



AP photos by MATTHIAS SCHRADER

Jessica Diggins, left, and Kikkan Randall celebrate after winning the gold medal in the women's team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing final at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on Wednesday.

Power of Team

U.S. Women's cross-country duo make history, win gold at Winter Olympics

"We are dreamers. But we are also believers. It's crazy how much confidence you can get from a teammate's success if you allow yourself to stand beside them." - Sadie Bjornsen



D. QUINCY WHITNEY

Just 24 hours ago, Kikkan Randall and Jesse Diggins won gold medals in the team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing final at PyeongChang - the first Olympic gold medal for the Americans in nordic ski history.

The win is a victory for the entire women's cross-country team that has focused on team spirit for more than a decade in the most solitary of winter sports. The remarkable journey of this American team can be summed up in three words - purpose, perseverance and patience.

More than a decade in the making, the Team USA women's cross-country ski team - with three Dartmouth alumnae - has had its most successful season yet. According to Peggy Shinn, who reports on Olympics for TeamUSA.org, and has followed this team since 2012, their surprising catalyst - in the most solitary of sports -

is camaraderie and teamwork.

World Class: The Making of the U.S. Women's Cross-Country Ski Team, (ForeEdge, 2018) released this month, tells their story. Shinn interviewed team members five-time Olympian Randall, Liz Stephen, Diggins, Sadie Bjornsen, the now-retired Holly Brooks and Dartmouth's Sophie Caldwell 2012, Ida Sargent 2011; and Rosie Brennan 2011 - as well as many family members and friends.

One of the most invisible and unsung of winter sports is also the toughest.



Jessica Diggins, right, and Kikkan Randall celebrate after winning the gold medal in the women's team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing final.

GOLD | PAGE 4

The win is a victory for the entire women's cross-country team that has focused on team spirit for more than a decade in the most solitary of winter sports. The remarkable journey of this American team can be summed up in three words - purpose, perseverance and patience.