WHAT I WEAR TO WORK

Olympics Edition

Elite athletes (and one coach) on the outfits that help them get closer to gold

By Arianne Cohen
Photographs by Christopher Leaman
Tell me about your suit. The outside is made of [an aerodynamic] material they test in a wind tunnel. Between the legs there's a bit of material that reflects light, and when you rub your thighs across each other, there's no friction. It has kneepads, so in case we fall we don't break our knees, and it's cut-proof where our major arteries are.

Do you wear any special underwear? Just a Champion sports bra. It's comfortable.

What's your day? I wake up, warm up, skate for two hours, cool down, rehab my leg—I've been getting daily rehab since I broke it in 2009—and grab lunch. Then I go right back to the gym, and afterward I work on my business.

What business? I'm developing a line of active-wear, ICE by Allison Baver. It's feminine and stylish. I'm a little more girly when it comes to the gym.

What's your background? I got my MBA in marketing online. I was traveling on the World Cup circuit and didn't know when I'd be done skating. I read that for certain people online education is a great choice. I was also a contestant on The Apprentice.

How do your gloves work? They're custom-made by a guy who makes knives. They have silver tips on them that are metal so my hands don't get cut when we touch the ice.

Are your skates similar to ones I'd use? No. The boot is custom-made in Korea. They're about $2,000 and made out of carbon fiber. I don't wear socks—they're meant to feel like your foot. And they're pink.

I love the pink. I had to push the manufacturer to do it, because skating is a little conservative. I was like, "I'm a girl. I don't want black!"

How many pairs do you have? One. When I travel I keep my skates with me at all times. If I lose them, I can't replace them.

What's skeleton? It's basically going headfirst, 80 mph, on a cookie sheet. These pants are super-comfy Lululemons. I tend to rip through most of my training gear, and these last a little longer.

Why the red hair? I was inspired by Game of Thrones' fire lady. I couldn't get her out of my head. I was, like, I wanna be like that.
**Who do you oversee?**
The team takes a maximum of 32 athletes, plus 8 coaches, and physical therapists, chefs, mental strength guys, and equipment technicians.

**What’s your job?**
I’m the head coach of the team behind the team. I make sure that the needs of the athletes and coaches are met, so that they can perform at their highest level.

**What’s in your backpack?**
Gear for our video-review system and camera equipment. And over a dozen lenses for my Oakley goggles.

**What’s your fashion strategy?**
A warm coach is a happy coach, and a happy coach is an effective coach. A lot of times athletes are coming to you cold or hurt, and you’ve gotta be there with a smile.

**Why?**
One for nighttime events under lights, one for early morning events in shade—and everything in between.

**What board is that?**
Shaun White has a signature snowboard with Burton. Shaun and I are a similar size, so it fits me just right.

**Are you wearing long johns?**
We have Nike underlayers that are nice, thin, warm fleece.

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**MIKE JANKOWSKI**
38, head Olympic coach, U.S. snowboarding, freeskiing, halfpipe, and slopestyle teams.
Your look leaves little to the imagination. It’s the most practical outfit for what I do—there’s nothing baggy, so I’m not catching my foot on the guy ahead’s clothes. Although it’s sometimes humbling to wear something like this in front of millions of people.

What do you do? My job is the push. I push that sled as hard as I can for about five seconds. The rest of it, I’m going for a ride.

How do you train for five seconds of pushing? We have a race nearly every weekend somewhere in the world. Each day we typically get a couple practice runs on the track that we’ll be racing that weekend, and then it’s some weight-room work and running sprints.

Where’d you get the suit? A lady in Canada custom-makes them. It’s all one piece and very, very tight. The ones we race in are Under Armour.


Did you want to be the driver? Almost everyone starts as a push athlete, and if it looks like you won’t make it, you try to make it as a driver.

Does your helmet have any special frills? It’s typically a generic motorcycle helmet. The lighter and smaller, the better it is for us so we can run and fit in the sled.

CURT TOMASEVICZ
33, three-time Olympic bobsled brakeman
DEVIN "D-LO" LOGAN
20, freeskier

Does your style affect the judging? Colors are bright so the judges can see us if it’s snowing. I prefer a baggier fit, because I feel less restricted when doing my tricks.

Any secret to keeping warm? Great gloves. These are the Montana Mitten. Today was in the negative digits and they kept me warm all day. They have a leather grip.

KEEP AN EYE ON...
The five events everyone will be talking about.

LUGE TEAM RELAY
It’s as crazy as it sounds. The relay includes a man, a woman, and a duo reaching more than 80 mph on ice. Shenanigans abound: missed handoffs, disqualifications, and other human errors.
☐ Tune in on Feb. 13 at 2:05 a.m. EST on NBC

MEN’S HALFPIPE
Don’t miss 15-year-old Ayumu Hirano of Japan, Shaun White’s main competition in the halfpipe. At 5-foot-2 and 115 pounds, he’s spent the last year nipping at White’s heels by flawlessly launching himself 24 feet out of the pipe.
☐ See him spin on Feb. 11, starting at 8 p.m. on NBC

WOMEN’S SKI JUMPING
Watch Lindsey Van take flight in women’s ski jumping, a new event in the games this year. Van, the leading gold contender, spent a decade lobbying for the sport’s Olympic inclusion.
☐ Van’s live on Feb. 11, starting at 1:30 p.m. on NBCSN or on prime-time replay starting at 8 p.m. on NBC

WOMEN’S SLALOM
Prepare to see NBC devote a lot of time to Mikaela Shiffrin. America’s greatest hope in alpine skiing. The 18-year-old holds world championship and World Cup titles in the slalom. Her family attributes her sense of balance to teaching her to simultaneously ride a unicycle and juggle as a child.
☐ Shiffrin’s best event, slalom, happens on Feb. 21, starting at 8 p.m. on NBC

SLOPESTYLE
Skiers jump and twist through courses, earning points for the highest jumps and trick difficulty. The sport, new to the games this year, is a surefire crowd-pleaser—NBC is broadcasting the trials the day before the opening ceremonies even begin.
☐ Finals will air on Feb. 8 and 9, starting at 8 p.m. on NBC