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United States Curling Association  
1100 Cedar Point Drive  
P.O. Box 866  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Dear USC Assn,

I wrote to you just before Christmas last year. Did you get any snow for Christmas 2005 in Stevens Point? It was cold here, but we did not get any snow. If you don't remember my last letter, let me briefly remind you of its content. I am a 47 year old man and I have dreams of being an Olympic athlete. I was hoping to get my application in for the 2006 USA Olympic Curling team, because I felt like that was my best shot at getting onto an actual Olympic team.

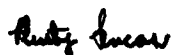
I never heard back from you and I wonder if my letter got lost or delayed in the mass of Christmas mail. I should have sent it sooner, but now it is too late regardless. The 2006 games are long over and I never got my shot.

I guess Scott Baird must have sent his letter in before me, huh? He was the 54 year old American Olympic athlete on the Curling team. I wish that had been me, but I guess he got his interview scheduled in time to get his uniform fitted and his name included in the team roster literature. And to think that he is the now owner of a genuine Olympic bronze medal. I could've been a bronze medalist at 47! That is the stuff that dreams are made of.

What number did he get on his jersey? I would have asked for number 35 if it was available. Oh if only to be 35 years old again. That would be so invigorating! I wish I was 35 again. I could still be considered for so many positions and events.

So it is with sadness that I realize I missed this chance to be a medal winning athlete, but I have found some renewed hope in the fact that Scott made the team at age 54. When the 2010 Winter Olympics arrive, I will only be 51 years old! Still younger than Scott Baird was this year. And if I stay in shape, I could conceivably outlast Scott and be a 55 year old Olympic athlete in the 2014 Games! Wow!

Sincerely,



Rusty Lucas

p.s. I am still interested in being on the waiting list for future team tryouts. Please send me that free Team USA Curler baseball cap that we talked about the last time.