

US Figure Skater Had No Idea Of Russian Doping

American figure skater Gracie Gold, who finished fourth at the Winter Games, said she never could have imagined the scope of [Russian doping](#) at the Sochi Olympics.

Russian Adelina Sotnikova won a surprising gold for the host nation. South Korea's Yuna Kim could be elevated to the gold medal that would be second in a row at the Olympics if Adelina is stripped of the gold medal. Italy's [Carolina Kostner](#) would get the silver and Gracie Gold would be awarded bronze.

The International Olympic Committee recently announced that 28 unidentified athletes across a variety of sports presently are under investigation. Italian newspaper *La Gazzetta dello Sport* reported that Sotnikova is among them.

Russia came away from Sochi Olympics with an impressive medal haul in figure skating. The team of Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov took the gold medals; Sotnikova took the gold medal and Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov took silver in pairs, and the Russian squad captured gold in the new team event. Canada earned silver and the United States took bronze in the team event.

Gold said everything is still under investigation as far as she knows. The figure skater said she cannot really speak to that and added she has always chosen to skate clean. Gold added she does believe doping is unfair to all the other athletes and further said that is kind of what she has to say about that that she has always chosen to compete clean and compete my best as a clean athlete. Gold added however it is certainly causing some headlines, though. Gold said at least what the headlines are saying about the scope of the doping scandal in Sochi, she doesn't think anyone could have expected anything so widespread. The American figure skater added she doesn't think anyone expected that.

The 2012 World Junior silver medalist and a two-time U.S. national champion started skating at the age of 8. She competed in pairs with Sean Hickey and they placed eighth in juvenile pairs at the 2007 U.S. Junior Championships. She made her international debut at the Junior Grand Prix in Estonia and won the gold medal. Gold won gold in all seven of her competitions in the 2011-12 season. Gold placed first in the short program with 72.12

points at the 2014 U.S. Championships. This was the highest-ever ladies' score earned at the U.S. Championships under the [International Skating Union](#) Judging System.

Gold remarked she competed against Adelina for many years. The US figure skater said she loved her and Adelina is still a sweetheart. Gold added she had found a lot of Russians to be kind of lovely people despite the stigma of doping that has become associated with them.

Recently, leaders from 19 national anti-doping agencies, including the United States, argued that Russia should be excluded from all international sports events, including next year's Winter Games in South Korea. The national anti-doping agencies' leaders also urged Russia to be stripped of its right to host major events such as next year's World Cup.