

## Stéphane Lambiel wants another go at Olympic Games

**Figure skater Stéphane Lambiel, 24, has decided to make a comeback into competitive sport. The Swiss: "I would like to qualify for the 2010 Olympic Games and achieve a top score in Vancouver." The two-time World Champion (2005 and 2006) retired from competitive skating in October 2008 due to an injury to his left adductor muscle which made training at full capacity impossible. The injury continues to bother him says Lambiel, but thanks to physical therapy the pain is now "manageable".**

Stéphane Lambiel did not hang up his skates following his retirement from competitive skating in October 2008. Quite the contrary. The Olympic silver medalist in Turin (2006) has been in regular training and care during the past months as well as an attraction at many skating exhibitions all over the world. Lambiel: "The joy I take in skating is still tremendous. I feel really good, both physically and mentally, and I am determined, downright eager, to take on the Olympic challenge and score a top result in Vancouver."

Any fear of his former rival, the reigning Olympic gold medalist Evgeni Plushenko, who is also seeking to make his comeback in Vancouver? Stéphane Lambiel: "Certainly not! I'm fired up for another duel."

Whether he will resume his "second career" after the Olympics, if his qualification run is successful, the Swiss is not yet certain. "Right now I'm concentrating on Vancouver, what happens afterwards is written in the stars."

Lambiel will train with his long-time coach Peter Grütter and alone for the Olympic qualification. "I will be going to Geneva twice a week to Mister Grütter. I'll be doing all other training sessions without a coach, but looked after by my physical therapist Majda Scharl at home in Lausanne."

Until now Stéphane Lambiel has not rehearsed a new short program. The free program is an enhancement of his tango program, which he choreographed shortly before his retirement.

As yet Switzerland has no assured starting position for the men's figure skating competition at the Winter Olympic Games\*\*\*. Stéphane Lambiel can secure Switzerland this position if he wins one of the first six spots at the Nebelhorn Trophy in Oberstdorf, Germany (24 - 27 September). To make the Olympic team Swiss Olympic further requires the winning medalist to obtain 195 points two times. Lambiel's best performance at the Grand Prix Final Turin 2008 came to 239.10 points. Since he is not signed up for any of the Grand Prix Events in 2009, Lambiel will have to compete in other competitions before and after the Nebelhorn Trophy, including the Japan Open (1 - 3 October). Furthermore, in January he will participate in the 2010 European Figure Skating Championships in Tallinn, Estonia. In Switzerland Stéphane Lambiel will most likely only be seen in action before the Olympics at the Ice Gala "World's Best On Ice" in Basel (19 December). He will also be seen in appearances at skating exhibitions in Korea (August) and Germany (December).

\*\*\* The Olympic Winter Games 2010 are being held from 12 – 28 February in Vancouver, Canada.  
Men's Figure Skating competition: 16 February (Short Program), 18 February (Free Program).

Tomorrow, Sunday, 26 July, Stéphane Lambiel will be flying to Toronto, Canada, for a two-week training camp. "In Coach Brian Orser's group I have the best of conditions. Moreover, I have an excellent physical therapist in Marla Pichler who will be available to me in Toronto."