Dan Jansen, Olympic gold medalist, rejoins NBC as the speed skating analyst during the network's coverage of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. The Torino Games will be Jansen's third Olympic broadcast assignment, having also provided speed skating analysis for NBC during the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City and for CBS during their coverage of the 1998 Winter Games in Niagano. He is also currently the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks skating coach.

Although he dominated the sport of speed skating for years, Jansen had not won an Olympic medal going into the final event of his Olympic career. A four-time Olympian, Jansen was ranked No. 1 in the world for three consecutive years heading into the 1994 Lillehammer Games. In his first Olympics, the 1984 Sarajevo Games, he finished fourth in the 500m. In the 1988 Games in Calgary, after learning of the death of his sister, Jane, he fell in both the 500m, his best event, and 1,000m. In 1992 in Albertville, Jansen placed fourth in the 500m and did not attempt the 1,000m. At the 1994 Games in Lillehammer, Jansen fell in the event he was favored to win, the 500m. In the final Olympic race of his career, the 1,000m in Lillehammer, he finally won his elusive Olympic medal - a gold medal - with a world record time of 1:12.43.

After his victory, The Washington Post said "A gold medal for Jansen was the one the Americans wanted most of all. There is no more popular, no more respected Olympian than Jansen".

Jansen's victory lap, while carrying his then nine-month old daughter, Jane, is the most memorable image of the Lillehammer Games. Some say Jansen's victory lap is the most memorable U.S. Winter Olympic memory sinc...

Dan Jansen

Speech Topics

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