



# USSPEEDSKATING PRESS RELEASE

5662 South Cougar Lane | Kearns UT 84118

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**Contact:** Matt Whewell ([mwhewell@usspeedskating.org](mailto:mwhewell@usspeedskating.org))

## **Brittany Bowe Named Semifinalist for 86th AAU Sullivan Award**

*Place your vote for Brittany Bowe at [www.aausullivan.org/vote](http://www.aausullivan.org/vote)*

**KEARNS, Utah** – US Speedskating's **Brittany Bowe** (Ocala, Fla.) has been named one of 17 semifinalists for the prestigious AAU James E. Sullivan Award, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) announced today. The award has been presented annually since 1930 to the most outstanding amateur athlete in the United States.

Bowe, most recently won her second consecutive World Sprint Championship on Feb. 28 in Seoul, becoming just the third U.S. woman to win back-to-back titles and first since Bonnie Blair did in 1994-95. At the 2016 World Single Distances Championships on Feb. 12-14 in Kolomna, Russia, Bowe won three medals – silver in the 500m, bronzes in the 1000m and 1500m – and was the only skater to win three individual medals.

Throughout the 2015-16 ISU World Cup season, Bowe has been dominant winning 16 overall medals out of 18 races. Of those 16 medals, six have been first-place finishes. On Nov. 15, 2015 in Calgary, she broke the 1500m world record, a record that had stood for 10 years and at the time was the longest-standing women's speed skating world record. A week later in Salt Lake City, she set a new world mark in the 1000m. Bowe has secured the 1000m World Cup title having finished in first or second of each 1000m race.

Earlier in 2015, Bowe skated to gold medals at the 2015 World Single Distance Championships in the 1000m and 1500m events, as well as the silver in the 500m. In addition, for her performance in the 1000m of the Single Distance Championships, Bowe was awarded the 2015 Oscar Mathisen Award, awarded annually for most outstanding speed skating performance of the season.

"The AAU James E. Sullivan Award is a one-of-a-kind honor for all of our semi-finalists," said Melissa Willis, AAU Sullivan Award National Chair. "It is remarkably unique in that it allows us the opportunity to recognize the most elite amateur athletes across every sport imaginable."

The Sullivan Award is determined by [fan voting](#) which begins on Monday, March 7 and lasts through Sunday, March 13 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Six finalists will move on to a second round of voting from March 16-23. The voting results will be kept secret until the award presentation on Sunday, April 10 at the prestigious New York Athletic Club in Manhattan.

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### **About US Speedskating**

From Pond to Podium, we are US Speedskating. We grow and nurture a sport where all ages can experience the thrill of speed and the camaraderie of the skating community. US Speedskating is responsible for the development of speed skating from grassroots to the highest elite racing programs. US Speedskating is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union as the governing body for the sport of speed skating in the United States. The Organization has won 86 Olympic medals to-date, making it one of the most successful sports in U.S. Olympic history. US Speedskating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), on [Facebook](#) and at [www.usspeedskating.org](http://www.usspeedskating.org).