



DOB: 25/06/84

Sport: Cross Country Skiing

Club: National Ski Team

Languages: Turkish

Career so far: Sabahattin comes from a large family of 14 siblings, all raised in Mus in Eastern Turkey. Originally following four of his brothers into wrestling aged 11 in 1995, he competed for two years before changing his focus to cross country skiing in 1997 after trying the sport for the first time. Within two seasons he had become 1999/2000 National Junior champion and competed in National uniform for the first time in 2001 at the Junior Olympic Games.

Sabahattin's progress was swift and resulted in him being selected ahead of his older and more experienced teammates for the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Despite, by his own admission, not performing as well as he had hoped, the experience was tremendous and a particularly significant moment in his life. Since then he has gone on to win the 2003 Balkan Championships, compete in two World Championships and amass enough ranking points to qualify for the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games, the focal point of his coming season.

Although proud of his achievements, Sabahattin's love for skiing goes much deeper than competition as the sport helped him overcome an early addiction to smoking. Encouraged by his brothers and cousins to quit smoking or ski alone, Sabahattin chose to pursue skiing and lead a better, healthier lifestyle. He also tries to wear an even number during each competition as he believes it brings him good luck.

Results:

Olympic Games:

60th in Salt Lake City 2002 (Sprint)

World Championships:

86th in Oberstdorf, 2005 (15km)

56th in Val di Fiemme, 2003 (30km)

61st in Val di Fiemme, 2003 (Sprint)

World Junior Championships:

25th in Stryn, 2004 (30km)

29th in Stryn, 2004 (10km)

Balkan Championships:

1st in 2003

2nd in 2002