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Laser Eye Surgery at the Olympics

February 10, 2014



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Athletes and laser eye surgery go together like the Olympics and gold medals. Plenty of Olympic athletes have gone for gold with the help of laser eye surgery, to reduce their need for glasses and contacts lenses during extreme competition.

Below are all the U.S. athletes we could verify had LASIK, with estimated dates when available.

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Did we miss one? If you know of someone who should be on this list, let us know in the comments so we can compile the most comprehensive list of laser vision correction at the Olympics on the Internet!

Laser Eye Surgery at the 2014 Sochi Olympics:

- [Elana Meyers](#): Bobsled (1 Bronze)
 - Elana Myers is an elite bobsledder who serves as Athletic Director at the USBSF. She got LASIK in 2010.
- [Jen Hudak](#): Halfpipe Skiing (first-time competitor)
 - For the first time, halfpipe skiing will be an Olympic event at Sochi. Jen Hudak was a favorite to medal before [sustaining a knee injury](#) in December 2013. Still, Hudak will compete. She had LASIK in 2013 and has amassed numerous X-Games golds, making her one to watch.
- [Curt Tomasevicz](#): Bobsled (1 Gold)
 - Not only did Curt Tomasevicz help power the U.S. bobsled team to gold in 2010; he also holds degrees in electrical engineering and astronomy. Tomasevicz credited LASIK to helping him train without the hassles of glasses and contacts.
- The U.S. Speed Skating Team (numerous medals)
 - At least nine of this year's U.S. speed skaters got LASIK in 2013 in New York. They include [Brittany Bowe](#), [Rebekah Bradford](#), [Lauren Cholewinski](#), [Chris Creveling](#), [Kimberly Derrick](#), [Bridie Farrell](#), [Joey Mantia](#), [Trevor Marsicano](#), and [Sugar Todd](#). ([Chad Hedrick](#) and [Katherine Reutter](#) got LASIK separately in 2009 and 2010, respectively.)

Laser Eye Surgery at past Olympics:

- [Amy Van Dyken](#): Swimming (6 Gold)
 - One of the most gold-decorated female U.S. swimmers, [Amy Dyken had LASIK in 2011](#).
- [Jill Kintner](#): BMX (1 Bronze)

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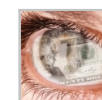
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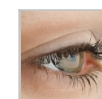
LASIK Eye Surgery Cost (the Elephant in the Eye Exam Room)

The cost of LASIK in North America varies drastically, from less th...



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- Jill Kintner's Olympic fame comes from the 2008 BMX events. That same year she had LASIK eye surgery. Kintner since switched to mountain bike racing.

- **Norm Lydich:** Wheelchair Rugby, a.k.a. "Murderball" (2 Gold, 1 Bronze)

- **Norm Lydich** was voted reader's choice to win free LASIK in New York. His story was a dream of taking gold at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics—which he did.

- **Lindsey Vonn:** Downhill Skiing (1 Gold, 1 Bronze)

- Lindsey Vonn would have competed in the Sochi Olympics if not for a knee injury. Considered by some the most successful female American skier ever, Vonn had LASIK in 2010.

- **Joannie Rochette:** Figure Skating (1 Bronze)

- Joannie Rochette adds a spice of foreign music to her figure-skating routines representing Canada. She's skated her way to multiple awards, including one Olympic Bronze in 2010.

- **Brendan Hansen:** Swimming (3 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze)

- Three years after getting LASIK in 2009, Brendan Hansen led the U.S. swim team to gold, including one of Michael Phelps's record golds.

- **Dan Joye:** Luge (no medals)

- Dan Joye had his laser eye surgery in 2009, making Olympic luge a breeze.



Olympians with non-laser eye surgeries:

- **Timothy Hutten:** Men's Water Polo (1 Silver)

- Tim Hutton got LASEK 2011. To learn more about LASEK [click here](#).



- **Steve Holcomb:** Bobsled (1 Gold)

- Due to a condition called keratoconus, Steve Holcomb's prescription deteriorated to 20-1000 before having an ICL surgery in 2008. He took gold in bobsled two years later. Holcomb was part of the FDA approval trials for ICLs. To learn more about ICLs [click here](#).

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