



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

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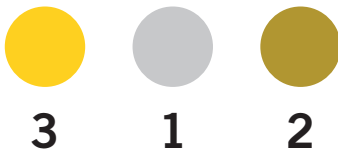
DECEMBER 22, 2019

The Golden Terminator Goalie Jeff Mansfield leads USA to Deaflympic Gold



Team USA goalie Jeff Mansfield and the team celebrate the Gold Medal win over Canada in the 19th Winter Deaflympics on Saturday Dec 21, 2019 in Chiavenna, Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

USA MEDAL TOTALS



MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	T
UNITED STATES	3	1	2	6
RUSSIA	17	18	13	48
UKRAINE	4	4	3	11
ITALY	5	0	2	7
CZECH REPUBLIC	2	4	1	7
FRANCE	0	3	2	5
AUSTRIA	0	1	4	5
FINLAND	0	2	1	3

TODAY'S EVENTS

TRAVELING

Back to the U.S.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

HOCKEY

USA defeats Canada, 7-3

WEATHER REPORT

CHIAVENNA

Rain High 50 Low 37

FAST FUN FACT

The USADSF Media Team brought more than 18 pieces of equipment to Italy, valued at over \$35,000 altogether.

Stacy Nowak

Exactly 20 years ago, in the winter of 1999, a young hockey-loving boy received a postcard sent directly from Davos, Switzerland—written by eight-time Deaflympian and legendary American goalie Elijah Gold.

Gold, who was in Davos, backstopping the USA Deaf Hockey team, might not remember writing that postcard, but that little boy never forgot. He kept that postcard with him as he started skating through his own hockey career.

Yesterday, the little boy, by the name of Jeff Mansfield, was in the net for the United States of America, backstopping them to Deaflympic Gold, becoming a legend in his own right. Mansfield made 27 saves as the United States defeated Canada, 7-3 in the final game of the 2019 Winter Deaflympics.

After letting Canada score once in the first period, America turned on the guns in the second period, led by captain

Peter Gintoli, who broke open the scoring drought in the 29th minute of play. Barely four minutes later, Derek Struwing made it 2-1 for the United States. Garrett Gintoli joined the goal party two minutes later, and Troy Benson closed out the second period with a goal, making the score 4-1 in America's favor.

In front of a packed, raucous house, the men in Red, White and Blue returned to the ice after the second break, ready to wrap up the game. Andres Lindgren scored twice in quick succession, and Max Finley finalized it for the United States, 7-3. Overall, the Gintoli brothers combined for 4 assists.

As the sun set on Chiavenna, the world watched as the Americans were presented with their hard-earned Gold medals. Only ten days earlier, the team landed into Milan with only one goal in mind—Deaflympic Gold. Goal accomplished—they return home to America today, weighing down their plane with golden hardware.





(The USA Deaf Chess Team plays against Germany on Friday, Dec. 19, 2019 in Chiavenna, Italy. Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

USA Deaf Chess

USA Deaf Chess turned in a very respectable performance in their first-ever Deaflympics appearance. The 2019 Winter Deaflympics marked the debut of Chess as a sport. The team was composed of Byron Bridges, Abraham Glasser, Oscar Petrov, Branton Stewart, and was coached by Dan DeLuca. The chess competition featured two sections: Individual Blitz (Game in 3 minutes plus 2 seconds on each move) and Team Standard (Game in 90 minutes plus 30 seconds on each move). USA Deaf Chess scored 14.5 points in 33 games of Blitz chess and 16.5 points in 36 games of Standard chess. Although USA Deaf Chess did not medal, the players gained valuable experience playing internationally titled players from around the world and we look forward to building an even stronger team in the years to come. Thanks to all team members, coaches, and USADSF staff for making the 2019 Winter Deaflympics a great experience for all.

USA Deaf Curling

USA Deaf Curling completed their 2019 Winter Deaflympics run with a record of 5-6. Coached by Joey Bata, the team is made up of Herman Fuechtmann, John Knetzger, Keith Mischo, David Nathanson, and Calvin Rausch. The 8th place ranking out of 12 teams was not indicative of how the team played. Had we won our last game we would have been tied for 4th place with 3 other teams but would have lost in the head to head tiebreaker to qualify for the medal round. This shows how evenly matched the teams were in the competition. A highlight of the whole competition was defeating Canada for the first time in five tries. This told us that we have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. Coach Bata was key in our success, and taught us different techniques and strategies that applied to the games and allowed us to be competitive in all the games we played in. Coach Bata was the difference maker for USA Deaf Curling in the Deaflympics.



USA Deaf Curling plays against Hungary during the 19th Winter Deaflympics on Wednesday Dec 18, 2019 in Madesimo, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)



(Christopher Smith reacts as he passes the finish line on Saturday Dec. 14, in Santa Caterina, Italy. Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

USA Deaf Cross Country (XC) Skiing

Christopher Smith served as the United States' lone representative in Cross Country (XC) skiing. He participated in the Classic XC Sprint, finishing in the top 20; as well as the 5k Sprint Classic. He trained hard and represented the United States to the best of his ability.



Team USA's Garrett Gintoli drives the puck during the Gold Medal game against Canada in the 19th Winter Deaflympics on Saturday Dec 21, 2019 in Chiavenna, Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

USA Deaf Hockey

After leaving New York on December 7th, the USA Deaf Hockey team, numbering 23 strong, got into Milan on December 8th for 3 days of training. Included were a guided cultural tour of the city on the 8th and an exhibition game on the 10th against a local junior team which we won handily. Training started in Chiavenna on the 11th until our first game on the 13th against Finland, which the United States won 6-2. On the 15th we beat Kazakhstan 14-0 and went on to win 7-3 over Russia on the 17th. "We are blessed with a fine group of young men both on and off the ice. The level of professionalism exhibited by both players and staff has been remarkable." After completing round robin play with a 1-4 loss to Canada, we regrouped the following day to defeat them, 7-3 for the Gold! We came to Italy with the intention of winning Gold, and we have done what it takes to get there.

USA Deaf Skiing

The skiing team made a splash in Italy—sending three rookie skiers to begin their Deaflympic careers. The United States has not seen such excitement in this arena for quite a while. The 2019 Winter Deaflympics kicked off with the downhill alpine ski race. Jake Wollan and Witt Willams caught the world's attention, finishing in 7th and 12th place. The downhill race followed, and rookie Alpine skier Artem Novoselov made his home state of New Jersey proud. All three skiers participated in the Giant Slalom and Slalom races too, gaining race experience under their belts. The future is bright for the trio. The ski team is fortunate to have the guidance of experienced coaches Tal Willams and Anders Wollan.



U.S. skier Artem Novoselov during the Super G race on Sunday Dec. 15, 2019 in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Province of Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

USA Deaf Snowboarding

In alpine snowboarding, the Parallel Giant Slalom and Parallel Slalom races saw Jeff Pollock finish in 9th and 8th place, respectively. The freestyle team dominated the competition with 5 medals. Sean Esson and Lauren Weibert won double Golds in the Snowboard Slopestyle. The very next day, they were on the medal podium again for the Big Air competition. Esson took Bronze for the men, while Weibert took Silver for the women. Lauren Benedict Mowl took Bronze. Hannah Wheatcroft rode strong in her first international competition, taking 4th in the Big Air. Eric Cohen withdrew from both events after sustaining a knee injury during practice. He was, however, the epitome of USA Team spirit during the competitions, leading the cheers for all. The ski and snowboard teams leave Italy with an inseparable bond and a lifetime of memories.



Lauren Benedict Mowl flies into the sky as she races in Big Air Competition on Dec. 19, 2019 during the 19th Winter Deaflympics in Chiesa in Valmalenco.



(Top to bottom and left to right, Sarah Gordon, Callie Frye, Alex Abenchuchan, Stacy Nowak, Toj Mora, Hugh Carey, and Amelia Hamilton)

And That's a Wrap.

Stacy Nowak

The last two weeks has revolutionized what “media” means for the USA Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF) and deaf sports in America. USADSF broke unprecedented ground; delivering the news in six different ways—in English (our daily Newsletter), in ASL (The Daily Moth USADSF segments), on Instagram (Stories, Posts and Live), on Twitter, on Facebook, and on the USADSF website. We reached thousands of people all over the world and gave families, friends and fans back home in the United States the chance to see our American athletes in their Deaflympic glory. None of this would have come to be if not for the USADSF Media Team.

It started with the “OG” crew—Amelia and Hugh. These two have redefined what “photographers” mean for me. Their pictures are simply epic. Every picture they took told a story. Hugh went to extremes day in and day out for the perfect picture, and it showed. Amelia was my right hand, my left hand, and everything in between. The Daily Newsletter is her masterpiece, multiplied by ten. Thank you.

It continued with The Daily Moth team—Alex, Callie, Toj and Sarah. Alex and his dreams have changed how deaf people deliver the news. Callie captured the hearts of viewers all over the world with her reporting. Toj hit the videocameras and editing screens 24/7, and Sarah of All Trades did what we needed, always with grace and an eagle eye. Thank you.

Jon Mowl arrived in Italy, asked “What can I do?”, and jumped in seamlessly. I’m glad you’re not on our next media team, Mowl. We’ll cover you, hard. Thank you.

The “Behind The Scenes” crew of Jeff Wolfe and Jeff Mansfield worked tirelessly to sync all our media channels. They might not have been “present,” but none of this would have happened without their long hours, dedication, support, patience, and technological savvy. Thank you.

The USADSF Board and Home Office- Danny, Tiffany, Liza, Jeff M., Mark, Jim, Jeff W., and Sue trusted me, gave me free rein, and let my team run with it. The results speak for themselves. Thank you.

Last but not least, the USA athletes who represented America at the 2019 Winter Deaflympics are the reason we are here. Each and every one of you inspires us to no end. The 6 medals we bring home to America are a testament to your commitment and dedication to your sports. Thank you.

And to think...this is just the beginning. We’ll see you in Brazil, 2021.



ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Every day, USADSF celebrates a USA Deaflympic star. For December 21, the star is USA Deaf Hockey goalie Jeff Mansfield, who backstopped the United States to Deaflympic Gold in dramatic fashion, literally and figuratively closing down the 2019 Winter Deaflympics.

Jeff, by way of Arlington, Massachusetts, is a 3-time Deaflympian, with several medals to his credit—the most memorable one coming in the 2007 Deaflympics, where he led the Americans to Gold with a 4-0-0 record. Named the 2004-2005 USA Hockey Disabled Player of the Year, Mansfield played at Princeton University (NCAA D-1) and overseas in Denmark and New Zealand.

In these Games, Jeff has rightfully earned the title of “Terminator” for dramatic and acrobatic termination of pucks and other teams’ medal hopes. In the Final, he made 27 saves against a strong Canadian squad. When the clock reached 0:00, and all was said and done, the United States piled up on and practically crushed their world-class goalie onto the ice in celebration—after all, he’d carried them on his goalie pads throughout the Games. Keep on terminating, Jeff!

A graphic for the USA Deaflympics. It features a stylized American flag in the background. The text is arranged in a vertical stack: 'Top Moments of the' in a black serif font, 'USA' in a large, bold, red and blue serif font, 'in the' in a black serif font, '19th Winter' in a black serif font, and 'Deaflympics' in a large, bold, black serif font.

Top Moments of the USA in the 19th Winter Deaflympics



