

# Head to Nagano via cyberspace

**PC TALK**  
The Winter Olympic Games began this weekend in Nagano, Japan with the traditional hype and hoopla and wall-to-wall television coverage. But if the TV programming doesn't fit into your schedule, head to cyberspace. There you'll find a growing list of Internet sites devoted to the games. Because the TV coverage is often delayed, in many cases the Internet reporting of various events will be live and current.

For starters, let me steer you towards the Web site maintained by CBS, the official U.S. television network that will cover the Winter Games. The network's Internet site (<http://www.cbsportline.com/olympics/nagano98/>) carries the latest results, broadcast schedules and news coverage.

Locally, WDIV Online ([www.wdiv.com](http://www.wdiv.com)) will also offer lots of Olympic news. And the Observer newspapers ([www.oeonline.com](http://www.oeonline.com)) will have frequent stories about local connections to the athletes competing so far away in the Japanese Alps.

A must bookmark for Winter Game information is the official site (<http://www.nagano.olympic.org/>) maintained by IBM for the organizing committee.

From athlete bios to up-to-date schedules of the latest events, the site is very well laid-out, even offering a free Olympic screensaver that can be downloaded.

It will be interesting, though, to see how IBM does with the Olympic Games site. The computer company failed miserably a few weeks ago with the job of maintaining the Superbowl site.

Even before the opening kickoff, the football site was hopelessly jammed. The faces at Big Blue were Deep Red over that fiasco, so you can only imagine the pressure their Webmasters are under to make this one work.

Before you leave the official Winter Games site, check out the "Olympic Appeal for Peace" during the games. In light of all the tension over Iraq and the talk of imminent action, that appeal promises to be big news as the showdown with Saddam continues.

Got a favorite Olympic athlete? IBM has also set up a way to send fan mail by e-mail through another site (<http://www.fanmail.olympic.ibm.com/>). You can send messages to individual athletes - many of whom have their own homepages - or to

**PC Mike's Dynamic Page**

Computer/Net News you can use!  
**Personal Investment Software keeps Wall Street busy**

With Wall Street's wild ups and downs, interest in personal investing has never been so high. And one reason for those record highs and sudden drops... according to analysts... is the growing number of people who handle their own buying and selling with their personal computers. The Mike's site on the popular "Window on Wall Street" software package in his High-Tech Talk report as seen on CNBC and NBC-TV stations this week.

PCMike: You can check out Wendland's Web site at [www.pcmike.com](http://www.pcmike.com).

entire teams. IBM promises that all e-mail will be made available to all participants. Many, in fact, have promised to answer fan e-mail as time permits.

The city of Nagano has set up its own site (<http://www.city.nagano.nagano.jp/olympic/index-e.html>). They had some obvious problems translating Japanese into English and there are some strange characters and symbols you'll have to wade through but the site offers up detailed details and pictures of the various event locations.

If you have students at home, perhaps the nearest site I found is the Nagano '98 Kids Info Center (<http://www2.nttc.com:8010/info/nagano/index.html>). Besides the games, kids visiting this site also learn about Japan, the culture and the history of the games.

They can also win "cyber medals" by participating in online games patterned after the winter Olympic events.

Ready for some more Winter games sites? Try these:  
• Winter Olympics from ESPN's Sportszone (<http://sportszone.espn.com/olympics98/>) - I think they have the best organization and coverage by specific event category.

• The Sports Web (<http://www.sportsworld.com/homenag.htm>) - This is a very detailed collection of Winter games stories, with an extensive collection of pho-

tos that are regularly updated.  
• USA Today ([www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)) People may scoff at the thin content of the newspaper but when it comes to online Olympics news coverage, it's hard to beat this site.

• CNN (<http://cnn.com/olympics/events/1998/nagano/>) CBS may be the official U.S. TV network but CNN's online site would have you think otherwise. They have set up a special area for Nagano coverage.

Nippon Television Network (<http://www.ntv.co.jp/>) Tired of CBS and CNN? Then take a look at how the huge Nippon TV network in Japan covers the games.

Finally, if you're really a diehard Winter Games fanatic, head to the newsworld website. Check out re.sports.olympics for various discussions, rec.sport.skating.ice, soc.culture.nordic and alt.tv.sports for more spirited and specific online posts.

Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV. His channel stations across the country and can be seen locally on WDIV-TV, Detroit. His "PC Talk" radio show airs Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 4-6PM on WXYT-Radio AM1270 and he is the author of a series of Internet books, call (888) 222-1866. You can reach him through his Web site at <http://www.pcmike.com>.

## Mittra from page B4

Hope credit, the Lifetime Learning credit, or an exclusion from gross income for certain distributions from an Education IRA.

• Eligibility for the credit is phased out for joint filers with AGI between \$80,000 and \$100,000 and single filers with AGI between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

• In contrast to the Hope credit, the maximum amount of the Lifetime Learning credit that may be claimed on a taxpayer's return will vary based on the number of students in the taxpayer's family.

For example: In 1998, Bob begins his first year of college. Bob and his parents pay tuition

and related expenses of \$1,500 in that year, and Bob receives a scholarship of \$10,000 and obtains a student loan of \$2,500. The total amount of the allowable Hope Scholarship credit for 1998 is \$1,500.

\$1,500 Parents' payment  
+ \$2,500 Student loan  
= \$4,000 Total eligible expenses paid in 1998

\$1,000 100%, first \$1,000 paid  
+ \$500 50% of next \$1,000 paid  
= \$1,500 Hope Credit for 1998

Next Week: More on Educational IRAs

## Valentine from page B4

plants and a nice selection of stuffed toys.

A wide variety of unique birdhouses and an array of items fit for filling baskets are also on display at Bouquets & Baskets.

In fact, gift baskets are a big percentage of the business. Prohm is flexible with that service as well. Customers are welcome to bring in items for the basket, discuss possible themes for their wicker gift with Prohm or simply call and place the order leaving all the details to the expert.

"We do wedding baskets, baby baskets and pampering baskets which have lotions, bubble bath and maybe champagne," Prohm said.

"And we have mortgage companies who like to send baskets to new home owners as they move into their house."

Noting that the holidays bring the largest percentage of business to her shop, Prohm said

things may have been quiet the last few weeks, but as Feb. 14 draws near the pace will pick up again.

"I'm really having a lot of fun and, although much of my business is by phone rather than walk in right now, I think this is a growing industry," Prohm said. "And to me, the most important part of this whole thing is giving customers that personal touch. I want to be small and personal so I have the time to help them design their own basket or plan flowers for their wedding day."

As Valentine's Day grows closer Prohm will be ready with dozens of pre-made gift packages that include a dozen roses, a stuffed bear and a box of chocolates.

Advance orders are the best way to go if you want something delivered on Valentine's Day.

Bouquets & Baskets is open from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (248)879-7778.

## Quality from page B4

Holland;  
• 1987 MQLA Honor Roll member Eaton Corporation's Detroit Center for Corporate Research and Development, Southfield; and,

• 1996 MQLA recipient Hackley Hospital, Muskegon.

John Engler to promote Total Quality Management (TQM) practices in businesses, educational institutions and organizations throughout Michigan.

One of the council's primary functions is to oversee the Michigan Quality Leadership Award given each November to recognize organizations for outstanding quality management.

# INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

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