

Street wants golden Games for skiers

By ERICA BULMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland
Picabo Street remembers the surprising weight, how heavy it felt to have the super-G gold medal slipped around her neck by French ski great Jean-Claude Killy at the Nagano Olympics almost eight years ago.

The medal, black onyx etched with inlaid gold and hanging from a bulky blue and gold ribbon, is usually out of sight now, juggled from safe to safety deposit box between public appearances.

"I have my gold forever, and no one can ever take it away from me," Street said.

These days, the American ski team feels a different sort of weight: None of its Alpine skiers has won a gold medal since Street in 1998.

The team was shut out at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. The American women had no medals at all, and Bode Miller won the men's only medals with silvers in the giant slalom and combined. The most recent U.S. man to win Olympic gold in Alpine skiing was Tommy Moe in the 1994 downhill at Lillehammer, Norway.

Street retired following the 2002 Olympics, where she finished 16th in the downhill. She'd like to see this American drought end at next month's Turin Games.

"I think definitely this is one of the strongest teams I've ever seen," she said. "There are medal opportunities in every discipline for sure."



Picabo Street of Sun Valley, Idaho, passes a gate on her way to winning the gold medal in the women's super-G at the Winter Games in Hakuba, Japan, on Feb. 11, 1998. No U.S. Alpine skier has won gold since Street.

"The women's giant slalom is probably the weakest but other than that it's looking good. In some we're looking at two-three opportunities per discipline. It's pretty impressive."

One of Street's favorites is Daron Rahlves, the winner of three World Cup downhill races this season. He matched her U.S. record of nine career victories in the discipline with his triumph on the classic Lauberhorn course in Wengen last weekend.

"I have such high hopes for

him. I want him to win an Olympic medal so badly," Street said. "I love him. He's such a good dude. He's an all-around good athlete, nice guy, respectful and loyal, yet real and cool."

"Bode is hard to predict," she added. "I'm looking forward to the Bode Show like everyone else."

Among the women, Street looks to friend and protege Lindsey Kildow, the winner of two downhills this season. Kildow placed fourth three times at the worlds last winter in Bormio, Italy, sob-

bing when she was beaten out for a podium spot in the downhill.

"Lindsey has a good in opportunity to medal, and with her world championship experience, she will be OK," Street said.

Street also likes what she sees in Julia Mancuso.

"Miss Cool, Julia Mancuso, is just cool enough to come in and ride it," she said. "She's good over the flats; she's got a great touch for snow; she's experienced enough Olympics and world championships to stay cool."

ABOUT THE GAMES

What: 2006 Winter Olympics
When: Opening ceremonies are Feb. 10. Competition will conclude Feb. 26.

Where: Turin, Italy
TV: NBC and related networks (MSNBC, CNBC, USA) will provide coverage.

Last time: The Americans earned 34 overall medals, second to Germany's 36, in the 2002 Salt Lake Games. Norway earned the most gold medals (13) and had 25 medals overall.

Kildow knows she owes a lot to Street.

"She put me under her wing when I came onto the team," Kildow said. "I met her when I was nine years old, and she gave me the motivation and kind of the goal to be in the Olympics and win an Olympic gold medal."

Street has her favorites, with Kristina Koznick among them. Koznick has struggled and has been competing independent of the U.S. team for years.

"She deserves it so much," Street said.

"I also seriously hope Kirsten Clark wins a medal and will be able to retire on that. And Erik Schlopy."

U.S. coach Jim Tracy once coached Street and now trains the lower-tier Europe Cup team.

"Can there be another Picabo Street? No," Tracy said, recalling that Street won her gold by 0.01 seconds. "But there is no doubt in my mind there will someone who will do as well or even better."

Only it will be their story.

"A few of these girls can do something: Lindsey Kildow, Julia Mancuso, Kirsten Clark, and even Stacey Cook is coming out of her shell."

"A lot of these girls are even better than Picabo technically, even though she had a knack for speed and never let anything prevent her from going fast."

Street loves speed, and that may be the reason she felt the women's Olympic speed courses were a little disappointing.

Germany's Hilde Gerg and other leading skiers signed a petition to move the women's super-G from San Sicario to a more demanding course.

"The terrain is not very aggressive, and they supposedly built some terrain into it," said Street, the first U.S. skier to win a World Cup downhill title when she roared to six victories in the 1995 season and clinched the title again the following year.

Street will be working in Turin for NBC's "Today," leaving 16-month-old son Treyjan at home during the games. She also will be videotaping and blogging.

"I only hope I get to watch the women's downhill," Street said. "I think I'll still be able to grasp the sensation even if I'm only living it vicariously."

Street is 34 and would love another crack at gold. But she would have to work out a few things.

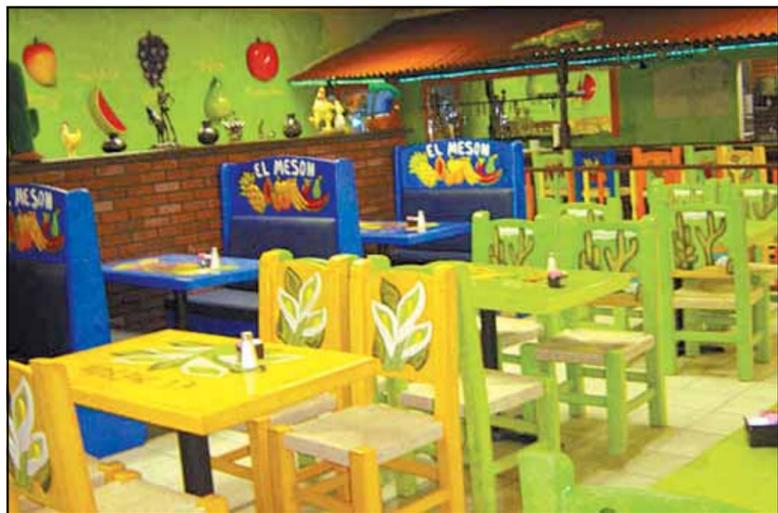
"If I were young and had a young body and had healthy knees and my back didn't hurt," she said. "Heartwise, I could be right in there."

Advertisement

Dine With Us!

For advertising information on the restaurant page, call 736-7101

El Meson



For authentic Mexican food on the South side of Indianapolis, look no further than El Meson Mexican Restaurant.

The owners are David and Angie Gonzalez. After working for Mi Pueblo in Franklin for several years, David decided to open his own restaurant. This is Angie and David's first restaurant, and it has proven to be quite a successful venture for them so far.

The fun and family-friendly atmosphere reminds diners of a trip south of the border. All of the furniture was custom-made in Guadalajara, Mexico especially for the restaurant. It features the bright, sunny colors that are so popular in Mexican décor.

El Meson also offers authentic music, with a mariachi band twice a month. Angie and David not only want people to eat at El Meson, they want people to come and enjoy a good time.

The restaurant has a large bar featuring beer and margaritas. Every Wednesday and

Thursday night it is "Margarita Night" at El Meson and 16-ounce margaritas are only \$3.50!

On Monday and Tuesday nights, domestic bottled beer is on special for \$1.75.

El Meson also offers a variety of dinner specials throughout the week. Come in and enjoy one of El Meson's authentic Mexican

dishes — we promise you won't be disappointed.

Carry out orders are also available. Senior citizens (65 and over) always receive a 10 percent discount when they dine at the restaurant.

El Meson is located at 8810 S. Emerson Avenue, Suite 280 right next to Kroger on the corner of County Line Road and Emerson Avenue. Hours of operation are: Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

For more information please call: (317) 889-3711

Mexican Restaurant
El Meson

Monday & Tuesday	Wed. & Thurs.	Dinner Specials
DOMESTIC BOTTLED BEERS	16 OZ MARGARITAS	Arroz Con Pollo & Enchiladas Supremas
\$1.75	\$3.50	\$5.99

OPEN SUN - THURS 11AM - 10PM • FRI - SAT 11AM - 10:30PM
8810 S. EMERSON AVENUE, SUITE 280
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46237 317-889-3711
Right Next to Kroger on the Corner of County Line Road & Emerson Avenue

EAST BUFFET
Our Buffet Is Different!

Huge selection including rib-eye steak for dinner

\$4.99 LUNCH BUFFET OR **\$3.00** THE PURCHASE OF 2 DINNER BUFFETS

Gift Certificates Available One Coupon per Person (Not valid Sun. & Wed.)

3113 W. SMITH VALLEY ROAD • GREENWOOD (Next to Home Depot at S.R. 135)
Buffet carry out is available **881-8838** Now Serving Beer!

MARK PI'S CHINA GATE
UP TO \$7.00 OFF THE PURCHASE OF 2 DINNERS

expires 1-31-06
Valid any evening. Not Valid With Other Offers. Not Valid for Lunch and Sunday Buffet

0119

Mark Pi's CHINA GATE
CHINESE GOURMET RESTAURANT
916 E. Main St., Greenwood, IN (317) 888-1689

RESERVATION SUGGESTED
Lunch • Dinner • Sunday Buffet • Carry Out

Offer Valid at Greenwood Location Only

Home of the **Jonathan Byrd's CAFETERIA**

\$6.49 GINNY PLATE
BEST VALUE IN TOWN!!

Eat Your Veggies!

- A slightly reduced portion meal which includes a select entree, 2 hot vegetables & bread of your choice.
- Available daily for lunch and dinner
- Express meals available for carry out at JB's Express.

Low Carb, Low Calorie and dietetic items available daily

I-65 & Main Street Greenwood (Exit 99)

La Trattoria
Authentic Italian Cuisine

\$5 OFF 2 DINNERS

Offer valid Tues, Wed, & Thurs. only

Now taking Valentine's Reservations!

BARGERSVILLE 226 So. SR 135 422-9909
GREENWOOD 201 N. Madison Ave. 859-0487

www.latrattoria1.com www.latrattoria2.com

Expires 1-30-06
Hours: Tues-Wed-Thurs 4-9pm Fri. 4-10, Sat. 11am-10pm
Bargersville Only Open Sun. 12-Lounge, 4pm-Dining Room

Credit Cards accepted. Must present coupon.
Dine in only. Kids meals excluded. Not valid with other offers.

CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

Enjoy A Mocha or Latte with friends

Experience the difference of being treated like family in our comfy surroundings

FREE Wireless Internet

KATHY'S KOPPER POT
KAFE & KOFFEE HOUSE

202 W. Main St., Greenwood 865-0408

LOTUS GARDEN
Chinese & American Restaurant

Tropical Lounge • All-You-Can-Eat Buffet

10% OFF Your next meal. (Drinks + tax excluded) Must Present Coupon. Expires 1-30-06

49 W. Mercator Dr. • Greenwood • 881-5531
(in the Shopping Center across from Kmart on US31)
Sun-Thurs 11am-10pm Fri-Sat 11am-11pm

For advertising information on the restaurant page, call 736-7101