

# Give up two weeks of your life, watch the Olympics

by Jonathan Pappalardo

*News Editor*

Every four years—or two—depending on how you look at it, the world comes together to celebrate athletics at its finest and be inspired by the stories of those competing in the Olympic Games. The games of the 21<sup>st</sup> Olympiad, currently going on, are no exception.

I always look forward to giving up two weeks of my life every two years to get invested in the stories of people who train for upwards of eight hours a day so they can have a shot at winning either a gold, silver, or bronze medal. I'm not usually a watcher of sports but I always find myself glued to the Olympic Games.

There are many reasons why you should also give up the two weeks of your life, tune in, and watch the world's greatest athletes compete. If the various stories aren't inspiring enough, it is the ultimate show of patriotism to cheer on the always brilliant Team USA and in the current games in Vancouver, they have yet to disappoint.

It was thrilling to hear, after his drunken display of unprofessionalism in Torino, Bode Miller finally won a gold medal to go with the silver and bronze he already won at these games. I've been following Miller's career since middle school and I visit his hometown of Franconia NH quite frequently. I only wish I could've seen his winning run live, but that is one of the pitfalls of being a college student. I have to do work at some point if I want to graduate in May.

On the woman's side, I was so happy to see Lindsey Vonn win the Gold in the Woman's downhill. After reading her life story in the fabulous New York Times Magazine article a few weeks back, I couldn't wait to watch her compete. When someone has had to overcome so much and still be on their feet, a high being defiantly takes over and gives them their moment of glory. Vancouver was her moment to shine.

If anything, a main reason to watch is for the stunts. Who knew a snowboarder could take the sport to the level Shaun White did? He

has redefined what's possible and been a great role model for children everywhere who wish to follow in his footsteps someday. At only 23 years old, there is no telling what he might be able to accomplish in the years to come.

A big criticism in our society centers on the idea of losing family values in our television. What could be more wholesome for the whole family than the Olympic Games? In a time when we are fighting two wars and trying to pass a disastrous healthcare bill, the Olympic Games unite nations for two weeks giving us water cooler moments to talk about for years and even decades to come.

I'm proud to say I live in the United States where we have one of the best Olympic Teams in the world. Go Team USA. You can do it and everyone back home is rooting for you even if they have to drag themselves into work each morning tired from having to stay up late the night before. For these two weeks, it's all worth it.