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Thrills and spills on the ice

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REVESBY short track speed skater Grant Hester burned up the ice and has put Australia firmly on the map after the ISU Junior World Championships in Italy last month.

Hester, 18, was ranked 16th in the 500m, 31st in the 1000m and 49th in the 1500m, pushing through from the preliminaries to the heats in the 1000m.

It was an experience of a lifetime," Hester said.

I love speed skating because its fun, its fast and its unpredictable - anything can happen at any time."

The teenage athlete said he got into speed skating when his coach offered him a coupon to try the sport.

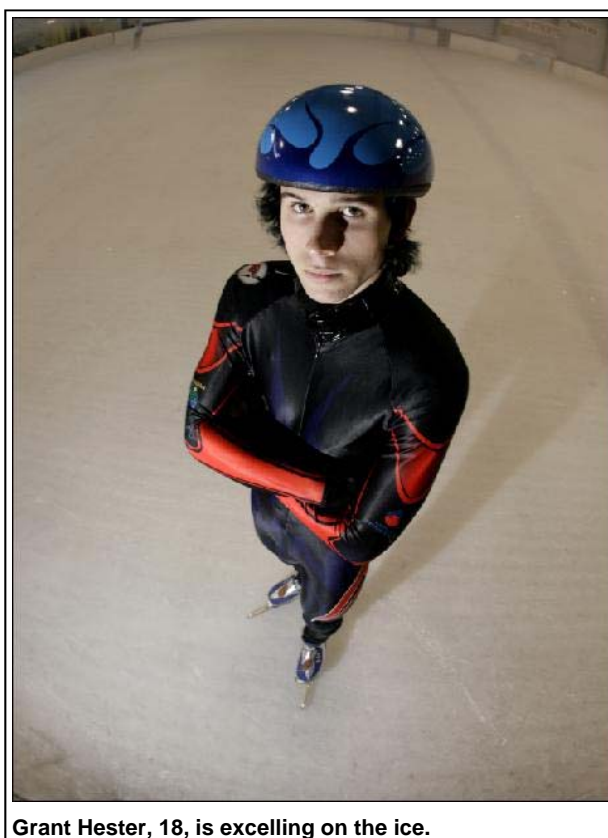
Its been six years since I first started speed skating and Ive been doing it ever since," Hester said.

Hester was also selected to form part of the Australian Youth Olympic Festival team last year.

Competing with the Mens Relay Team, Hester managed to claim a gold medal in the 5000m.

The skater, who has just completed his HSC at De La Salle Revesby, said his personal goal was to make it to three separate international competitions.

I want to compete in the World Championships, the World Cup and the Winter Olympics, but right now my focus is on the 2010 Olympics," he said.



Grant Hester, 18, is excelling on the ice.

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