

# The Asian Reporter

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Lee wins gold medal in women's 500 meters

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Tokyo hit by rare heavy snowfall

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Filipino skater makes it from mall to Olympics

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## Japan's Hanyu is first to break 100 points, wins Olympic gold



**STRENGTH AND GRACE.** Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan performs in the men's short program figure skating competition at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Hanyu became the first figure skater to break the 100-point mark with a spectacular short program. He earned 101.45 points with a playful, almost seductive routine in which he seemed to flow above the ice. The following day, Hanyu earned 178.64 points in the free skate to take home the gold medal. (AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Paul Chiasson)

By **Barry Wilner**  
The Associated Press

**S**OCHI, Russia — Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu made figure-skating history last week, first by surpassing the 100-point mark in the men's short program, then by becoming Japan's first gold medallist in Olympic men's figure skating.

Hanyu became the first figure skater to break the 100-point mark with a spectacular performance in the men's short program at the Sochi Games last Thursday. He earned 101.45 points with a playful, almost seductive routine in which he seemed to flow above the ice.

"I was so surprised with my score," Hanyu said. "I didn't know I got over 100." He shouldn't have been surprised, con-

sidering the speed, sharpness, entertainment value, and total conviction of his skating. He nailed his two biggest jumps, including a huge quadruple toe loop to open the program, and his triple lutz-triple toe combination was exquisite.

"For Yuzuru, that was perfection," said his coach, Brian Orser. "That's as good as it gets."

Nineteen-year-old Hanyu also won the men's short program in the team event and has been on quite a run with wins in the Grand Prix Final and Japanese championships.

Hanyu soared to a nearly four-point lead over three-time world champion Patrick Chan of Canada.

No man from an Asian nation or Canada

had won Olympic gold in figure skating. Chan, who was fifth in Vancouver, put on his best Olympic routine to stay within sight of Hanyu.

During the Friday program, Hanyu made it difficult on himself. He thought he lost all chance at the title with a mediocre free skate, but thanks to the mistakes of Chan and others, Hanyu won his country's first gold medal in Olympic men's single figure skating.

"Negative feelings were brewing inside of me," Hanyu said. "It was difficult to keep with the performance with all that in my head."

"I thought the gold medal was not in my hands," Hanyu said.

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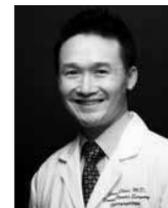
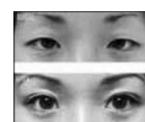
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