



**Name in English:** Michelle Kwan  
**Name in Chinese:** 關穎珊  
**Name in Pinyin:** Guān Yǐngshān  
**Gender:** Female  
**Birth Year:** 1980  
**Birth Place:** Torrance, California

**Profession (s): Athlete: Olympic Skater**

**Awards:** Kwan is a recipient of the prestigious [James E. Sullivan Award](#) (2001), which is given to America's best amateur athlete; she was the first figure skater to win the award since [Dick Button](#) won it in 1949. In 2003 she was named the [United States Olympic Committee](#) (USOC) "Sportswoman of the Year", and is the 5th figure skater in history to receive this honor. She has also been named USOC "Athlete of the Month" 14 times, which is more than any other athlete, male or female, as well as being named "Female Figure Skating Athlete of the Year" by the USOC multiple times.

**Contribution (s):** Kwan has won five [World Championships](#) (1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2003), the most by anyone in the ladies' division since [Carol Heiss](#) (1956 - 1960), with whom she is tied for the most wins by an American. She has won nine [United States Figure Skating Championships](#) (1996, 1998-2005), tying the record for most set by [Maribel Vinson-Owen](#) (1928 - 1933, 1935 - 1937). Kwan's eight consecutive U.S. Championship titles (1998-2005) and 12 consecutive U.S. Championship medals (1994-2005) are both U.S. records. She is the only woman in figure skating history to reclaim the World title three times (1998, 2000, 2003).<sup>[1]</sup> She has also won a silver medal at the [1998 Nagano Olympics](#) and a bronze medal in the [2002 Salt Lake City Olympics](#). Among her many accolades, Kwan is a recipient of the prestigious [James E. Sullivan Award](#), which is given to America's best amateur athlete; she was the first figure skater to win the award since [Dick Button](#) won it in 1949. Kwan has received a combined total of 57 6.0s (perfect scores) from her National and World competitions throughout the years. At the U.S. Nationals alone, she holds the record for most 6.0s. Because figure skating is no longer scored on a 6.0 scale, Kwan's records will stand indefinitely.

**Publications:** “The Winning Attitude: What it Takes to be a Champion”

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