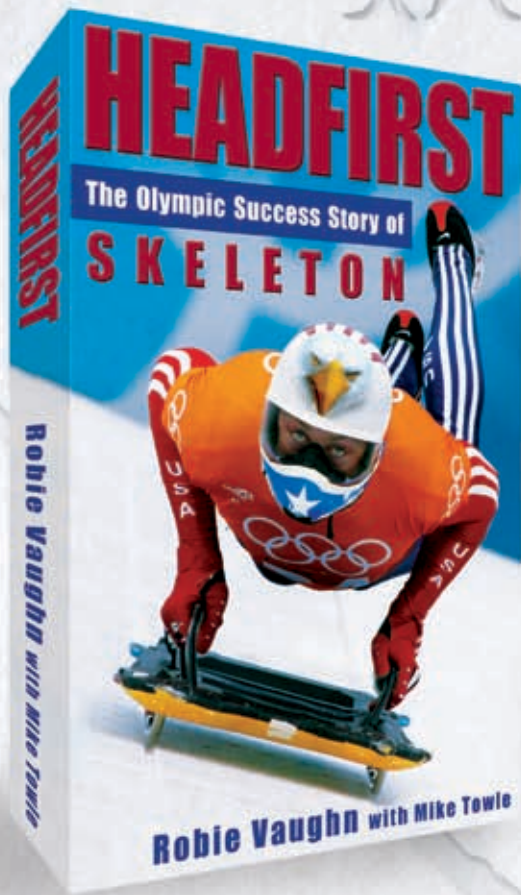


So close you can
smell the ice



Don't bother looking for brakes.

There aren't any.

This is the story of an obsession, first with the sheer thrill of sliding down tracks on skeleton sleds, something I only tried for the first time in my life at age forty, and then with the idea of representing the United States at the Olympics as a member of the Winter Olympic skeleton team.

There were just a few obstacles to overcome.

To begin with, most Olympic athletes start out at about half the age I was when I first encountered skeleton. There was a good chance that I'd be too old or too slow to qualify for the US Olympic team.

Also, there was no US Olympic skeleton team, for the simple reason that skeleton wasn't an Olympic sport. It hadn't been in the Olympics for decades. And that's not even half of it.

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HEADFIRST is the success story of how a Texas oil and gas executive took the responsibility of spearheading the campaign to reinstate the sport of skeleton into the 2002 Winter Olympics. A spirited tale of risk, leadership, and determination, HEADFIRST will enthrall sports enthusiasts and readers seeking to be inspired by one man's ambition for success.

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