



# Great Conditions Extends Ski Season **FUN**

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National Safety Week**

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at World Champs**

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# PA Ski Areas Support National Safety Week



**Seven Springs Mountain Resort**

*by PSSA & NSAA*

White Haven, PA - Previous years' National Safety Week has now become National Safety Month! The month of January will be dedicated to an entire month of safety. Many resorts in Pennsylvania and across the country participate every year to educate skiers and snowboarders about being safe, and to use common sense on the slopes.

National Safety Month includes a poster drawing contest, a photo contest, and participating resorts, many in Pennsylvania, compete for safety awards. Each PA resort supports Safety Month in different ways by creating new and exciting initiatives on their mountain. Details about the national contest can be seen at <http://www.nsa.org/safety-programs/national-safety-month/>.

Blue Mountain in Palmerton, PA is promoting this month by conducting a Safety Video contest! The video that most effectively includes Smart Style Tips, Skier & Rider Responsibility Codes of Conduct and/or "what not to do on the slopes" tips will win season passes and lift tickets.

Liberty Mountain Resort has a host of initiatives to encourage safety during this time! Weekends in January, if skiers and riders visit the Ski Patrol at the "Chill Station" on top of the mountain and recite the Responsibility Code, they get a free hot chocolate or lemonade! January 26-30th, kids ages 12 and under can enter the Safety Week coloring contest. Two winners will be chosen to win a free helmet. Visit their website for more details <http://www.libertymountainresort.com>

Visitors to Seven Springs Mountain Resort's & Hidden Valley Resort's Snow Report will see a safety tips included with the usual report. Visit their websites at <http://www.7springs.com> and <http://www.hiddenvalleyresort.com/>.

You may be wondering, how can PA skiers



**Liberty Mountain**

and riders be safe on the slopes? Three main areas to focus on are terrain parks, helmets and lifts. Terrain parks offer exciting tricks and daring displays, but it's important to be safe and considerate!

Practice the S.M.A.R.T Style Program:

START SMALL - Work your way up. Build your skills.

MAKE A PLAN - Every feature. Every time.

ALWAYS LOOK - Before you drop.

RESPECT - The features and other users.

TAKE IT EASY - Know your limits. Land on your feet.

Please visit the [www.TerrainParkSafety.org](http://www.TerrainParkSafety.org) for a more comprehensive look at the Smart Style program.

The NSAA (National Ski Areas Association) also promotes the use of helmets on the slopes. They urge skiers and riders to wear a helmet - but to ski or ride as if they are not wearing a helmet. NSAA views skiing and snowboarding in a controlled and responsible manner - not helmets only - as the primary safety consideration for all skiers and boarders. A skier's behavior has as much or more to do with the safety of the sport as does any piece of equipment. Visit [LidsonKids.org](http://LidsonKids.org) for more details.

In 2012, the website [www.kidsonlifts.org/](http://www.kidsonlifts.org/) and the initiative as a whole debuted around the country to resorts and consumers. This site contains FAQ's and safety tips on how to load, ride and unload responsibly, general skiing and riding tips, coloring pages for kids, public service announcements and more. The tagline "No Horsing Around" is a motto we hope to ingrain in not only children but every skier and boarder.

Safety first, PA. When you take to the slopes this month, remember to take extra care to be safe! It really means more fun.



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# Ligety Wins Gold at World Champs



Ted Ligety skis to Gold at FIS alpine World Championship. (Getty Images)



Ted Ligety skis first run, finishing in fifth place, before taking the overall win. (Getty Images-Agence Zoom/Christophe Pallot)

**VAIL/BEAVER CREEK, CO** (Feb. —With only a few days left in the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, spring-like temperatures and a slick, fast course made for a men's giant slalom to remember. When it was all said and done, Ted Ligety (Park City, UT) won the event in historic and thrilling fashion in front of the home crowd. Rounding out the giant slalom podium were Austria's Marcel Hirscher and France's Alexis Pinturault in second and third, respectively.

The GS at the World Championships is known as the most technical of all the disciplines, and this year's event was rife with drama. Prior to Friday morning's first run, experts were calling this a three-man race. Giant slalom is Ligety's specialty and he has dominated it for more than half a decade, but Hirscher and Pinturault had joined Ligety as odds-on favorites to compete for the GS gold medal.

Despite Ligety's indisputable supremacy in giant slalom for years, Hirscher came into the World Championships hot and ranked number one in the World Cup standings—having won four GS races this year to Ligety's one victory. And after first run, Hirscher was sitting pretty, having laid down a first-place gem that gave the remaining 100 skiers a time to shoot for.

Ligety, or America's "Mr. GS," wore bib number 6, and finished 0.24 off Hirscher's time with a more cautious first run. He railed turns up high, but got stuck on a low line towards the bottom of the run, scrubbing speed. But, Ligety went into the second run in the afternoon with Hirscher in his sights.

"Conditions are great, and the course is in great shape. So, we'll see," said Ligety in between runs. "There are five guys within 24 hundredths of a second, so it'll be a tight one next run."

The second run began with temperatures hovering in the mid-40s. The warm weather made for a softer, more rip-able track than the slick morning surface. With nine competitors within a second of Marcel Hirscher, the GS title was up for grabs.

The level of skiing was off-the-charts throughout the second runs of giant slalom, including great runs by Americans Tim Jitloff (Reno, NV), David Chodousky (Crested Butte, CO), Brennan Rubie (Salt Lake City, UT), and Tommy Ford (Bend, OR).

The excitement amped up in Red Tail Stadium as soon as Ligety's start

neared. And as it was a turnier course than the morning, it was a perfect course for him to shred. The pressure was on to perform in front of thousands of American fans in the finish stadium and lining the course.

Ligety stepped up and showed that he still is the best giant slalom skier in the world. The American skied fluidly through his second run. Railing turns on-edge, he milked speed out of every transition and put together a perfect run. As he crossed the finish line, Ligety's time was 1.23 seconds ahead of the field. The crowd went wild and Ligety pumped his fists, but four of the best GS skiers in the world were still to ski.

Pinturault followed Ligety down the course, skiing well but ending 0.88 slower than Ligety to take third place. Hirscher, the last skier to compete after his first run win, put together another solid attempt on his second run. But in the end, Ligety's time was 0.45 seconds faster than his Austrian rival and Ligety yelled in celebration, javelining his skis through the finish.

In winning the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships' giant slalom at Vail/Beaver Creek, Ligety earned his fifth consecutive GS win in a row on the fabled Birds of Prey terrain and became the first man ever to win three World Championships GS races in a row.

"It's hard to rank them, but this win is a little more emotional than some of the other ones just because this year has been a little more of a struggle," said Ligety, of his Birds of Prey domination. "To be able to come through and pull it off is awesome."

All of the U.S. men finished in the top 30. Tim Jitloff broke into the top 10 with a ninth place result. Tommy Ford, who had to sit out the entire 2014 Olympic season to recover from a freeskiing crash in 2013, took 19th. Brennan Rubie was 26th, his second ever World Cup-level finish, and David Chodousky was 29th.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Today's gold medal was Ligety's seventh World Championship medal.
- This is Ligety's fifth consecutive win in GS at Beaver Creek.
- Ligety has won the overall World Cup GS title five times—'08, '10, '11, '13, '14.

*Ligety Wins Gold* continued on page 11



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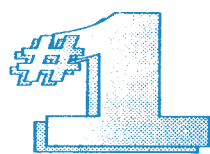


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# Shiffrin Defends Slalom Title



Mikaela Shiffrin looks up at the American flag after her World Championships slalom victory at home in Vail. (Getty Images/AFP-Fabrice Coffrini).



Mikaela Shiffrin claims Slalom Title in FIS Ski World Championship in Beaver Creek Shiffrin in action - (Getty Images/Agence Zoom-Alexis Boichard)

**VAIL-BEAVER CREEK, Colorado** – Saturday’s slalom marked the last day of World Championships action for the ladies and it couldn’t have been a sweeter ending for the American fans as Mikaela Shiffrin laid out a stunning performance and successfully defended her 2012 World Championships title.

In the first run, on a rhythmic course set by Norwegian coach Tim Gfeller, Mikaela Shiffrin made it clear she was here to defend her Schladming gold medal. The American laid down a strong run, finishing just below half a second ahead of Frida Hansdotter and Sarka Strachova who sat in second and third place.

In the second run, the ladies fought hard to hold on to their positions but Shiffrin managed to do so while keeping everyone on their toes during her run. The young Olympic and now two times World Champion lost all of her lead between the start and the first intermediate, made up only 0.01 of the lost time by the second but managed to crush the bottom section of the slope to finish 0.34 seconds ahead of Frida Hansdotter who finished second and 0.77 seconds ahead of Sarka Strachova.

**Quote: Mikaela Shiffrin**

"It was a tough competition, especially in the second," said Shiffrin. "The course was faster and everybody wanted it. I am really happy to come on top but I really had to give it all out in the very end."

"I was saving energy for the last section, because I knew that a couple girls had struggled in the bottom, right onto the flats, and that's normally where I can carry my speed," she explained. "That was my focus of the course. It's not always easy to charge the whole way."

Mikaela Shiffrin became then the third woman to win the Slalom world title in back-to-back World Championships following Janica Kostelic (2003 and 2005) and Christel Cranz (1937, 1938, 1939).

Hansdotter, who had finished third in 2013 equalled compatriots Anja Parson and Pernilla Wiberg who both won two World Championships Slalom medals, most of all Swedish women.

**Frida Hansdotter**

"I have had an amazing season and I am super happy with this silver medal. Mikaela was hard to beat today and it must have been amazing for her to win in front of her home crowd so I am thrilled for both of us," a very happy Hansdotter said after her run.

**Sarka Strachova**

Sarka Strachova already owns a full set of World Championships slalom medals - a bronze from Santa Caterina in 2005, a gold one from Are in 2007 and a silver medal from Val d'Isere in 2009 but today's bronze almost seemed to be the sweetest one for the Czech skier as it came after a few years marked by team changes and illness.

"It's amazing! It was already amazing when I got a second place in Kuthai at the end of last

year, but to win a medal here, the fifth 'big one' for me is special. I worked so hard for it and this third place is like a gold for me," Strachova said after the race.

After finishing only 10th in the 1st run, Veronika Velez-Zuzulova took full advantage of the course set by her father but despite clocking the fastest time of the second run she missed the bronze medal by a mere 0.17 seconds and finished 4th.

"In the first run I didn't ski so well, I struggled in the first run so I was ready to do a big second run and I think I managed to do so. It sadly was not enough for a medal but there are still three races left this season and I will try to get the most out of them," Velez-Zuzulova said.

**VAIL-BEAVER CREEK, Colorado FIS World Ski Championships 2015  
FIS World Ski Championships - Ladies' Slalom**

	Nation	1 <sup>st</sup> Run	2 <sup>nd</sup> Run	Total Time
<b>SHIFFRIN Mikaela</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>50.07</b>	<b>48.41</b>	<b>1:38.48</b>
HANSDOTTER Frida	SWE	50.47	48.35	1:38.82
STRACHOVA Sarka	CZE	50.51	48.74	1:39.25
VELEZ ZUZULOVA Veronika	SVK	51.25	48.17	1:39.42
ZETTEL Kathrin	AUT	51.10	48.40	1:39.50
MIELZYNSKI Erin	CAN	50.94	49.04	1:39.98
THALMANN Carmen	AUT	51.01	49.51	1:40.52
MAZE Tina	SLO	50.92	50.04	1:40.96
NOENS Nastasia	FRA	52.20	48.97	1:41.17
GAGNON Marie-Michele	CAN	51.62	49.79	1:41.41
LOESETH Nina	NOR	51.50	49.93	1:41.43
WIESLER Maren	GER	51.91	49.61	1:41.52
DUERR Lena	GER	52.16	49.38	1:41.54
PIETILAE-HOLMNER Maria	SWE	52.20	49.47	1:41.67
CHABLE Charlotte	SUI	52.72	49.01	1:41.73
COSTAZZA Chiara	ITA	52.41	49.50	1:41.91
MOUGEL Laurie	FRA	52.38	49.65	1:42.03
HASEGAWA Emi	JPN	52.65	49.48	1:42.13
BRIGNONE Federica	ITA	52.90	49.29	1:42.19
MOLTZAN Paula	USA	53.04	49.18	1:42.22



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# Shiffrin Wins in Maribor Rain



Shiffrin celebrates her Maribor win. (Getty Images/Agence Zoom-Christophe Pallot)



Mikaela Shiffrin skis two perfect runs to win the Maribor slalom by over a second. (Getty Images/Agence Zoom-Christophe Pallot)

MARIBOR, Slovenia (Feb. 22, 2015)—Through rain and soft snow in Maribor, Mikaela Shiffrin (Vail, CO) had two flawless slalom runs at the Audi FIS Alpine World Cup, never giving up first place. Shiffrin took the win by more than a second over Veronika Velez Zuzulova of Slovakia and Sarka Strachova of the Czech Republic.

After a smoking first run on the salted course, Shiffrin built a strong .68 second lead, giving her a comfortable first place cushion coming into second run. The cheers and cowbells were loud from the crowd, second only to the screams for hometown hero Tina Maze, who finished in a disappointing DNF.

But with the tricky conditions, Shiffrin warned that starting 30th second run could be a disadvantage. “I think it will be a bit rough,” said Shiffrin after her upcoming second run. “Especially running 30th, I’ll have to ski very athletic... I like the smooth courses, so I have to be tough.”

Shiffrin’s caveat was futile. The second run was tricky, forcing athletes to be strong through a turny section that tripped up many, but Shiffrin made it look easy the entire way down the hill. Shiffrin—who has purposefully been training on rutted, soft courses throughout the season—took the win handily by 1.02 seconds, finishing with a huge smile.

The women’s tech team now has some time off, next heading to Are, Sweden on March 13. The speed team will be in Bansko, Bulgaria on Friday.

**Highlights:**

- This was Mikaela Shiffrin’s first slalom back on the World Cup after winning slalom gold at World Championships.
- This race moved Shiffrin to first place in the overall slalom hunt, 30 points ahead of Frida Hansdotter of Sweden, who finished ninth in the Maribor slalom.
- Shiffrin is now focused on retaining the crystal globe in slalom, which she won in 2013 and 2014. No one has won it more than two years in a row in 20 years.
- Tina Maze took the win at the 2013 World Cup slalom in Maribor, Slovenia. Mikaela Shiffrin was eighth.

**Quotes: Mikaela Shiffrin**

I like skiing in the rain! It doesn’t bother me too much. I felt like I really had to attack. I feel best after my races when I try to put two really good runs down and each run is better than the last. But I knew that I did have a little bit of time and had to be smart and not go crazy. My overall goal is to get the globe this season. I think I was a little bit smart second run, but also was still pushing it. I can be proud of the overall effort.

It’s incredible to have a really good two races here and to win the golden fox. That was really special today. Hopefully I can keep going and get a little bit better with my GS.

It was nice that these races were very quick after Beaver Creek. I can keep that focus and the mindset. Now we have a little break before Are and I can take a step back, relax, focus a little bit and try to see what else I can improve. We only have two more race series after this. I’m excited for the rest of the season.

The slalom globe is very close to my heart. It is really my entrance into the World Cup circuit and having success in my career. My first real success was winning the slalom globe. I really hope I can hang on to this [lead] for the rest of the season. But, I’m not really far ahead with World Cup points. I have to do a really good job the last two races and really fight for it. I know that Frida will be really going for it and I just have to do a good job. It does mean a lot to me. I hope I can also stay close to the GS globe, which is a goal for the future.

**Maribor, Slovenia, FIS World Cup - Ladies' Slalom**

	Nation	Run 1	Run 2	Total Time
<b>SHIFFRIN Mikaela</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>48.58</b>	<b>50.54</b>	<b>1:39.12</b>
VELEZ ZUZULOVA Veronika	SVK	49.90	50.25	1:40.15
STRACHOVA Sarka	CZE	49.26	50.91	1:40.17
LOESETH Nina	NOR	50.14	50.15	1:40.29
DUERR Lena	GER	49.91	50.43	1:40.34
HOLDENER Wendy	SUI	50.33	50.04	1:40.37
ZETTEL Kathrin	AUT	50.59	49.86	1:40.45
SCHILD Bernadette	AUT	49.46	51.06	1:40.52
HANSDOTTER Frida	SWE	49.50	51.17	1:40.67
SAEFVENBERG Charlotta	SWE	50.78	50.06	1:40.84
CHABLE Charlotte	SUI	50.61	50.48	1:41.09
WIESLER Maren	GER	50.03	51.08	1:41.11
MIELZYNSKI Erin	CAN	49.39	51.76	1:41.15
CURTONI Irene	ITA	51.03	50.13	1:41.16
MOUGEL Laurie	FRA	50.69	50.54	1:41.23
COSTAZZA Chiara	ITA	49.84	51.44	1:41.28
WIKSTROEM Emelie	SWE	50.72	50.73	1:41.45
BARTHET Anne-Sophie	FRA	51.17	50.32	1:41.49
MOELGG Manuela	ITA	51.14	50.36	1:41.50
PIETILAE-HOLMNER Maria	SWE	50.39	51.23	1:41.62

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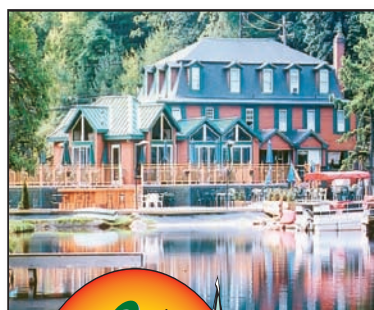
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**Ligety Wins Gold** from page 5

- Back in December, Ligety crushed Birds of Prey with an impressive come-from-behind win ahead of Pinturault and Hirscher.
- Ligety won an unprecedented three gold medals at the last World Championships in Schladming, Austria, a feat that ski racing hadn't seen for 45 years.
- Next up, the women race slalom on Friday, headlined by Mikaela Shiffrin.

**Quotes: Ted Ligety**

It's an arc-er's show. You have to be really clean on that edge all the way down. I love racing in the U.S. It's a real anomaly for us to race in the United States. We're always in Europe, so just having that extra comfort level of being closer to home and having the friends and family supporting you here is huge.

It's hard to rank them, but this win is a little more emotional than some of the other ones just because this year has been a little more of a struggle. In 2013, I was winning everything, so I felt like I should have it really easily. Same with the Olympics. I was skiing great before that and knew I should be able to win it. This one was a bigger question mark as far as how I was skiing and how I could handle it. To be able to come through and pull it off is awesome. A good rhythm going and risk it the whole time. It was a wild ride and I lost time here and there.

**Tim Jitloff**

It was a solid day. I think it's been consistent with my results all season. I definitely wanted a little more out of that second run. Unfortunately I just had a few little things that slowed me down and I couldn't come in with a green light today. But I put up a good effort. I'm proud that Ted was able to do it today; it's awesome. It's great for the people here. They've been waiting for it and it's something that I aspire to. With how I've been skiing and my results,

I'm hoping at some point I will be joining him on the podium here.

I'm proud to be here, proud to be an American and skiing in front of the home crowd. I had a great time.

**Vail/Beaver Creek, USA FIS Alpine World Ski Championships 2015  
MENS GIANT SLALOM**

	Nation	Run #1	Run #2	Total Time
<b>LIGETY Ted</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>1:15.42</b>	<b>1:18.74</b>	<b>2:34.16</b>
HIRSCHER Marcel	AUT	1:15.18	1:19.43	2:34.61
PINTURAUULT Alexis	FRA	1:15.41	1:19.63	2:35.04
NEUREUTHER Felix	GER	1:15.41	1:19.85	2:35.26
OLSSON Matts	SWE	1:15.66	1:19.73	2:35.39
NANI Roberto	ITA	1:15.36	1:20.21	2:35.57
MUFFAT-JEANDET Victor	FRA	1:16.00	1:19.71	2:35.71
EISATH Florian	ITA	1:16.64	1:19.29	2:35.93
JITLOFF Tim	USA	1:15.79	1:20.25	2:36.04
SCHOERGHOFFER Philipp	AUT	1:15.85	1:20.43	2:36.28
JANKA Carlo	SUI	1:16.36	1:20.03	2:36.39
COOK Dustin	CAN	1:16.60	1:19.82	2:36.42
KRISTOFFERSEN Henrik	NOR	1:15.98	1:20.61	2:36.59
SANDELL Marcus	FIN	1:16.18	1:20.71	2:36.89
DOPFER Fritz	GER	1:16.59	1:20.42	2:37.01
ZUBCIC Filip	CRO	1:16.34	1:20.68	2:37.02
SIMONCELLI Davide	ITA	1:16.32	1:20.73	2:37.05
PHILP Trevor	CAN	1:17.62	1:19.79	2:37.41
FORD Tommy	USA	1:17.41	1:20.21	2:37.62
LUITZ Stefan	GER	1:16.42	1:21.41	2:37.83

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# Historic Big Air Win for USA Teen



Teenager Ty Walker beams with pride as she celebrates her historic win in the Istanbul big air World Cup Saturday night. (Getty Images/AFP)

Over 10,000 fans packed the stadium in Istanbul for the first-ever World Cup in Turkey. (FIS Snowboarding)

ISTANBUL, Turkey (Dec. 20, 2104) - In front of a packed house at Istanbul's Technical University Stadium, U.S. Snowboarding's Ty Walker (Stowe, VT) walked away with her first FIS World Cup win and became the first women ever to win an FIS Snowboard Big Air World Cup. The event snowcased big air snowboarding, which is being considered for the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang.

Walker, who earned \$17,000 for the win, landed both backside and frontside 720s for a combined score of 156.5 points besting Swiss Sina Candrian and The Netherlands' Cheryl Maas.

Just 17 years old, Walker was one of the youngest Olympians in Sochi, qualifying for slopestyle snowboarding. She attends the USSA TEAM Academy in Park City, where she's an 'A' student and on track to graduate from high school this spring.

"Before the last jump I was going crazy at the top," said the teen rider. "I knew I had the trick but I was nervous and I just kept telling myself, 'I always land my runs in Turkey, I always land my runs in Turkey.' I was just super positive, trying to get myself stoked. Such a crazy event to do well - great atmosphere, best crowd, best trip ever!"

For the men, U.S. Snowboarding slopestyle team member Brandon Davis (Mammoth Lakes, CA) landed a Cab 1260 Melon and a BS 1080 Double Cork Nose to Tail Double Grab for a combined score of 179.50 earning him his first FIS World Cup podium in third just behind Swiss up-and-comer Jonas Boesiger and the night's winner Seppe Smits of Belgium who landed an impressive Cab 1260 Double Cork Indy and Backside 1080 Double Cork Nose taking home his second FIS World Cup win.

The event was a showcase developed by FIS to bring big air to a major global city. "Istanbul put on such a spectacular big air event this weekend," said U.S. Snowboarding Head Coach Mike Jankowski. "The jump was safe and fun for all the riders. The Turkish people were very welcoming. And for Ty and Brandon to land on the podium made it all the sweeter."

"We are eager to compete in more city big air events and are hopeful that the 2018 Olympics will add this exciting event to the program."

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- First FIS World Cup win for Walker and first FIS podium for Davis
- First World Cup in Turkey, held in a university stadium in the historic city on the crossroads between Asia and Europe.
- Big air snowboarding is being considered for inclusion in the 2018

- Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang.
- Ty Walker Tricks: Backside 720 Tail and Frontside 720
- Seppe Smits Tricks: Cab 1260 Double Cork Indy and Backside 1080 Double Cork Nose
- Brandon Davis Tricks: Cab 1260 Melon and Backside 1080 Double Cork Nose to Tail Double Grab

**Quote:**

**Ty Walker, FIS Snowboard Big Air World Cup Winner**

Before the last jump I was going crazy at the top. I knew I had the trick but I was nervous and I just kept telling myself 'I always land my runs in Turkey, I always land my runs in Turkey.' I was just super positive, trying to get myself stoked. I was nervous, for sure, but I just kept thinking 'you know what it feels like to land a perfect front 720.' Luckily I landed one, I don't know if it was perfect, but I landed one and was so pumped. Such a crazy event to do well, great atmosphere, best crowd, best trip ever!

It's crazy, at one point I was like, 'Whoa, I just one a World Cup.' It's crazy. It's hard taking it all in but I'm just so happy to have put down the runs that I wanted and the tricks that I wanted to land.

**Mike Jankowski, U.S. Snowboarding Head Coach**

Istanbul put on such a spectacular big air event this weekend. The jump was safe and fun for all the riders. The Turkish people were very welcoming. And for Ty and Brandon to land on the podium made it all the sweeter. We are eager to compete in more city big air events and are hopeful that the 2018 Olympics will add this exciting event to the program.

**FIS SNOWBOARD WORLD CUP 2015 Women's Big-Air Final**

	NATION	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Best
<b>WALKER Ty</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>85.50</b>	<b>JNS</b>	<b>71.00</b>	<b>156.50</b>
CANDRIAN Sina	SUI	JNS	88.75	67.00	155.75
MAAS Cheryl	NED	88.50	65.75	JNS	154.25
KOENZ Elena	SUI	61.25	JNS	85.75	147.00
SMANS Loranne	BEL	58.00	JNS	28.25	86.25
PRIBOSIC Urška	SLO	27.00	JNS	15.00	42.00

  
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# Danny Davis Wins 2nd Straight X Games Gold



Style wins: X Games 2015 men's superpipe story and gallery.  
(Getty Images-Cameron Spencer)

ASPEN, CO (Jan. 22, 2015)—There was no lack of drama in the X Games men's superpipe final on Thursday night in Aspen, Colorado with the defending X Games gold medalist pitted against a reigning Olympic gold medalist and a 15-time X Games champion. The result? Danny Davis (Truckee, CA) won his second straight superpipe gold medal at X Games in Aspen.

Davis, Switzerland's Iouri Podladtchikov, and Shaun White (Calrsbad, CA) headlined the eight-man finals showdown in Buttermilk's halfpipe. And this year in Aspen, the halfpipe was primed and athletes were excited about the quality of the venue.

"This is by far my favorite halfpipe of any X Games," says White. "They did a great job with getting the halfpipe ready."

Early Thursday evening, a field of 16 snowboarders was paired down to eight during a tense and entertaining superpipe elimination round. Riders used their best score of two runs in the elimination.

Then, under bright lights, with cameras pointed at them, and in front of thousands of screaming fans lining the halfpipe's walls and cheering from the bullpen at the bottom of the venue, the eight world-class snowboarders put on a clinic during the superpipe final.

Just like last year, Davis displayed a technical approach to halfpipe riding that the X Games judges rewarded with a score of 93.66, enough to solidify his second consecutive gold medal in X Games superpipe. While he put down different tricks and stomped all three of his runs in the finals, Davis still needed his third attempt down the halfpipe to win another gold medal.

"Before I dropped in [on my third run of the finals] I was just thinking that I needed to land a solid one because the first two had their glitches," said Davis. "I landed three different runs in the finals. It's hard for me to do the same run just because of boredom."

The run that earned Davis his hardware included a nose-grab backside 720 to a stylish and vintage Danny Davis switch method, followed immediately by a cab 1080 and a perfect frontside 1080 double cork on his last hit. In addition to winning the gold medal, Davis's last run also bumped legendary White off the podium. The silver and bronze X Games medals in superpipe were awarded to Japan's Taku Hiraoka and Podladtchikov, respectively.

"This win was unexpected because I haven't ridden much halfpipe this season," said Davis. "But it started to feel like I was getting into a flow towards the end of qualis and then I had a lot of fun."

Next up, the men take on the snowboard big air final on Friday night at 10:30 p.m. EST.



Danny Davis competes in final run of mens snowboard superpipe final at Winter X Games in Aspen, Colorado. (Photo by Daniel Petty/The Denver Post via Getty Images)

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Davis took the halfpipe win while riding on a cambered snowboard due to the firm, cold conditions in the halfpipe.
- White has won 23 X Games medals since he first competed at X Games in 2002 (15 gold, five silver, and three bronze). He finished fourth overall.
- After his win in the halfpipe, Davis has been a trending topic on Twitter.
- Davis spent the most time taking practice runs in the halfpipe prior to Thursday's competition because he had not ridden the halfpipe at all recently, having spent time riding powder in Japan to prepare for X Games.
- Brothers Ben and Gabe Ferguson (Bend, OR), ages 20 and 15 respectively, both displayed crowd-pleasing approaches to halfpipe snowboarding. Gabe Ferguson took eighth overall.

## Quote:

### Danny Davis, X Games superpipe gold medalist

This win was unexpected because I haven't ridden much halfpipe this year. I was in Japan before this, but after I landed my second run in qualis it started to feel like I was getting into a flow. The judging is tough these days, and I feel for all of us when we're going to do our runs. You look at Taylor Gold's (Steamboat Springs, CO) run and it was a pretty darn good run that he's won two contests with, but it didn't happen today.

## MEN'S SNOWBOARD SUPER PIPE FINAL

	Run 1	Run 2	Run 3	Best
<b>Danny Davis</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>64.33</b>	<b>R93.66</b>	<b>93.66</b>
Taku Hiraoka	84.33	14.33	R92.33	92.33
Iouri Podladtchikov	R89.00	67.66	40.00	89.00
Shaun White	54.00	82.00	62.66	82.00
David Habluetzel	61.00	79.00	62.66	79.00
Ayumu Hirano	R77.66	70.00	24.33	77.66
Yiwei Zhang	40.00	12.00	75.00	75.00
Gabe Ferguson	73.00	30.33	57.00	73.00



## 2015 Mid-Atlantic Series Snowboard and Freeski Schedule

For info on Mid-Atlantic Series please email Rebecca: [rvgsnow@gmail.com](mailto:rvgsnow@gmail.com)

### January 11th & 12th Camelback Mt.

Saturday 11th - Slalom #1 and Slalom #2

Sunday 12th - Giant Slalom #1 and Giant Slalom #2

### January 31st & February 1st Mountain Creek

Saturday 31st - Slopestyle #1

Sunday 1st - Rail Jam #1

### February 7th & 8th Blue Mountain Ski Area

Saturday 7th - BX/SX #1

Sunday 8th - BX/SX #2

### February 21st & 22nd Round Top Mountain Resort - Tentative

Saturday 21st - Slalom #3 and Slalom #4

Sunday 22nd - Giant Slalom #3 and Giant Slalom #4

### February 28th & March 1st Big Boulder Park

Saturday 28th - Slopestyle #2

Sunday 1st - Rail Jam #2

### March 7th & 8th Blue Mountain Ski Area

Saturday 7th - Slopestyle # 3

Sunday 8th - BX/SX #3

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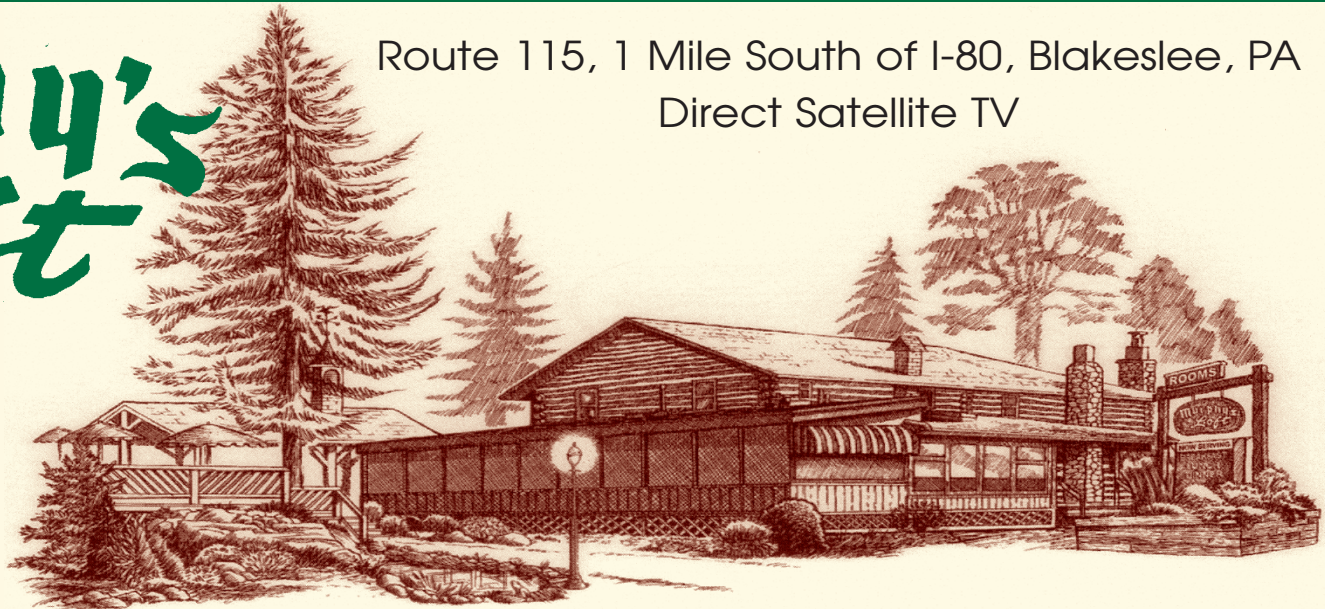


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FIND IT FRIDAY	1/9
PAY IT FORWARD WEEKEND	1/10 - 1/11
MONTAGE MOUNTAIN OPEN RACE SERIES	1/24
GEISINGER ASTHMA SKI DAY	1/25
MONTAGE MOUNTAIN OPEN RACE SERIES	1/25

**February**

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POLAR PLUNGE	2/7
ASRA SKI RACE	2/7
FIND IT FRIDAY	2/13



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