OLYMPIC STEEL INC Form SC 13G/A February 06, 2004

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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

### **SCHEDULE 13G**

# Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment [X])\*

OLYMPIC STEEL INC
(Name of Issuer)
Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)
68162K106
(CUSIP Number)
December 31, 2003
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)
Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:
[X] Rule 13d-1(b)
[ ] Rule 13d-1(c)
Rule 13d-1(d) *The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person s initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.
The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ( Act ) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).
CUSIP No. 68162K106

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N/A

1.	Names of Reporting Persons.  I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).						
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Inc. (Ta	(ID: 22-2370029)			
2.	Chec	k t	he Appropriate Box if a Member of a	Group (See Instructions)			
	(a)						
	(b)		X				
3.	SEC Use Only						
4.	Citiz	ens	ship or Place of Organization				
			Delaware Corporation				
	5	•	Sole Voting Power				
				694,700 **see Note 1**			
Number of Shares	f _						
Beneficiall Owned by	- 0		Shared Voting Power				
Each Reporting				0			
Person Wi	th 7		Sole Dispositive Power				
				694,700 **see Note 1**			
	8		Shared Dispositive Power				
				0			
9.	Agg	eg	ate Amount Beneficially Owned by E	each Reporting Person			
		69	4,700 **see Note 1**				
10.	Chec	k i	f the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) l	Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)			

11.	Perc	7.209	Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)
12.	Тур	e of R	eporting Person (See Instructions)
		IA	
Item 1.			
	(a)	Nam	e of Issuer
			OLYMPIC STEEL INC
	(b)	Addr	ress of Issuer s Principal Executive Offices
			5096 Richmond Rd, Bedford Heights, OH 44146-1329
Item 2.			
	(a)	Nam	e of Person Filing
			Dimensional Fund Advisors Inc.
	(b)	Addr	ress of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence
			1299 Ocean Avenue, 11th Floor, Santa Monica, CA 90401
	(c)	Citiz	enship
			Delaware Corporation
	(d)	Title	of Class of Securities
			Common Stock
	(e)	CUS	IP Number
			68162K106
Item 3.	If th		ement is filed pursuant to §§240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing
	(a)	[ ]	Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).
	(b)	[ ]	Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).

	(c)	[ ]	Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
	(d)	[ ]	Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).
	(e)	[X]	An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
	(f)	[ ]	An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
	(g)	[ ]	A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
	(h)	[ ]	A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
	(i)	[ ]	A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
	(j)	[ ]	Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).
Item 4.	Ow	nership	o.
Provide t			information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the em 1.
	(a)	Amo	unt beneficially owned:
			694,700 **see Note 1**
	(b)	Perce	ent of class:
			7.20%
	(c)	Num	ber of shares as to which the person has:
		(i)	Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:
			694,700 **see Note 1**
		(ii)	Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:
			0
		(iii)	Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
			694,700 **see Note 1**
		(iv)	Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
			0

\*\* Note 1 \*\* Dimensional Fund Advisors Inc. ( Dimensional ), an investment advisor registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, furnishes investment advice to four investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and serves as investment manager to certain other commingled group trusts and separate accounts. These investment companies, trusts and accounts are the Funds. In its role as investment advisor or manager, Dimensional possesses voting and/or investment power over the securities of the Issuer described in this schedule that are owned by the Funds,

and may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the shares of the Issuer held by the Funds. However, all securities reported in this schedule are owned by the Funds. Dimensional disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities. In addition, the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that the reporting person or any of its affiliates is the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this Schedule 13G for any other purposes than Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

#### Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [ ].

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

All securities reported in this schedule are owned by advisory clients of Dimensional Fund Advisors Inc., no one of which, to the knowledge of Dimensional Fund Advisors, Inc., owns more than 5% of the class. Dimensional Fund Advisors Inc. disclaims beneficial ownership of all such securities.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.

N/A

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

N/A

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

N/A

#### Item 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

#### **SIGNATURE**

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS INC.

February 6, 2004

Date

/s/ Catherine L. Newell Signature

<u>Vice President and Secretary</u> Title