

= Katherine Reutter =

Katherine Reutter ( / ʔr??tʔr / ; born July 30 , 1988 ) is a former American short track speed skater . She is a two @-@ time medalist ( one silver , one bronze ) in the Winter Olympics , 2011 overall world silver medalist and the 2010 ? 2011 overall ISU Short Track Speed Skating World Cup champion .

At the 2010 Winter Olympics , Reutter won silver in the 1000 m and bronze in the 3000 m relay . She has won one gold , two silvers , and four bronze medals at the World Championships , including overall silver medal at the 2011 World Championships . She has also won two bronze medal at the World Team Championships .

= = Personal life = =

Reutter was born and raised in Champaign , Illinois . Reutter was inspired to become a speed skater after meeting five @-@ time Olympic gold medalist Bonnie Blair at her high school . She learned to skate with her mother during a figure skating class when she was four years old , but immediately found she was more interested in speed skating . Reutter first started speed skating professionally in 2005 at the age of 17 . She began training at the Olympic Training Center in Marquette , Michigan that year . Reutter graduated from Centennial High School in 2006 . She has trained in Salt Lake City , Utah since 2007 , where she has paid for room , board , and training at her own expense .

= = Career = =

= = = 2008 ? 2009 = = =

At the 2008 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships , Reutter won a bronze medal in the 3000 m with a time of 5 : 46 @.@ 518 , finishing behind Zhou Yang and Jung Eun @-@ Ju .

In February 2009 , Reutter completed a 1000 m race in 1 : 29 @.@ 667 in Dresden , Germany . It was less than 0 @.@ 2 of a second short of the world record set the previous year by Chinese short track speed skater Wang Meng . At the 2009 World Short Track Speed Skating Team Championships , in March 2009 , Reutter won a bronze medal along with Kimberly Derrick , Alyson Dudek , Lana Gehring , and Jessica Smith .

Reutter won four silver medals at the 2009 Short Track Speed Skating World Cup . She won the women 's 1500 m at the 2009 ? 10 Short Track Speed Skating World Cup on November 7 , 2009 , finishing in 2 : 23 @.@ 275 , beating Cho Ha @-@ Ri of South Korea . Reutter made the 2010 U.S. Olympic team after winning the 1000 and 1500 m at the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in September 2009 .

= = = 2010 Winter Olympics = = =

Reutter ranked 1st in her qualifying heats for the 500 m with a time of 44 @.@ 187 . She then set an Olympic record in the first quarterfinal with a time of 43 @.@ 834 but the record was beaten by Wang Meng of China in the next heat , with a time of 43 @.@ 284 . Reutter started slow in the semifinals , resulting in a fourth @-@ place finish , eliminating her from medal contention . She finished seventh overall in the women 's 500 m .

Reutter competed in the semifinals for the 3000 m relay with teammates Alyson Dudek , Allison Baver and Kimberly Derrick . The U.S. team qualified for the final in second place behind South Korea with a time of 4 : 15 @.@ 376 . Reutter finished in fourth place in the 1500 m final , behind Zhou Yang of China , with Lee Eun @-@ Byul of South Korea in second , and Park Seung @-@ Hi of South Korea in third . Reutter got tangled up with Wang Meng in the semifinal , causing both skaters and Cho Ha @-@ Ri of South Korea to fall , resulting in Meng being disqualified from the

final . Reutter repeated the same move in the final , bumping into Park , and later expressed remorse for both mistakes , stating " I think the room was there but maybe I just wasn 't there . I don 't know . But ? I messed up and messed up some people around me , which I 'm very sorry for . " In the heats of the 1000 m , Reutter set an Olympic record and finished first overall in the heats . About an hour and a half later , Reutter competed in the 3000 m relay ( with Allison Baver , Alyson Dudek , Lana Gehring ) and won bronze behind China and Canada due to the disqualification of South Korea . In the final of the 1000 m , Reutter was edged out for the gold medal by Wang Meng , finishing behind her 1 : 29 @.@ 324 to 1 : 29 @.@ 213 .

= = = 2010 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships = = =

At the 2010 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships , in Sofia , Bulgaria , Reutter , who was fighting the flu , won bronze medals in the 1000 m and the 3000 m relay . In her first event , the 1000 m , Reutter placed third with a time of 1 : 31 @.@ 747 , finishing behind Wang Meng and Cho Ha @-@ Ri . Reutter then combined with Alyson Dudek , Kimberly Derrick , and Lana Gehring in the 3000 m relay to finish third behind South Korea and Canada with a time of 4 : 14 @.@ 231 . Reutter also placed 6th in the 500 m , 4th in the 1500 m , and 4th in the 3000 m .

= = = 2011 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships = = =

At the 2011 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships in Sheffield , England , Reutter won one gold , two silvers , and one bronze . She finished second overall with 68 points . In her first event , the 1500 m , Reutter won the gold ahead of Koreans Park Seung @-@ Hi and Cho Ha @-@ Ri in a time of 2 : 33 @.@ 978 . In winning the gold , Reutter became the first American woman to win a gold medal at a World Short Track Speed Skating Championships since Bonnie Blair did in 1986 . After the 1500 m , Reutter competed in the 3000 m relay semifinals but fell during the race , resulting in the United States not advancing to the final . In her next event , the 500 m , Reutter did not advance past the semifinals , finishing 6th overall . In the 1000 m , Reutter finished in third place behind Cho Ha @-@ Ri and Italian Arianna Fontana in a time of 2 : 23 @.@ 268 even though she tripped on a lane block . In her last event , the 3000 m , Reutter just missed the gold medal , finishing behind Cho Ha @-@ Ri 5 : 13 @.@ 677 to 5 : 13 @.@ 353 .

= = = Retirement = = =

In early 2013 due to constant injuries , Reutter announced her retirement at the age of 24 . After that , she became a coach at the Pettit National Ice Center .

= = Appearances and endorsements = =

Reutter appeared as a guest on Comedy Central 's The Colbert Report on December 14 , 2009 . Host Stephen Colbert autographed her thigh , an idea by Reutter that initially caught the comedian off guard ( Although Reutter 's website suggest that it was her manager 's idea and they had discussed it with Colbert beforehand ) . Colbert began raising funds for the U.S. Speedskating team when their sponsor , the Dutch DSB Bank , went bankrupt .

Reutter was sponsored by U.S. Speedskating , Verizon , EyeCare 20 / 20 , Bioenergy Ribose , Nike , Oakley and the Champaign Police Department , who helped pay the costs of her training in Utah .