



AP/Wide World Photos
U.S. speed skater and Rochester native Turner skates draped in an American flag after winning the gold medal in women's 500-meter short-track speed skating at the XVI Winter Olympic Games in Albertville, France Feb. 22.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
Turner's cousin Mary Rose Anuszkiewicz gets into the spirit of things as she and other family members prepare to greet the Olympic champion as she arrives at Greater Rochester International Airport Feb. 25.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
Turner proudly displays the gold and silver medals she won at the XVI Winter Olympic Games.

Finally, as "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played, a worldwide television audience watched a tear of happiness trickle down Turner's face.

Turner accounted for one of the United States' 11 gold medals at the Winter Games. Add her silver in, and she was one of only two Americans to bring home more than one medal. The other was Bonnie Blair, also a speed skater, who captured two gold medals.

The one unfortunate side of her Olympic experience involved Turner's family. Nicole Michelle Anuszkiewicz, the late daughter of her cousin, Patty, was born with a hole in her heart and died at approximately 6-weeks-old in the days prior to Turner's medal-winning performances.

"I called home after our relay won the silver to see how Nicole was doing, and they said 'fine' because they didn't want me to lose my concentration," Turner recalled. "Then, the night I came home I was with some relatives and my cousin told me.

"Never in my life have I gone from such an extreme high to such an extreme low in a matter of a second. I just feel for Patty and Mike (Patty's husband), and hope that maybe what I've done has helped ease the pain a little."



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
Turner signs autographs for eager fans at the airport.

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