a second (short track speed skating is the other). ✦