

# End of the Run for 47-Year-Old Luger?

Vancouver Olympics 2010



Ruben Gonzalez finishes his final luge run of the Vancouver Games, his fourth Olympics in four different decades.

The luger Ruben Gonzalez is one of the Vancouver Olympic's more interesting stories.

Nicknamed Speedy, Gonzalez is 47 years old. Vancouver marked his fourth Olympics in four different decades.

His four Olympic luge runs ended Sunday. If he had another run at the Olympics in him, Gonzalez said it ended after the death of the luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, who crashed during training here last week.

"This is my last Olympics," Gonzalez said Saturday. "A few weeks ago, I wouldn't have said that. I wanted to keep going. Yesterday, it gave me perspective. There are other things to do in life."

If Sunday marked his final luge runs, these Olympics complete an improbable journey for Gonzalez. He did not pick up the sport until he was 21 years old after deciding to pick up a winter sport while watching Scott Hamilton perform at the 1984 Winter Olympics.



Four-time Olympian Ruben Gonzalez is one of the country's leading keynote speakers.