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Czech Speedskater Sablikova to Skip 1,500-Meter Event.

By The Moscow Times

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SOCHI — Czech speedskater Martina Sablikova is to skip the Olympic 1,500m event in Sochi on Sunday, a spokesman for her team has said.

Sablikova is the 3,000m Vancouver champion but claimed the silver this time around behind Dutch superstar Ireen Wust last Sunday.

To prevent injury, Sablikova has resolved to focus on defending her 5,000m title later in the Games instead of attempting the 1,500m. R-Sport understands Sablikova is carrying a groin problem.

"She will not compete in the 1,500m because she wants to prevent herself from getting injured before the 5,000m. She wants to rest and relax," Czech team spokesman Alexandr Kliment said Thursday.

Sablikova, 26, was a medal shot for the 1,500m, having taken the bronze four years ago.

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