



a.larry.ross  
com.mu.ni.ca.tions

# news release

4300 Marsh Ridge Road • Suite 114 • Carrollton, TX 75010  
972.267.1111 • 972.267.3535 (fax) • www.alarryross.com

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**[A. Larry Ross Communications](#)**

Kristin Cole 972.267.1111

**[kristin@alarryross.com](mailto:kristin@alarryross.com)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Olympic Gold Medalist Scott Hamilton Shares His Story of Unexpected Trials on [iamsecond.com](#) Skater experienced cancer, brain tumor but discovered strength**

**DALLAS, Jan. 27, 2012** – This week, as Olympic gold medalist and figure skating commentator Scott Hamilton is in the spotlight remarking on the performances of the best skaters at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, his own personal experience gains greater awareness as the newest featured film at [iamsecond.com](#), a website featuring stories of personal struggle, transformation and hope of celebrities and everyday people.

Hamilton is the first skater to be profiled on the site, which provides inspiration and encouragement for people while pointing them to answers found in God.

As a competitive figure skater, Hamilton mastered the art of the sport and its nuances to become the world's best in the 1984 Olympics.

"I don't think anyone's truly equipped to go out in front of 1 billion, 2 billion, 3 billion people on an Olympic stage, and you're scared of your mind, on a 200 by 100 surface of ice," Hamilton said. "But I found a way to be just good enough to win the gold medal."

Still, Hamilton's life has been full of ups and downs. As a child, he suffered from a disease that stopped him from growing, and kept him in and out of hospitals for years. He ended up finding the skating club somewhat by accident and quickly discovered he had a talent.

Competing nationally with some of the best skaters, Hamilton struggled to find guidance and direction among his role models and teachers of older skaters. His source of strength became his mom and when she lost a battle to cancer, his life was changed.



- more -

Hamilton then received his own diagnosis of testicular cancer. He continued to skate and it wasn't until he found himself in remission that he struggled to sort his life out.

"I survived something that took the most important person in my life off the planet -- my mother. She died of cancer and I survived," Hamilton said. "What's my purpose now? What do I need to do?"

Not long after, Hamilton met his wife Tracie who brought him to the church. She introduced him to a minister who asked him to understand that Christianity is a faith of history, and to see how that resonated in his own life. It was then that faith became a reality for him right before his next trial in life.

With just two years of marriage and a 14-month-old son, doctors discovered Hamilton had a brain tumor. When he told Tracie, she took his hands and without hesitation began to pray.

"And it was in that moment I knew where I was going to put everything," said Hamilton. "From that moment forward, we just said, 'whatever it is, whatever it takes, we'll face this.'"

Doctors conducted a biopsy only to discover the brain tumor was one Hamilton was born with and what had inhibited his growth as a young child.

"That was the mysterious illness I had they never diagnosed, that got me into skating," Hamilton said. "Who would I be without a brain tumor? I'm 5 foot 4; if I would have grown those years -- where would I be, who would I do? I could choose to look it as debilitating. I could choose to focus on the suffering. I choose to look at that brain tumor as the greatest gift I could've gotten because it made everything else possible."

[I am Second](http://iamsecond.com) is designed to help individuals discover hope. The [iamsecond.com](http://iamsecond.com) website includes authentic film testimonies of "everyday" people and celebrities related to a variety of personal struggles, including abuse, addictions, pride, eating disorders, broken families and the search for success and meaning in life. Celebrities featured include 2010 American League MVP and Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton; former Korn band member Brian "Head" Welch; surfer Bethany Hamilton; and football stars Bradie James, Colt McCoy and Sam Bradford.

Launched in Dallas-Fort Worth in December 2008, [iamsecond.com](http://iamsecond.com) quickly spread virally across the globe. To date, the website has visitors from 217 countries/regions who have viewed the 77 films on the site. The movement has since officially launched in Orlando, Fla., Evansville, Ind., and Kansas City, Mo., with several other cities planned for the future. In addition, Thomas Nelson Publishers released the "I am Second" book this month.

For more information about I am Second, visit <http://www.iamsecond.com>.

Scott Hamilton Shares His Personal Story on iamsecond.com, page 2

EDITOR'S NOTE: Additional information about I am Second can be found at <http://www.alrcnewskitchen.com/iamsecond>.