



## Local Moguls

## Who needs powder? New England's icy slopes breed Olympic champions. By Jason Stevenson

Every four years the Winter Olympics give New England skiers two weeks to be thankful for their frigid, gusty, ice-coated slopes. The Northeast's challenging runs and rigorous ski academies have forged dozens of top skiers, from Vermont's Billy Kidd, the first American to win a men's Olympic skiing medal, in 1964, to current star and New Hampshire native Bode Miller. This month's Turin Winter Olympics are no exception: New England athletes form the backbone of the U.S. team.

In addition to the 28-year-old Miller, a no-holds-barred skier as famous for his blunt speech as for winning the World Cup title last year, the U.S. men's alpine team features several native or adopted New Englanders eager to win gold. Daron Rahlves, a 32-year-old who excels in the fearsome downhill, honed his speed on the slick slopes of Vermont's Green Mountain Valley School. Giant-slalom ace Erik Schlopy, 33, trained in Vermont at Stowe and Burke Mountain Ski Academy before first joining the national team at 18.

The Turin-bound crew of star snowboarders also boasts local roots. With her blond curls and cheerful smile, Lindsey Jacobellis, 20, doesn't look like a world champion in snowboard cross—a new Olympic sport in which four boarders race demolition derby—style down a twisting course. But Jacobellis, a graduate of Vermont's Stratton Mountain School, is ranked best in the world and is favored to medal at Turin. It's a distinction shared by her teammate, Maine's Seth Wescott, 29. Another boarder making her Olympic debut is Hannah Teter, 19, a Vermont native and halfpipe competitor who comes from a family of talented boarders (her two older brothers are on the men's team).

Turin's bulletproof courses are notoriously treacherous. But when you've grown up on New England's slopes, a sheet of windblown ice feels just like home.

(NBC's prime-time Olympic coverage of the ski and snowboard events starts 2/12, as Miller and Rahlves begin the Yankee medal run with the downhill.)

STATUS SYMBOL OF THE MONTH

## **DIAL "A" FOR ACCESS**

Absolutely need a last-minute table at Clio? Call a celebrity chef's private cellphone.

The only accessory more precious to a star chef than a knife kit is a cell phone. And as our culinary darlings raise their profiles, their closely guarded cell-

phone numbers are becoming an ever more prized possession for the well-heeled clients who keep them on speed dial.

Socialite Julie Binder calls

celeb chef Andy Husbands
(Tremont 647, Rouge) to do
everything from cater intimate
soirees to deliver dinner to her
home when she returns from
vacation. "My friends will call
and say, 'Do you think Andy
can get us into Clio on Saturday
night?'" Binder says. Husbands
usually delivers.

Doing a few personal

favors is good business, says
Husbands. The recipients get
concierge-like service and the
chefs get themselves an in with
Boston's wealthiest clientele.
Chef Marc Orfaly, who shares
his cell number with only a
select few, says, "Being a chef
enables us to rub elbows with
people we'd otherwise never
meet." —Erin Byers