



2019 WINTER DEAFLYMPICS
 VALTELLINA-VALCHIAVENNA
 DECEMBER 12-21 2019

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US DEAFLYMPICS DAILY NEWSLETTER

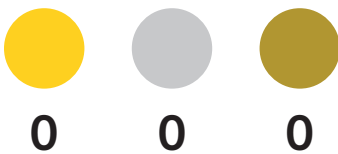
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. DEAFLYMPIC TEAM AT THE 19TH WINTER DEAFLYMPICS

VOL. 1 NO. 2

DECEMBER 14, 2019

USA Curling makes history First ever win against Canada

USA MEDAL TOTALS



MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	T
UNITED STATES	0	0	0	0
AUSTRIA	0	0	1	1
RUSSIA	2	3	2	7
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	1	0	1
ITALY	1	0	0	1
CROATIA	0	0	1	1
UKRAINE	1	0	0	1

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

ALPINE SKIING (DOWNHILL)

Wollan - 1'13.22
 Williams - 1'19.29

CROSS-COUNTRY (XC) SKIING

No matches yesterday

SNOWBOARD

Parallel Giant Slalom
 Pollock, 10th place

CURLING

USA wins against Italy, 13-3

USA wins against Canada, 11-2

ICE HOCKEY

USA wins against Finland, 6-2



The USA Curling team laughs together during their 10 minutes break on December 13, 2019 at the 19th Winter Deaflympics in Madesimo, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

USA Curling wins against Canada

Stacy Nowak

USA Deaf Curling enjoyed a historic day, cumulating with a thrilling 11-2 win over our northern neighbor, Canada. In the history of curling as a sport in the Winter Deaflympics (2007-2015), the USA had never beaten the historically strong Canadian squad.

The day kicked off with a convincing 13-3 win over host country Italy. In this game, alternate Keith Mischo played in the place of Lead John Knetzger, as the USA surged ahead early. The men in red, white and blue kept widening their lead straight up until the 6th End, when Italy surrendered. According to Second

David Nathanson, "this was a solid win, but we must play better from now on."

Nathanson's words became reality 10 hours later, as USA saved their best performance of the Deaflympics for the highly anticipated game against Canada. USA started scoring early, and shot ahead after the half with 4 points at the 6th end, leading to Canada's surrender. This was America's first win over Canada in 5 tries. "This was a special memory, something we will always cherish," said Nathanson.

USA Deaf Curling is now 2-2. As their momentum surges, they face Korea today at 9AM in a must-win game in order to stay in medal contention.

USA Hockey dominates Finland

USADSF Media

CHIAVENNA—Anytime 43-year-old Robert Edlund is in net, the opposing team will have their hands full. That much was the case last night as the Americans faced Finland and their stellar goaltender in Team USA's opener. The one-time Swedish backstop, who once stopped 81 shots against the Americans during the 2007 Deaflympics, switched his competitive passport to Finland and was up to his usual self as United States barraged 45 shots on goal en route to a 6-2 victory. Despite the lopsided final score, the game was played with great intensity by both sides.

U.S. Captain Peter Gintoli opened the scoring 34 seconds into the game with a quick strike, assisted by Christian Buczek and Anders Lindgren. However, a series of American penalties made it difficult to sustain a rhythm, and Finland struck on a power play to tie the game 1-1.

In the second stanza, Jake Schlereth put the Americans up again on a goal assisted by Max Finley. Just over a minute later, Danny Kurchena added the eventual game-winner, assisted by Sam Holzrichter and Henry Fusco. The United States kept the pressure on Finland for the entire second period, staying out of

the penalty box, and outshooting the Finns, 20-3.

In the third period, USA added a pair of goals by Garrett Gintoli and a goal by Anders Lindgren. Finland scored another power play goal midway through the period to keep things interesting, but in the end, the Americans proved too much for Finland, prevailing with a final score of 6-2. USA faces Kazakhstan tomorrow at 7pm local time. a goal by Anders Lindgren. Finland scored another power play goal midway through the period to keep things interesting, but in the end, the Americans proved too much for Finland, prevailing with a final score of 6-2. USA faces Kazakhstan tomorrow at 7pm local time.



USA Hockey players gather after making a goal against Finland on December 13, 2019 at the 19th Winter Deaflympics in Chiavenna, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)



Jeff Mansfield, USA Hockey goalie flips upside down to block the puck for a save on December 13, 2019 at the 19th Winter Deaflympics in Chiavenna, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

Blitzin' chess tables hard!

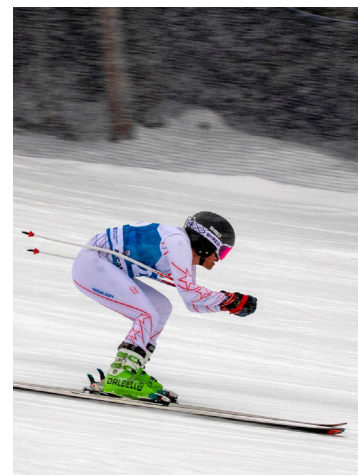
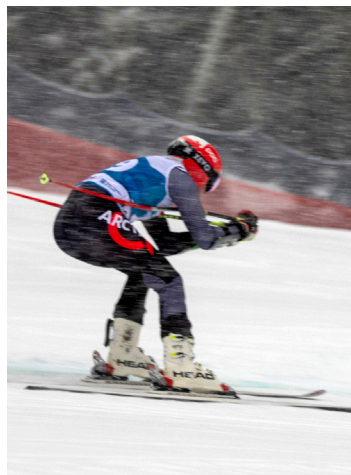
Stacy Nowak

CHIAVENNA--- For the first time in Deaflympic history, the game of Chess debuted with the Blitz competition. In this specific discipline, one win is worth one point, a draw is worth half a point, and a loss translates into zero points. A bye delivers one point.

In the 2019 Winter Deaflympics, the Blitz chess competition featured 41 players who played 11 rounds of 3-minute games. At the end of the 11 rounds, medals were presented to the players who earned the most points.

For the United States, 15-year old phenom Oscar Petrov scored 6 points. Right behind him was Abraham Glasser, who locked down 5 points. Branton Stewart rounded up the American delegation with 4 points. Coach Dan DeLuca was very pleased with the results—"In a field with multiple Grandmasters, International Masters and FIDE masters, the American players turned out very respectable results."

USA Chess returns to the chess tables today at 3PM for the first round of team play.



(Photos: Hugh Carey)

Wollan and Williams make their Deaflympic debut!

Sarah Gordon

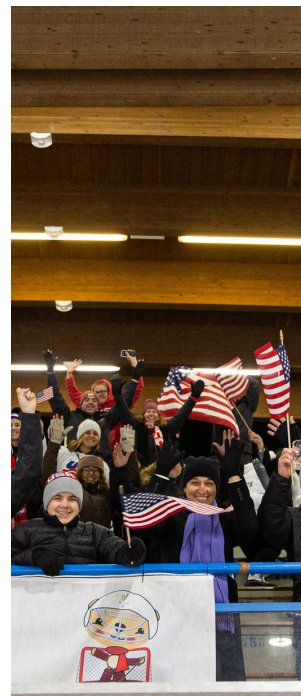
Despite whiteout conditions on Friday afternoon, American skiers Jakob Wollan, of Winter Park, Colorado, and Witt Williams, of Helena, Montana made their Deaflympic debuts as they conquered the Barbara-Compagnoni slope in Santa Caterina di Valfurva. Wollan and Williams placed 7th and 17th respectively out of 25 racers from around the world. The race included two runs--the first, a timed trial. The second run served as the final medal round.

Imagine racing downhill on skis with an average incline of 36% of steepness going up to 80 mph without fear of possibly being severely injured from a single slip.

Downhill is an alpine skiing competition that requires not only skill and speed, but also courage. Friday's downhill alpine ski event took place on the slope named after the world-renowned Italian women's Olympic gold medalist that begins at 8,000 feet above sea

level inside the beautiful Santa Caterina valley.

When asked about their race, they both responded enthusiastically. "We are having so much fun." That's the true spirit of Team USA!! They both race again in the Alpine Combined, which combines the Downhill and Slalom, today at 10am and 12:30pm.



(Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

The “OG” Jeff Pollock hits the snow



U.S. snowboarder Jeff Pollock races down Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom course in the 19th Winter Deaflympics on Friday Dec 13, 2019 in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Province of Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

Amidst a raging snowstorm on the slopes in Santa Caterina Valfurva, the Parallel Giant Slalom snowboard race commenced. The lone U.S. snowboarder, Jeff Pollock, of Bluffdale, Utah, placed 7th and 9th in his first two runs. Pollock narrowly missed the finals, which consisted of the top eight racers qualifying for the next round.

There were miscommunication issues between the race organizers, who are hearing, and the 19th Winter Deaflympics tournament directors. Traditionally there are elimination rounds with seeds based on racers’ times. The Deaflympic tournament directors informed the athletes that only the top eight racers would qualify for the finals. At the same time, the hearing race organizers set up the finals to include all 16 racers. Listening to the deaf tournament directors, the bottom 8 racers left the course, thinking their chances at medaling were over. As a result, the finals proceeded without half of the racers.

Pollock is an original U.S. Deaf Snowboard Team member since snowboarding became a medal sport in 1999, winning four medals in three Deaflympics. Pollock returns to the mountain today at 10AM to compete in the Parallel Slalom.



(Photo: Amelia Hamilton)



ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Every day, USADSF celebrates a USA Deaflympic star. For December 13, the star is Jake Wollan. Making his Deaflympic debut, Jake wowed both his teammates and the international deaf ski community with a 7th place finish in the Downhill with a time of 1’13’22. Back home, Jake lives and breathes within the mountains-- skiing full time for the Team Elite program in Winter Park. He spends the rest of his time rock climbing and taking pictures. Here in Italy, Jake’s enthusiasm, spirit and smile is contagious. Keep skiing hard, Jake!

TODAY’S EVENTS

- CURLING**
9:00 USA vs Korea
- ALPINE COMBINED SKIING**
10:00 Wollan and Williams
- SNOWBOARDING**
10:00 Parallel Slalom
Pollock

CROSS COUNTRY (XC) SKIING

- 10:30 Sprint Classic
Smith
- ALPINE SKIING**
12:30 Wollan and Williams

- CHESS**
15:00 Team
Stewart, Bridges,
Petrov, Glasser

- HOCKEY** Rest

WEATHER REPORT

- CHIAVENNA**
Mostly High 49 Low 30
- MADESIMO**
Partly Cloudy High 34 Low 24
- SANTA CATERINA DI VALFURVA**
Snow High 34 Low 22

FAST FUN FACT

- The America delegation numbers 76.
- There are 40 male athletes.
- There are 3 female athletes.
- There are 26 USA officials.
- There are 7 media members.