

# A STAR IN THE X GAMES

When the X Games first started out, they were not well known. Only a few people watched and competed in them. However, the Games had an attitude and style that reflected things many young people cared about, and in time, they became popular around the world.

In different areas of the world, athletes train and compete in their own versions of the X Games. The best athletes can advance to the global championship. At the championship, teams from six regions (Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, South America, and the United States) face each other. There are summer sports (in-line skating, biking, and skateboarding) and winter ones (skiing and snowboarding). The sports are so popular that some are even in the Olympics now!

There are many champions in the X Games, but one woman, Fabiola da Silva, has always stood out from the crowd. She's an in-line skater from Brazil, and she's easily recognizable with her tank top and nose ring.

There are two different in-line skating categories: *park* and *vert*. In the park event, skaters compete on a course that has ledges, handrails, and other obstacles. In the vert event, skaters do tricks on a half-pipe<sup>1</sup>. They try to fly high in the air and spin. Fabiola competes in both events and has won six gold medals in the vert event, her specialty. She has been skating for years and has dominated<sup>2</sup> the women's events.

Fabiola is a pioneer. She was one of the first women to get very famous from the X Games, but she's not afraid of the guys. Ever since she received her first pair of skates at the age of 12, she's played with boys. Now she skates in competitions with them, and she beats many of them.

Fabiola's mother was a housekeeper and life was hard, but she saved her money to buy Fabiola's skates. It was a good investment. Fabiola has traveled abroad for events and has become famous in the international skating world.

Success hasn't gone to her head<sup>3</sup>, though. She's still a typical young woman: she has a boyfriend, likes to listen to rock music, and prefers healthy foods. And she doesn't seem to care much about the attention she gets.

**B Scan for information.** Look quickly at the article. Add at least two examples to each item in the chart below.

Item	Examples
1. summer sports	
2. winter sports	
3. regional teams in the global championships	
4. categories of in-line skating	

**C Read for details.** Read the statements about Fabiola. Then find a sentence in the reading that supports each statement.

1. Fabiola's mom didn't make a lot of money. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Fabiola wins against women. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fabiola wins against men. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Fabiola is well known outside her own country. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Fabiola has her own sense of style. \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>A *half-pipe* is a curved structure with high sides, used for doing tricks.

<sup>2</sup>If you *dominate*, you are powerful and successful.

<sup>3</sup>If something goes to your head, it makes you think you are very important

Search on the internet about a popular female athlete. Prepare a little talk about her. Mention what sport does she do and how she started. Your talk should last more than a minute.