



US DEAFLYMPICS DAILY NEWSLETTER

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

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2019 WINTER DEAFLYMPICS

VALTELLINA-VALCHIAVENNA
DECEMBER 12-21 2019

USDEAFLYMPICS.ORG/2019
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The U.S. snowboard team poses with their Team Leader for the photo on Sunday Dec 15, 2019 in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Province of Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

Jumping above 9,000 feet

Boardercross qualifications starts at 10:45am with finals starting at 11:45am

TODAY'S EVENTS

CURLING

9:00 USA vs Poland

SNOWBOARDING

10:45 Boardercross
Qualifications
Women: Benedict,
Weibert, Wheatcroft
Men: Cohen, Esson,
Pollock

11:45 Boardercross Finals

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

11:30 5km Individual
Classic
Smith

CHESS

15:00 Team Chess - Round 4

HOCKEY Rest

Stacy Nowak with Sean Esson

Excitement has been building up for the Boardercross snowboarding competition, one of the most thrilling events of the Winter Deaflympics. Today, it finally goes down!

All 6 American snowboarders will compete, each of them with serious intentions of medaling. The women are led by defending silver medalist Lauren Weibert. She is joined by Lauren Benedict Mowl and Hannah Wheatcroft, both making their Deaflympic debuts. There are 15 women participating in the women's competition.

The trio of men—Sean Esson, Eric Cohen, and Jeff Pollock are all seasoned

snowboarders, hungry to represent the Red, White and Blue. 25 men will take to the snow to compete.

The snowboarders will do individually timed runs first. After they are ranked, according to their times, they will be split into groups of three or four racers to start qualifications. The top two finishers in each group will advance to the quarterfinals. The top two finishers in each quarterfinal race will advance to the semifinals. The top two racers in each semifinal will advance to the final.

At the snowboarding Technical Delegate meeting, the order of the individually timed runs were picked randomly. USA's very own Benedict Mowl will kick off the competition with her run.

SuperMen @ the Super-G

Stacy Nowak with Cara Frank

The Super-G race was the highlight of the action on Sunday, December 15th. It also marked the Deaflympic debut of rookie Artem Novoselov. The Super G is a “speed” race with widely set gates that racers must pass through. The course is set so that skiers must turn more than they do in the downhill, though the speeds are still much higher than in the Giant Slalom (GS, hence the name). Each athlete has only one run to clock the best time. Jakob Wollan continued his stellar 2019 Deaflympic campaign with a 11th place finish, timing in at 1’15.19. Witt Williams took 23rd place with a time of 1’20.83. Artem Novoselov finished in 29th place with a time of 1’27’65. When asked what he thought about his performance, Novoselov responded—“I needed to get into my tuck- I didn’t go fast enough.” Italian skier Giacomo Pierbon took the gold, his third of the Games. He also proposed to his longtime girlfriend after the race.

Curling goes 0-2 on Sunday

Stacy Nowak with Danny Lacey

Instead of settling in for the customary Sunday NFL games, the USA Curling team found themselves playing a Sunday doubleheader, starting with a 9AM matchup against Finland. It was a tightly contested match, with strategic moves and a lot of team brainstorming. After a 1-1 tie to start play, the USA fell behind 2-4 at End #6, and came up inches short of preventing 3 Finnish points in the 6th set. Finland took the win, 7-2. Despite the final score, it was an intense game, played by two competitive countries.

In the 7PM matchup against Russia, the USA lost, 3-9. Game news were not available at the time of press and will be shared in tomorrow’s edition.

USA Chess loses to Italy

Stacy Nowak with Danny Lacey

USA Deaf Chess lost to Italy, 1-3 on the second day of the Team tournament. The US did not perform well today. Results were: Oscar Petrov, 1, Abraham Glasser, 0, Branton Stewart, 0, Byron Bridges, 0. Round 4 will be played tomorrow at 3PM.

Corrections + Clarifications

December 15 Newsletter

- This is Jeff Pollock’s 5th Deaflympics
- Alpine Skiing Results were for the Alpine Combined, not the Downhill
- Barbara-Compagnoni should be spelled Deborah-Compagnoni



Christopher Smith is enveloped by the Italian Alps on Saturday Dec 14, 2019 in Santa Caterina, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

USA Shells Kazakhstan

Dominant win sets stage for Russia showdown

USADSF Media

USA opened its match against Kazakhstan with an offensive barrage in the first period. Garrett Gintoli opened the scoring less than a minute into the game before Max Finley added a pair of goals within five seconds. Luke Peinado and Jake Schlereth, Max Stephens, Scott Humes, and Miles Gates added a goal each while Garrett Gintoli scored his second of the game and Anders Lindgren added a pair to end the first period in a 11-0 lead.

The Americans took the foot off the gas in the second and played a puck possession game. Troy Benson and Bill Holtzer added power play goals and Max Stephens scored a shorthanded goal on a 5-on-3 disadvantage for USA to bring the score to 15-0 going into the second intermission.

In the final period, the Americans eased off, dumping the puck into the Kazakhstan zone every possible chance, and staved off a couple scoring opportunities for the Kazakhs.

Curran Allison got the start in the net and Trevor McHugh came in to relieve Allison during the second half of the game. Last night's game marked the Deaflympic debut for both goaltenders as they combined for the shutout. Allison was named Player of the Game for the Americans.

USA faces Russia at 1:00 pm local time on Tuesday in a key matchup between the two heavyweights.



USA goaltender Curran Allison receives the Player of the Game award following the USA-Kazakhstan match in Chiavenna at the 19th Winter Deaflympics. (Photo: AHIHA)



ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Every day, USADSF celebrates a USA Deaflympic star. For December 15, the star is Chess player Oscar Petrov. Fifteen years old and hailing from Washington State, Oscar is the youngest American competitor at the 2019 Winter Deaflympics. This is Oscar's second international chess tournament. In 2017 he played in the World Youth Pan American Games in South America. Oscar was the highest performing American player in the Deaflympics Blitz Competition on Friday, scoring 6/11. He also leads Team USA Chess in the Team Competition. Oscar scored a win vs Italy and a draw vs Belarus for 1.5/2. Oscar shows outstanding sportsmanship and skill. Keep on strategizing, Oscar!

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

ALPINE SKIING (SUPER G)

Wollan: 11th place, 1'15.19
Williams: 23rd place, 1'20.83
Novoselov: 29th place, 1'27.65

CURLING

9AM: USA lost to Finland, 2-7
7PM: USA lost to Russia, 3-9

CHESS

USA lost to Italy 1-3

ICE HOCKEY

USA defeats Kazakhstan, 14-0

WEATHER REPORT

CHIAVENNA

Rain High 49 Low 44

MADESIMO

Snow High 37 Low 34

SANTA CATERINA DI VALFURVA

Cloudy High 37 Low 33

FAST FUN FACT

Christopher Smith, America's only Cross Country (XC) skier moved to Jeffersonville, Vermont 15 months ago specifically to train for the 2019 Winter Deaflympics. Jeffersonville is home to many ex-Olympians and serves as one of the USA hubs for XC skiing, with access to numerous trails and resources specifically for XC.