



USSPEEDSKATING PRESS RELEASE

5662 South Cougar Lane | Kearns UT 84118

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015

Contact: Matt Whewell (mwhewell@usspeedskating.org)

Bowe Named Finalist for United States Sports Academy's 2015 Athlete of the Year *The Ocala, Florida native is one of 12 females and 12 males nominated for the annual award*

KEARNS, Utah – The United States Sports Academy announced today that **Brittany Bowe** (Ocala, Fla.) was named a finalist for the 2015 Athlete of the Year award. This year's ballot includes 12 men and 12 women from nine countries.

Bowe, 27, skated to gold medals in the 2015 World Single Distance Championships in the 1000m and 1500m events, as well as the silver in the 500m. She also won the 2015 World Sprint Championships. In addition, for her performance in the 1000m race of the Single Distance Championships, Bowe was awarded the 2015 Oscar Mathisen Award, which is awarded annually for most outstanding speed skating performance of the season.

With the 2015-16 season underway, Bowe has picked up where she left off by winning 10 overall medals through the first three ISU World Cups. On Nov. 15 in Calgary, she broke the 1500m world record, a record that 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 on Nov. 22, she set a new world mark in the 1000m. Through the first three World Cups, she ranks first in the 1000m and 1500m, fourth in the 500m, and second overall of the Grand World Cup rankings.

The United States Sports Academy's 31st annual Athlete of the Year ballot is now open to the public for voting and closes at midnight ET on Dec. 23, 2015. Part of the Academy's annual Awards of Sport program, the Athlete of the Year program is the culmination of the Academy's year-long Athlete of the Month program, which recognizes the accomplishments of men and women in sports from around the globe.

To vote, please visit: <http://ussa.edu/athlete-of-the-year-ballot/>. The male and female winners of this year's awards will be announced on Dec. 24, 2015. The monthly and annual winners are voted on by the public and announced on the Academy's website, social media, and in the monthly e-newsletter, *The Sport Update*.

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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.

About The United States Sports Academy

The United States Sports Academy is an independent, non-profit, regionally accredited, special mission sports university created to serve the nation and world with programs in instruction, research, and service. The role of the Academy is to prepare men and women for careers in the profession of sports. For more information about the Academy, call [251-626-3303](tel:251-626-3303) or visit www.ussa.edu.