

Subscribe Now
and receive a
Speedway Fuel Card

The new **at&t** **Get AT&T Yahoo! High Speed Internet Express** before this offer runs its course. **\$12** for 12 months Available On Other monthly

Today's top stories

- Butler police nab burglary suspects
- Many have good uses for \$365 million Powerball windfall
- Davis: 'Don't be sad for me'
- Did February tornadoes strike?
- DeKalb Co. shuts hunting preserve

Top Sports stories

- Davis: 'Don't be sad for me'
- Wounded man a portrait of resignation and relief
- 'Family' ties nice but not necessary
- Sadler, Gordon win watered-down Duels
- Troxel brings Top Fuel challenge to teammate

IndyStar.com ▶ Sports

February 15, 2006

OLYMPIC AND AMATEUR SPORTS: DAVID WOODS
Hoosier girls work on Olympic dreams

Four years ago, **Abby Nicks** and **Mallory Canning** were transfixed by televised coverage of the Olympic Winter Games.

Four years from now, the Hoosier girls want to participate in the Winter Olympics themselves.

"I told my mom I would take her," Nicks said.

Nicks, 17, Indianapolis, is a junior at Heritage Christian High School. She watched **Apolo Anton Ohno** race at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics and took up speedskating. Already Nicks has finished 10th at the junior nationals.

Canning, 15, is a sophomore at Noblesville High School. When her family lived in Terre Haute, Ind., she met Olympic luge medalists at a Verizon store. They told her about a slider search, in which athletes take physical tests and drive around cones on asphalt to simulate sledding.

Canning excelled in a slider search at Colorado Springs, Colo., kept climbing the USA Luge ladder and is now a member of the junior team candidate select.

She has been training in Lake Placid, N.Y., while keeping up with schoolwork that is faxed to her. Canning conceded she wonders what she might be missing if she were at school but is unwilling to give up her love of luge.

"It's an amazing feeling when you're actually sliding on the track," she said from Lake Placid. "For me, it's like where I'm supposed to be. There's not words to describe it."

Canning is to race in the youth nationals (up to age 17) in Lake Placid on Saturday and Sunday, followed by the junior nationals (to age 20) at Park City, Utah, on March 4-5.

Nicks has to travel to speedskating meets on weekends but trains with the Indy Speed club at Ellenberger Park and Pan American Plaza. Additionally, she began track cycling because the same muscle groups are used for speedskating.

She said she likes skating and cycling for the same thrill -- speed -- that stimulates Canning.

Almost all of Nicks' speedskating competitors have been in the sport much longer. She can measure progress not only in lower times, but in growing thighs -- her legs are so big it is hard to buy clothes that fit.

Advertisem

TOP JO

Economi
Analysis o

Manufac
Hands on

Site Plan
CAD TECI

Real Est:
Bachelor's

Carpente
Permanen

▶View all

Advertisem

TOP C

Tom Wo
2006 Volv
Land Rov

Tom Wo
2006 Pont
Mazda 6 \$

Bud Wol
Got a job?
2006 Malii

▶View all

Advertisem

"I'm one of those people, I put my mind to it, and I do it," Nicks said.

Her father, Arlington boys basketball coach **Larry Nicks**, said his daughter has collected 46 medals from the two sports. He expressed no disappointment that Abby didn't follow her older brother, **Andrew**, into basketball.

"She's very driven," coach Nicks said. "I work with a lot of kids, and nowadays it's hard to find kids who are that motivated."

Sports of all sorts

Climbing: The Olympic Winter Games are including climbing as a demonstration sport. Events are being held in conjunction with snowboarding.

Track and field: U.S. sprinters set two world indoor records in the Tyson Invitational at Fayetteville, Ark. **Wallace Spearmon** earned a \$25,000 bonus with his 300-meter time of 31.88 seconds Friday. **Kerron Clement** and **LaShawn Merritt** were second and third, both in 31.94 and also under the previous record of 32.19. Clement, Spearmon, **Darold Williamson** and **Jeremy Wariner** (44.74) combined for a 3:01.96 in the 1,600 relay Saturday, breaking the record by nearly a second. . . . Indiana University's **Stephen Haas** was fourth in the 5,000 at Fayetteville in 13:44.09, fastest by an American this year. Also for IU, **Kiwan Lawson** won the college long jump (25-51/4), and **Eric Redman** (Franklin Central) was third in the college mile (4:03.78).

Call Star reporter **David Woods** at (317) 444-6195 or e-mail david.woods@indystar.com.

Copyright 2006 IndyStar.com. All rights reserved



Subscribe to The Star
and get a free gift

 Email this  Print this  Post a message

Partners: **Jobs:** [CareerBuilder.com](#) • **Cars:** [Cars.com](#) • **Apartments:** [Apartments.com](#) • **Shc**
Customer Service • **Terms of Service** • **Send feedback about IndyStar.com** • **Subscribe Now** • **J**

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the **Terms of Service** and **Privacy Policy**, updated June 7, 200!

Copyright 2006 IndyStar.com. All rights reserved

Gannett Indiana network: [Indianapolis](#) • [Fishers](#) • [Lafayette](#) • [Marion](#) • [Muncie](#) • [Noblesville](#) ·

[USA Today](#) • [USA Weekend](#) • [Gannett Co. Inc.](#) • [Gannett Foundation](#)