

Alexandre Bilodeau

To be frank, I am not really a fan of Skiing, I do like it, when I see it happen, I am impressed, but that is just about it, but when the Winter Olympics come, it is definitely something I watch with great passion, and that is due to Alexandre Bilodeau. The Vancouver Olympics was historical, both in terms of the Olympics, Canada, and myself, no, I am not some huge part of history, but my own history.

This Olympics was the first time that Canada had won an Olympic gold as a host nation, in their third time hosting the Olympics, Canada had also become the host nation with the most gold medals at one winter Olympics, and at the time a record for Gold medals in a single Winter Olympics. This was also my first time watching the Olympics, and I remember my mom constantly mentioning how they had never won as a host nation, so, being the young Canadian child I was, I got incredibly invested in this want for a gold medal on home soil. There were multiple times where it looked like it would happen, but the individual athletes would come up just short, and it almost always seemed to be an American that beat them out, or at least that's how I remember it.

Up comes the next skiing event, Men's single Moguls, and something that gave me, and I assume many other Canadians around the world, extra fire, was the story being pushed for Bilodeau, how he had failed in the previous Olympics, his brother who had Cerebral Palsy, who always watched in person, cheering harder than anyone else. when the other Canadian athletes fell from first to an American athlete, and then an Australian man born in Vancouver Canada who had won gold previously. This would have been too painful for my young competitive self, in comes Bilodeau. He was incredible, fast, smooth, and determined, and when he was put first, and his brother was cheering in front of the whole world, I had never felt so energized from watching someone else do a sport, but then the anxiety came in, for there was one more person who had to go, and I thought, oh no, here comes another heartbreak, but no, Bilodeau kept his place at the top. Following this, it just seemed like all the Canadian athletes had that extra fire, because Canada ended with fourteen gold medals in Vancouver. I still go back and watch his race, and the other gold medal winners, this Olympics being the sporting event that made me love sports just makes so important to me.