

A close-up photograph of Erin Jackson, a speedskater, celebrating. She is wearing a black hooded jacket, black gloves, and orange and red Rudy Project ski goggles. Her arms are raised in a victory gesture, and she has a joyful expression with her mouth open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light colors.

ERIN JACKSON

2018 U.S. Olympian
Speedskating

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

On Jan 5, 2018, through a remarkable pair of best-ever performances, Erin Jackson earned her spot on the U.S. Olympic Long Track Speedskating Team, becoming the first black woman in history to do so.

Erin had only been on the ice for four months.

From Ocala, Florida, Erin recalls growing up skating at the local roller rink from as far back as she can remember. At nine, she started roller figure skating, but two years later her coach moved away. Always drawn to going fast, she switched to inline speedskating in 2003, and in short order, a star was born.

Erin went on to become a 47-time National Champion, an 11-time World Championships medalist, and in 2015, a Pan Am Games medalist.

Sadly, as a teenager, Erin's mother, Rita, passed away, but not before instilling in her the importance of academics before athletics. She went on to graduate Cum Laude from the University of Florida with a degree in Materials Science & Engineering. She intends to earn a Masters Degree in Materials Science and pursue a career in biomedical engineering.

In 2012, at the urgings of a friend, Erin gave roller derby a try. With the uncanny ability to accelerate quickly, she was a natural fit. She is now one of the top 'jammers' in the world, has competed at the sport's highest level and is a member of Team USA Roller Derby.

Having reached the pinnacle of competition in both inline skating and roller derby, Erin knew if she wanted a shot at the Olympics she needed to switch to the ice. Following in the footsteps of other inline skaters who had made the transition (including two from her hometown; Joey Mantia and Brittany Bowe), Erin first set foot on the ice (ever, in her whole life!) in September of 2016, which she describes as 'Bambi on ice'. In March of 2017, she decided to give speedskating a try. After a few weeks, she returned home to Florida for the summer to finish the inline skating season.

In September, she packed her bags and moved to Salt Lake City, UT, home of the U.S. National Speedskating Team, with her sights set on what she hoped could be a berth on the 2022 Olympic Team. A quick study, her racing times began dropping sharply.

In January, entering the competition as a virtual unknown and a long-shot at best, she electrified the crowd at the 2018 U.S. Olympic Team Trials, dropping her personal best time by a ½ second in her first heat (an enormous amount of time at the elite levels of skating) and another remarkable .2 seconds in her second heat, punching her ticket to the 2018 Olympic Games!



Contact:

Chicago Sports & Entertainment Partners

www.ChicagoSEP.com

Patrick Quinn

630-903-0000

Patrick@ChicagoSEP.com



Do you have a favorite motivational quote?

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence”

- Vince Lombardi

Do you have a theme song?

“Don’t Worry, Be Happy” by Bobby McFerrin