

29th Annual Boston Globe Ski & Snowboard Expo Nov. 11-14

BEWI Productions

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2010 OLYMPIC CHAMPION HANNAH KEARNEY STARS AT SKI/SNOWBOARD EXPO

One of the USA's most decorated winter athletes, gold medalist Freestyle skier Hannah Kearney, will headline the Boston Ski & Snowboard Expo courtesy of Dartmouth-Hitchcock, with appearances at the Seaport World Trade Center Expo Hall on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12 and 13.

Long one of the world's best, Hannah fell short of her early athletic goals when a severe knee injury curtailed her phenomenal early successes on the slopes during the 2007 and 2008 seasons. She credits NH's Dartmouth-Hitchcock and their Sports Medicine team with getting her back in top form to earn the 2009 World title and lay claim to the 2010 Olympic gold medal.

Hannah's appearances at Expo are sponsored by Dartmouth-Hitchcock to showcase their Sports Medicine department's expertise in bringing her back to top physical condition that enabled her to regain her world leadership in the freestyle mogul discipline. Hannah will be signing posters and meeting with her fans at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock exhibit on Friday from 4-8 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

Turning injury to an advantage is how Hannah describes the sports medicine program at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. "After the surgery and physical therapy, I actually became a better mogul skier. My knee was not only as good as before; it was better," she proclaims. Providing advanced surgical options and a comprehensive program for recovery, the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Sports Medicine Team worked with Hannah to help her understand how her body performs best and most importantly how to prevent future injuries.

With her trademark impish smile and blond pigtailed poking through her competition helmet, Hannah was soaring to the top of the world leadership board in freestyle (mogul) skiing when a torn ligament sidelined her for the 2007 season and a concussion put her out of competition for several weeks in 2008.

But surgery and rehab at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, just across the river from her native Norwich, VT, brought the tenacious world star to new levels of greatness when she earned the World Cup overall title in 2009 and vaulted her to gold at the 2010 Olympics, the first American female freestylist to earn the Olympic title since 1992. Her gold set the tone for the US ski teams' multiple medal performances in 2010 as hers was the first of numerous podium finishes for the Americans at Vancouver.

At 24, Hannah's lifetime athletic achievements are indeed impressive. She was World Freestyle champ in 2005, four-time junior national and three-time national champion by age 20, before injury halted her progress. Her present stats include 26 world cup podiums and 10 gold medals. She was a 2010 ESPY nominee for Best Female Olympic athlete in July, and selected for first pitch honors at Boston's Fenway Park and grand marshal of the Boston Marathon this past April.

Hannah started skiing at age 2, coming up through the Ford Sayre (NH) youth ski program and Nick Preston's Black and Blue Trail Smashers Team at Waterville Valley, N.H. She was a high school state soccer and track champion.

Kearney is a member of a sports-crazed family. Her mother is a recreation director in Norwich; her brother, Denny, is a star hockey player at Yale; and her dad used to coach Denny in Babe Ruth baseball. Kearney was a straight-A student.

ABOUT DARTMOUTH-HITCHCOCK: Dartmouth-Hitchcock is a national leader in evidence-based and patient-centered health care. The system includes hundreds of physicians, specialists, and other providers who work together at different locations to meet the health care needs of patients in northern New England. Dartmouth-Hitchcock patients have access to specialists in almost every area of medicine, as well as world-class research at Dartmouth Medical School and centers such as the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice (TDI).

Dartmouth-Hitchcock includes:

- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, New Hampshire's internationally known and nationally ranked academic medical center
- The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic, a network of more than 900 primary and specialty care physicians located throughout New Hampshire and Vermont, with major community group practices in Lebanon, Concord, Manchester, Nashua and Keene.
- Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD), New Hampshire's only children's hospital
- Norris Cotton Cancer Center, one of only 40 National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States .