Name: _____   Date: _____

Steven Bradbury

Steven Bradbury is a famous Australian ice skater who became a hero in a very surprising way. He is best known for his incredible victory at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. Bradbury competed in short track speed skating, which is a fast and exciting sport where skaters race around a small ice rink. The races are intense and often involve a lot of bumping and jostling for position.

In the 2002 Winter Olympics, Steven Bradbury competed in the 1,000 meters event. He wasn't considered a favourite to win, as many of his competitors were faster. However, Bradbury had a strategy: he planned to stay behind the other skaters and avoid any potential crashes.

In the quarter-finals and semi-finals, his strategy worked. Skaters in front of him collided, and Bradbury advanced to the next rounds. Then came the final race. As expected, Bradbury stayed at the back of the pack, letting the other skaters fight for the lead. In the last turn of the race, a remarkable thing happened: all four of the leading skaters crashed into each other and fell.

Bradbury, who had avoided the chaos, skated past the fallen skaters and crossed the finish line first. He won the gold medal, becoming the first Australian to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics. His unexpected victory made headlines around the world and earned him the nickname "the last man standing."

Steven Bradbury's story teaches us that perseverance, strategy, and a bit of luck can lead to amazing achievements. He didn't give up, even when the odds were against him, and his patience paid off in the most extraordinary way.

1. What sport did Steven compete in at the Winter Olympics?
_____

2. Where were the 2002 Winter Olympics held?
_____

3. What happened to the other skaters in the final race that allowed Bradbury to win?
_____

4. Why did Steven Bradbury choose to stay behind the other skaters during the races?
_____
_____

5. What was Steven's nickname after the race?
_____

6. Do you think Steven Bradbury's strategy was a smart way to compete in his races? Why or why not? _____
_____
_____

Answers

1.What sport did Steven Bradbury compete in at the Winter Olympics? Steven Bradbury competed in short track speed skating.

2.Where were the 2002 Winter Olympics held? The 2002 Winter Olympics were held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

3.What happened to the other skaters in the final race that allowed Bradbury to win? In the final race, all four of the leading skaters crashed into each other and fell, allowing Bradbury to skate past them and win.

4.Why did Steven Bradbury choose to stay behind the other skaters during the races? Steven Bradbury chose to stay behind the other skaters to avoid potential crashes.

5.What was Steven's nickname after the race? The Last Standing Man.

6.Do you think Steven Bradbury's strategy was a smart way to compete in his races? Why or why not? Answers may vary.