

## A Scottish Olympics

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**With the gold medal win of the all-Scottish women's curling team, Scotland has ensured a new place in international sport and has allowed Great Britain to improve its Winter Games record.**

Following the victory, the reactions and support throughout Salt Lake City reveal a strong Scottish contingent in this Olympics that has been obscured in major press and television coverage. It has transpired that Salt Lake City has particularly strong links with Scotland, and Scottish-Americans are plentiful in this region.

At the competition venue, Scottish and British flags were flying. Yet, during the match, the major US television channel, NBC, would describe the women's team as Scotland 'representing' Great Britain. Furthermore, after the victory, 30 to 40 kilted bag pipers were parading in the main street carrying the Scottish flag alongside the US flag.

This surprising Scottish-American connection has been reinforced throughout the Games here in Salt Lake, not only in the sporting arenas but also as part of the event's cultural and arts component.

One of the most locally appreciated events of the official Olympic cultural program explained the history of the Western pioneers, recognising as key the importance of the Scottish settlers and their unique way of life.

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Salt Lake citizens and visitors from around the state of Utah are proud to explain how the Scottish dancing and music traditions enriched the American life style and stood firm through the harsh climates of the Western lands.



The Scottish connections at SLC

The Scottish presence in this Games has also been ensured through the classical tartan looks of the “Edinburgh Castle” shop in the city main street. As well there has been a striking presence of Olympic fans dressing in kilts and wandering around the streets from day one of competitions regardless of any medal count.

Traditionally, the domination of Scandinavian countries, Germany and the US in Olympic Winter Games outweighs the cheering of the smaller Winter countries such as Great Britain. However, the Scottish presence has found a kinship in this, now international, US city, which has helped to allow Scotland to leave its mark on this mega event.