



**Kikkan Randall** is one of the few athletes who can say she made her Olympic debut in her birthplace - born in Salt Lake City and a member of the 2002 Olympic Team in Salt Lake (although, admittedly, the races were at Soldier Hollow). A promising cross country runner while growing up in Alaska, she added "serious" cross-country skiing as a counter-seasonal training vehicle...and then became a champion skier, too. She's already got the best Olympic and World Cup results by an American woman. And, really, she's just getting started.

In 2008, Randall scored the first ever World Cup Victory for an American woman in cross-country and notched two more World Cup Top-tens to close the season ranked 15th in the world in sprint rankings.

Despite being diagnosed with a massive blood clot in her left leg last April, Randall has rebounded well and reports "the best summer of training on record." Looking forward to the 2009 season, the lone American woman on the US World Cup team is gunning for more World Cup wins and a shot at the first ever US women's World Championship medal at the World Championships in February.

Randall tied the knot with Canadian ski racer Jeff Ellis on May 16, 2008.

Her family, in Salt Lake while her mother attended law school at the University of Utah, returned to Alaska after Randall's birth. The niece of two Olympians (Uncle Chris Haines, Mom's brother, was a '76 cross country skier and Aunt Betsy Haines was the first racer on-course in the 1980 5K), she was a first-rate high school cross country skier and turned to skiing as a way to continue training in winter. She went on to become one of the top U.S. junior racers; "It's in my blood," she said with her trademark high-voltage smile. She blends classes at ...

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### Speech Topics

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