

VAL JOE “RUDY” GALINDO

b. September 7, 1969, San Jose, California

OLYMPIC FIGURE SKATER

*“HIV-AIDS is not a death sentence.
You can go out there and do what you want.”*

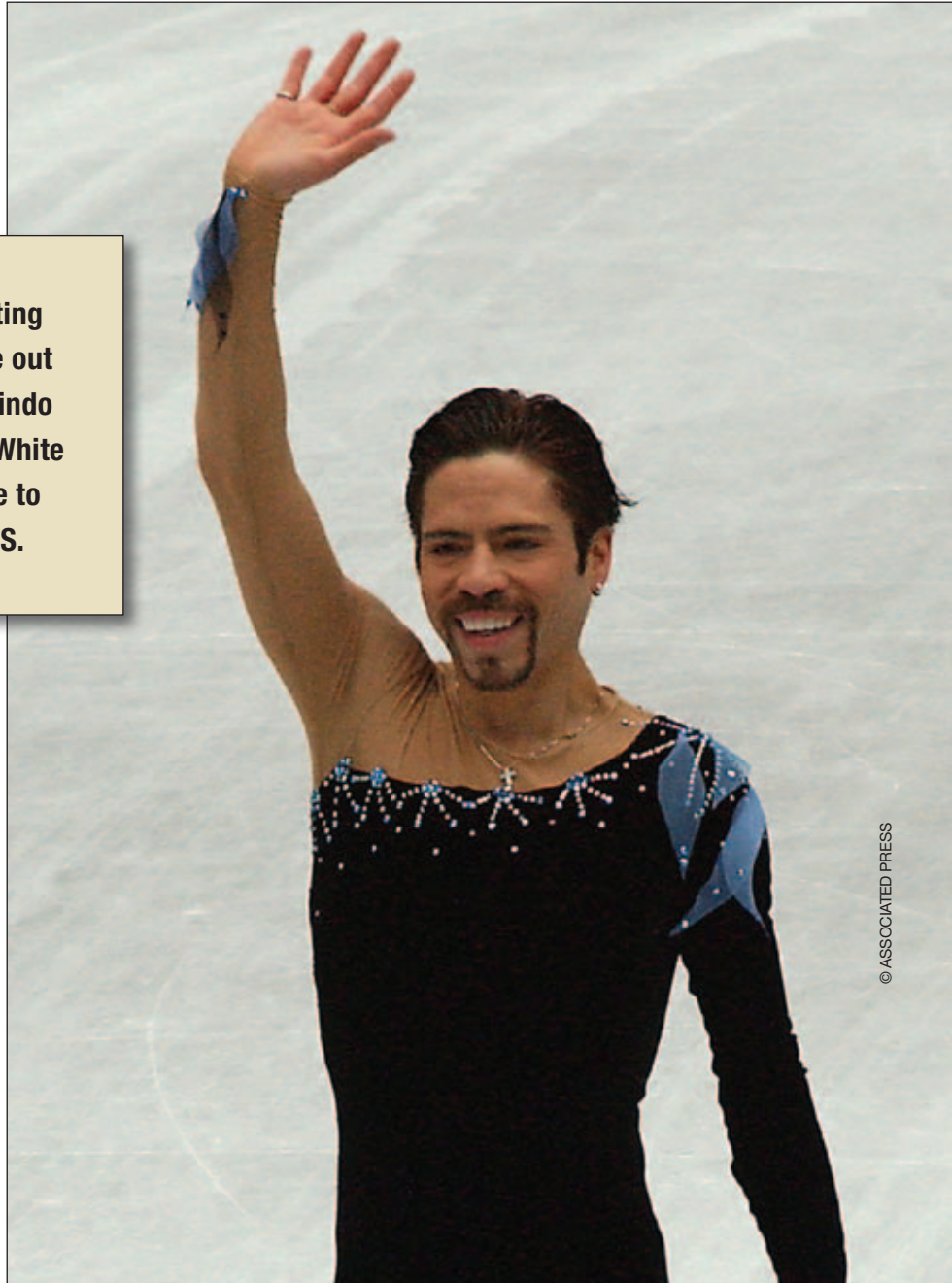
In 1996 Rudy Galindo became the first United States skating champion to come out as openly gay.

Galindo is famous for his grace on the ice. A singles and doubles skating phenomenon, he won the World Junior Championship in 1987 and the U.S. National Championship in 1997. With doubles partner Kristi Yamaguchi, he won the World Junior Championship in 1988 and the U.S. National Championship in 1989 and 1990. In 1996 he won the bronze medal at the World Championships.

In 1997 Galindo published his autobiography, which recounted his childhood of poverty, the death of his older brother and a coach from AIDS, the death of his domineering father, and his mother’s mental illness.

In 2000 Galindo came out as HIV-positive.
In 2001 he was awarded the Ryan White
Award for Service to Prevent HIV/AIDS.

**The first U.S. skating
champion to come out
as openly gay, Galindo
received the Ryan White
Award for Service to
Prevent HIV/AIDS.**



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