



SCOTT HAMILTON

Marking over 40 years of enduring impact since his iconic 1984 Olympic gold medal win, Scott Hamilton embodies the timeless truth that winning changes everything. Born Scott Scovell Hamilton on August 28, 1958, in Toledo, Ohio, he was adopted as an infant by college professors Ernest and Dorothy Hamilton. Raised in Bowling Green, Ohio, alongside siblings Susan and Steven, Scott faced early adversity: At age two, a mysterious intestinal disorder (later identified as Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome) stunted his growth, threatened his life, and left him in and out of hospitals for years. A specialized diet and moderate exercise began to correct the ailment, but it was figure skating, discovered at age nine, that truly transformed his health and outlook. The intense physical activity in the cold rink atmosphere sparked a miraculous recovery: Within a year, his illness largely disappeared, he began growing again, and he built strength and vitality. More profoundly, skating gave Scott his first real taste of self-esteem. He realized he could perform as well as, or better than, his healthy classmates, awakening a sense of capability and purpose that helped him grow into the resilient, optimistic person he is today. In honor of his roots, his hometown renamed a street Scott Hamilton Avenue.

After Scott discovered figure skating at age nine, he began training under coach Pierre Brunet from age 13. His breakthrough came at the 1981 U.S. Championships, where a gold-medal performance earned a standing ovation and sparked an unbeatable streak. From 1981 to 1984, he dominated amateur skating: four consecutive U.S. Championships, four consecutive World Championships, and never a loss in competition during that span. At the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics, Scott delivered flawless routines filled with innovative footwork, charisma, and his signature backflip (a crowd-pleaser later banned in amateur events until recent rule changes). His victory ended a 24-year drought for American men in Olympic figure skating gold and made him a global icon. For his contributions, he received the Jacques Favart Award (1988), induction into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame (1990), and the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame (1990), among over 70 titles, awards, and honors.

Turning professional, Scott revolutionized the sport further. He joined Ice Capades briefly before co-founding Stars on Ice in 1986, a groundbreaking touring show he produced, starred in, and headlined for 15 years until retiring from full-time performing in 2001 (with occasional guest appearances). This platform showcased his athleticism, storytelling, and ability to connect with audiences, imbuing men's figure skating with a new sense of excitement and accessibility.

Scott's media career has kept him at the forefront of the sport. Emmy-nominated for his work, he served as a figure skating commentator for CBS starting in 1985 and transitioned to NBC in 2002, covering multiple Olympics through 2014. He contributed to Olympic Ice in 2018, served as a Peacock correspondent at Beijing 2022, and returned for the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics, his 10th Olympic assignment overall and seventh with NBC. Joining Mike Tirico in studio as a host and analyst, Scott delivered expert, enthusiastic, and insightful commentary on Olympic standouts, as well as the broader evolution of the sport. His positive style has made him a beloved voice, with recent interviews (including on NPR) highlighting his reflections on the Olympic movement, the backflip's legacy, and what truly matters beyond medals.

A best-selling author, Scott has shared his wisdom through several books: *Landing It: My Life On and Off the Ice* (1999), *The Great Eight: How to Be Happy (Even When You Have Every Reason to Be Miserable!)* (2009), *Finish First: Winning Changes Everything* (2018), and the children's book *Fritzy Finds a Hat* (2020), which gently helps families discuss cancer. As a sought-after motivational speaker and eternal optimist, Scott captivates corporate audiences with keynotes on resilience, leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and turning adversity into opportunity. Drawing from his improbable journey, from childhood illness and adoption to Olympic triumph and professional innovation, he delivers actionable insights that empower teams to embrace challenges, foster unity, and finish strong in any arena.



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This profound journey as a resilient cancer survivor and pituitary brain tumor warrior fuels his deepest passion: philanthropy. After losing his mother, Dorothy, to cancer and facing his own diagnosis of testicular cancer in 1997 (from which he recovered fully), Scott endured multiple brain tumor battles; a benign craniopharyngioma in 2004, a recurrence in 2010 requiring surgery, and another in 2016 (which shrank without chemotherapy by 2017). These experiences transformed him into an advocate. In 2014, he founded the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation (Cancer Alliance for Research, Education, and Survivorship), dedicated to revolutionizing cancer care by funding advanced, innovative research that treats the cancer while sparing patients harsh side effects. CARES supports education and survivorship initiatives like Chemocare.com (a leading resource for chemo information), the 4th Angel Mentoring Program (pairing survivors with patients), and signature events such as Sk8 to Elim8 Cancer® celebrations (ongoing in cities like Tulsa, Lake Placid, Denver, Orlando, and more in 2026) and An Evening with Scott Hamilton & Friends galas. These efforts have raised millions, backing grants, community partnerships, and hope-driven progress that continues to impact lives nationwide.

With unwavering optimism and a legacy of hope, Scott Hamilton remains an unstoppable force, proving that true victory lies not just in medals, but in lifting others through life's toughest battles.