

## Kaetlyn Osmond to skate 8th in women's short program

Defending champion Yuna Kim to go 17<sup>th</sup>

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*Canada's Kaetlyn Osmond performs in the women's figure skating team free program at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the Sochi Winter Olympics on Feb. 9. (Adrian Dennis/AFP/Getty Images)*

Kaetlyn Osmond of Marystown, N.L., drew the eighth starting position for the women's figure skating short program at the Sochi 2014 Olympics. Gabrielle Daleman of Newmarket, Ont., will start third in the field of 30 competitors.

Osmond struggled with injuries at the start of the 2013-2014 season, including a hamstring injury that forced the young skater to pull out of the Skate Canada competition in September. Osmond returned to competition for the Skate Canada Challenge in December.

During the team competition, Osmond finished fifth in the women's short program.

"I was actually a little bit nervous before it, but to go out and skate a perfect short program at the Olympics is great," said Osmond of that performance.

Yuna Kim of South Korea will start 17th. Kim is the defending Olympic champion, and is the 2013 World Champion. Kim did not skate in the team competition.

Rivals for the Olympic title include Russian Julia Lipnitskaia and Mao Asada of Japan. Lipnitskaia will skate 25th, while Asada will be the last athlete to skate.

Lipnitskaia helped the Russians win the team figure skating event, thanks to the 15-year-old's terrific performance. Asada skated the short program to help push the Japanese team to a third-place finish.