SkiPennsylvania/SkiNortheast

Vol. XXI No. 5 Winter Olympics Edition March 2014



Jamie Anderson Earns 1st Ever Gold in Women's Slopstyle Snowboarding

Ted Ligety Takes Gold in GS

Maddie Bowman Claims 1st Ever Gold in Women's Halfpipe Skiing



Sochi, Russia





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USA Sweeps Slopestyle Debut



Joss Christensen (USA, 34) wins gold, Gus Kenworthy (USA, 8) wins silver, and Nicholas Goepper (USA, 1) wins bronze in the men's ski slopestyle final during the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park.

(Photo: Rob Schumacher, USA TODAY Sports)

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 13) – It was a U.S. podium sweep at the historic debut of men's slopestyle skiing in the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games Thursday, when Joss Christensen (Park City, UT) took the sport's first-ever gold medal with his good friends Gus Kenworthy (Telluride, CO) and Nick Goepper (Lawrenceburg, IN) earning silver and bronze. The new Olympic event saw the tight American crew beat out some of the sport's top athletes, including Great Britain's James Woods and Norway's Andreas Haatveit, and showcased the sport's mix of volatility and creativity to the world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- •It was a U.S. podium sweep at the historic debut of men's slopestyle skiing in the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games Thursday, when Joss Christensen (Park City, UT) took the sport's first-ever gold medal with his good friends Gus Kenworthy (Telluride, CO) and Nick Goepper (Lawrenceburg, IN) earning silver and bronze.
- •The new Olympic event saw the tight American crew pull out the newest and most challenging tricks, dethroning some of the sport's top athletes including Great Britain's James Woods and Norway's Andreas Haatveit. The event also showcased the sport's mix of volatility and creativity to the world.
- •The sport's creative competition comes from the camaraderie between the athletes and their ability to inspire each other with a good run or a new trick. That's especially true with Christensen, Kenworthy and Goepper, who grew up skiing, training and competing together.
- •The boys' podium sweep was the third in Olympic Winter Games history for the USA, after men's figure skating in 1956 and men's halfpipe snowboarding in 2002.
- •Christensen came out of the gates swinging and shot into the top spot after his impressive first run, which earned him an unbeatable score of 95.80.
- •Goepper landed second after his first run score of 92.40, but was forced to settle for bronze after Kenworthy laid down a clutch second run that earned him the silver medal.
- •Bobby Brown (Breckenridge, CO) also qualified for the final and finished seventh.
- •Warm temperatures at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park provided soft, carvable snow and gave the athletes a perfect medium to put down some of the best runs ever seen in the sport. All top three athletes were able to land triple corks in their runs, which many see as the future of slopestyle skiing.
- •Christensen is also good friends with slopestyle snowboarding gold medalist and fellow Park City All Star Sage Kotsenburg. They both grew up shredding the Kings Crown terrain park at Park City Mountain Resort and have remained friends throughout their careers, even cheering each other on during the Sochi 2014 Games.

QUOTES: Joss Christensen

It means a lot to me. I'm just so excited to even make it here. That was huge for me. I just wanted to keep the ball rolling. We've been skiing for so long this year and I just wanted to prove myself and have fun with it for the most part. I'm so happy to be on top with my two really good friends. Go America!

Just competing for the USA is so cool. It's such a different feeling here. We're all representing; we all have outerwear that says USA on it, which is pretty cool. We can be proud to be on this team. It's just so awesome to be out here and I think today was a good showing of our sport, so hopefully the world recognizes how much fun we're having.

Joss Christensen of the United States competes in the Freestyle Skiing Men's Ski Slopestyle Finals during day six of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on February 13, 2014 in Sochi, Russia. Photo by Al Bello

Gus and I hit it off right away. We've been such good friends since we were kids and I feel like we've pushed each other to get where we're at today. Gus has been a huge inspiration to me. I've always been trying to keep up with him and do what he's doing.

The weather was amazing. It was so warm and the perfect conditions for us to have a slopestyle contest. **Gus Kenworthy:** This is all overwhelming. It's been pretty crazy: the feeling of landing that run, knowing it was the best run I've ever done and that I landed it smooth, just waiting for the score, having everyone chanting USA...it was overwhelming.

It's been incredible. I knew the whole time that the USA had the potential to get a sweep. We have so many talented skiers. There are like 12 guys in the top 30 and a lot of them couldn't make it because our team can only have four people maximum.

Joss I've known since I was 12 years old and I'm so happy for him with the win. He skied amazingly. And Nick is always the guy you're looking to at the contest. He's the one to beat. He's so talented. He's so consistent. So it's an honor to be with them. Unfortunately Bobby (Brown) couldn't get on the podium, but he's definitely a medal contender too.

Nick Goepper: It was incredible. To come out on the podium I couldn't be happier. To have a field of 30 or 40 guys and whittle it down to three and to be one of those three on the podium is...I think I just have to sit back and realize how surreal this is. I think it's going to give the U.S. a lot more confidence and it's going to get a lot of people really excited. We couldn't have asked for a better way to debut the sport to the world.

I think today showed everyone in the industry and out in the world that anyone can win in slopestyle on any given day. Everyone is so good and all the runs are changing and getting better every day. The progression is steadily climbing and there's guys bringing out new tricks every day. I think everyone waited to bring the big guns out until the Olympics.

Everyone keeps talking about fun in slopestyle skiing and I think that's what makes it so cool is there such a cool creative element to what we do. It never really gets stale. I think a good comparison is when we're done competing, we go out the next day and for fun we just go skiing. We would hit this same course tomorrow and just work on our own personal style and work on our own flavor on all our different tricks. Say like NFL players, I don't think for fun they go out on an off day and smash into each other.

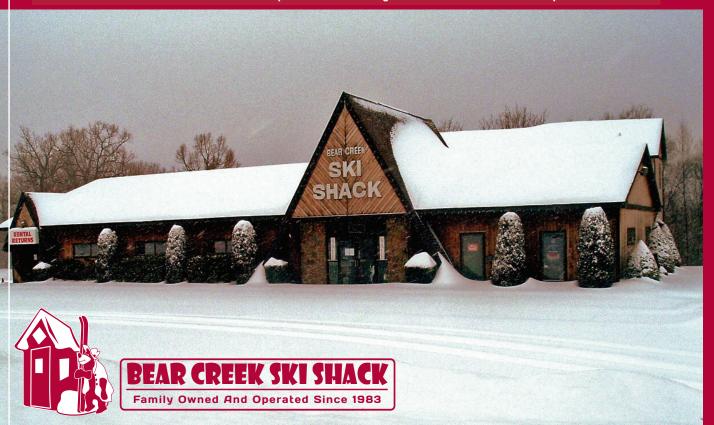
Skogen Sprang, U.S. Freeskiing Head Slopestyle Coach: I'd say this is pretty amazing. I'm still kind of in shock. We don't really talk about that before. The chance was there, but you can't expect it to happen. You just have to do all the steps and the work to get there and then see how it plays out. It's amazing. They did their job, stomped their runs and crushed it.

Men's Slopestyle Skiing Official Results

USA Gold Joss CHRISTENSEN 95.80
USA Silver Gus KENWORTHY 93.60
USA Bronze Nicholas GOEPPER 92.40



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Historic Slalom Gold for Mikaela Shiffrin



Eighteen-year-old Mikaela Shiffrin became the youngest Olympic gold medalist in women's slalom history Friday with her victory under the lights at Rosa Khutor. (Tom Kelly/U.S. Ski Team).



Mikaela Shiffrin turns in the first run of the Women's slalom at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 21) – Eighteen-year-old Mikaela Shiffrin (Eagle-Vail, CO) became the youngest Olympic gold medalist in women's slalom history Friday with her victory under the lights at Rosa Khutor. The World Champion capped off the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games for the women's U.S. Alpine Ski Team with two stunning performances, giving her the first U.S. slalom victory since Phil Mahre in 1984. Marlies Schild and Kathrin Zettel of Austria skied to silver and bronze.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Eighteen-year-old Mikaela Shiffrin (Eagle-Vail, CO) became the youngest Olympic gold medalist in women's slalom history Friday with her victory under the lights at Rosa Khutor.
- •The World Champion capped off the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games for the women's U.S. Alpine Ski Team with two stunning runs, giving her the first U.S. slalom victory since Phil Mahre in 1984 and the first women's slalom victory since Barbara Cochran in 1972.
- •She also became the fifth youngest female gold medalist in alpine skiing, the fifth youngest medalist in women's slalom behind Daniele Debernard (FRA-1972), and the sixth American to medal in the event. Only France and Austria have more with eight and seven respectively.
- •Shiffrin's second run went smoothly save a mistake in the middle section. She briefly let her ski rocket out in front of her and propel her off line, which would have been a costly mistake but her quick feet allowed a courageous correction and she continued her gold medal run.
- •Julia Ford (Holderness, NH) skied a solid second run, posting a 24th at her first Olympic effort. Resi Stiegler (Jackson Hole, WY) put down impressive splits in her second run before she straddled
- •Shiffrin's childhood skiing idols Marlies Schild and Kathrin Zettel of Austria skied to silver and
- •Rain early in the day created a soft snow surface, but officials were able to salt the course and provide a slightly grippy, world-class medium for the women to showcase the artistic athleticism of their sport.

QUOTES: Mikaela Shiffrin

I wish I could have an American flag on my back in every World Cup, because that's a really cool feeling to hold that and know that you're representing not only yourself or your family or your team but your entire country. I owe this to so many people and I'm really glad that I could share it with them. Really, it's not just me up here, it's the entire U.S. I've seen all the tweets and all of the support

and all of the critics, the doubters or whoever that don't want to see me do it or don't know if I can; every single one of them has pushed me to this point and I owe this to them as well.

I always dream of the best case scenario and accept it if it doesn't happen, but I'm really glad that it did today. I've just got to keep going. It's an amazing feeling to win an Olympic gold. It's going to be something that I chalk up as one of my favorite experiences for the rest of my life, but my life is not over yet.

Today was one of the most special days of my life. These two (Marl-

ies Schild and Kathrin Zettel) are my greatest idols. I modeled myself after them. To be in this moment with them, to share it with my family and friends, my team and my coaches, and everyone who has been in my past and will be in my future, it's just very special.

Roland Pfeifer, U.S. Ski Team Tech Head Coach

I felt smitten when I realized right away that she was one of a kind and she wanted to know everything about skiing. With the way she trains and the volume she trains she is probably 25 already, so it's kind of normal that she skis the way she skis because she trains so much. She really thinks about skiing 24/7, she lives in Europe in the wintertime and she is really full on all the time. She's really professional, and so it's just normal that she gets these results.

Eilleen Shiffrin, Mikaela's Mother

In between runs she seemed great. We listened to some music and she seemed really psyched about her first run and really positive. She said, 'You, know I just really like to ski slalom. I'm just going to go ski slalom, and not worry about all this anymore and just go ski some slalom.'

When her ski went up I almost died, because that's what happened last time in Kranjska Gora in her last race and she dumped all of her speed. She's a quick learner though. She just was like, 'Noooo! I'm not going again. Come on. Go! Go!' So I'm just super proud of her. Roland and I definitely had a heart attack. I think this is like a World Cup race but the intensity is magnified a thousand times.

I haven't skied a fresh course like that in a while, so I could have gone a lot straighter and pinned it a little harder. I was just a little off. For me, rhythm is really important in slalom, and my rhythm was a little off so I just kind of fought it the whole way down. It was really cool and really fun. It's been an amazing experience and I feel really fortunate to be here and to do this, and I'll just keep improving over the next four years so I can come back and really be in there.

Resi Stiegler

In my first run I was a couple seconds out, so I knew that second run was going to have to be an all or nothing sort of situation. Obviously at the Olympics that's what it should be. Just coming down in second or third after my first run wasn't going to be enough so I needed to come down winning by a lot. I'm happy with the fact that my splits were fast and I felt good, and I knew I was going fast because I was kind of in that zone. The snow is a little bit catchy and I caught a tip in the hairpin and straddled, which made me lose my ski.

Women's Giant Slalom Official Results

USA AUT AUT Gold Mikaela SHIFFRIN Silver Mikaela SHIFFRIN Bronze Alexis PINTURAULT

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Slopestyle Gold for USA's Sage Kotsenburg



United States' Sage Kotsenburg catches air in the men's snowboard slopestyle final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, at the 2014 Winter Olympics,

ROSA KHOTUR, Russia (Feb. 8) - Sage Kotsenburg (Park City, UT) scored an historic victory to open the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, winning the first ever slopestyle snowboarding gold medal. Kotsenburg, who failed to qualify in Thursday's opening rounds, made his way into the finals Saturday morning then put down a remarkable first run which held for the win. Norway's Staale Sandbech earned silver with Canadian favorite Mark McMorris taking bronze.

HIGHLIGHTS

- •Sage Kotsenburg (Park City, UT) scored an historic victory to open the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, winning the first ever slopestyle snowboarding gold medal.
- •Kotsenburg, who failed to qualify in Thursday's opening rounds, made his way into the finals Saturday morning then put down a remarkable first run which held for the win
- •Norway's Staale Sandbech earned silver with Canadian favorite Mark McMorris taking bronze.
- •Kotsenburg showed the sportsmanship and camaraderie of snowboarding when he pulled his friends Sandbech and McMorris up onto the top of the podium with him during the medals presentation.
- •Both Kotsenburg and McMorris failed to qualify for the final in Thursday's opening qualification, but they were able to ride into the top four in Saturday morning's semifinal and advance to the final later in the day.
- •Team USA athletes Ryan Stassel (Anchorage) and Chas Guldemond (Reno, NV) did not advance to the final and finished 14th and 15th respectively.
- •Kotsenburg's gold medal winning run: Cab 270 to switch, half-cab on back 540 off flat down, half-cab layback slide off the cannon back 180 out, cab double cork 1260 holy crail, frontside 1080 off the toes rocket air and backside 1620 Japan.

QUOTES:

Sage Kotsenburg

All the riders were stoked today with how everything was organized. It was really smooth and we just went out there and rode and did our thing. All of us were having a blast today; you could see us all high-fiving at the bottom and it's not like we're bummed out when other people come down and land a run. As much as you want to stay on top, you want them to get a good score too because I grew up with Mark (McMorris, Canada) and Staale (Sandbech, Norway). We've just become such good friends over the past couple years. It's sick to be on the podium with them and everyone is stoked for each other.

I just kind of do random stuff all the time. I never really make a plan. I had no idea



United States' Sage Kotsenburg celebrates after winning the men's snowboard slopestyle final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, at the 2014 Winter Olympics,

I was going to even do a 1620 in my run until like three minutes before I dropped. The holy crail is a grab I invented a couple months ago, so I really wanted to do it in my run here and to do it in the cab 1260 on the first jump is pretty cool. Ending with a 1620 Japan was pretty crazy too because I had never even tried that trick before. It was pretty random but I guess it worked out.

Mike Jankowski, U.S. Snowboarding Slopestyle Coach

There's nothing like starting out the Olympics for Team USA with a gold medal. The momentum is something we look forward to all the teams grasping onto and really using it as energy to move forward themselves and to get themselves some gold medals.

It's not always what you do, it's how you do it, and Sage proved that here today with his unique grab set that he has. All his tricks are very creative and that's how he wants to portray snowboarding and that's how we want to portray snowboarding as Team USA. It is an absolute blast being up here and riding with your friends.

MEN'S SNOWBOARDING SLOPESTYLE FINALS RESULTS

USAGoldSage KOTSENBURG93.50 .NORWAYSilverStaale SANDBECH91.75 .CANADABronzeMark MCMORRIS88.75 .







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USA's Jamie Anderson took gold in the inaugural women's snowboarding slopestyle event. She cleaned up her second run to earn the first-ever women's slopestyle snowboarding gold medal. (Cameron Spencer/Getty Images)

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 9) – Jamie Anderson (S. Lake Tahoe, CA) cleaned up her second run to earn the first-ever women's slopestyle snowboarding gold medal Sunday at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games. Her smooth style during her final run secured her the gold with a score of 95.25, putting her on top of the podium ahead of Finland's Enni Rukajarvi and Great Britain's Jenny Jones, who took silver and bronze.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Jamie Anderson (S. Lake Tahoe, CA) cleaned up her second run to earn the firstever women's slopestyle snowboarding gold medal Sunday at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games.
- •Her smooth style during her final run secured her the gold with a score of 95.25, putting her on top of the podium ahead of Finland's Enni Rukajarvi and Great Britain's Jenny Jones, who took silver and bronze.
- •Team USA's Karly Shorr (Milford, MI) rode into sixth in the women's final, while Ty Walker (Stowe, VT) and Jessika Jenson (Rigby, ID) finished 13th and 14th respectively, just missing the cut for the 12-person final.
- Jamie's gold medal winning run: Gap to noseslide, 50-50 back 180, cab 180 butter to back 180 off the cannon, cab 720 tail, switch backside 540 Indy and frontside

QUOTES: Jamie Anderson

This is definitely the biggest stage in the world for sports. After getting second at X Games last week I was really passionate and determined to come out here and do my best and do everything I can to be my strongest, most grounded calm self even with the hype of everything on the outside world. It just feels out of control. I can't even explain what I'm processing now.

There was so much anticipation leading up to this event, and you just have to be able to calm your mind and really believe and have that trust and faith that you are really capable of doing what you want to do. Especially after watching Sage take the gold yesterday, I was extra inspired to come out here and do my best.

I don't know how it happened. I was so impressed with all the girls' riding. I really was just trying to focus on the run I chose to do, really visualizing that and seeing it to the end and knowing that I was going to land everything perfect and try to do it with as much style as possible. The rest was out of my hands. I just wanted to do what I was capable of doing.

LADIES' SNOWBOARDING SLOPESTYLE FINALS RESULTS

Anderson Golden in Sochi Farrington Gold/Clark Bronze



(L-R) Silver medalist Torah Bright of Australia, gold medalist Kaitlyn Farrington of the United States and bronze medalist Kelly Clark of the United States celebrate during the flower ceremony for the Snowboard Women's Halfpipe Finals

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 12) – Team USA athlete Kaitlyn Farrington (Sun Valley, ID) earned the halfpipe snowboarding gold medal while teammate Kelly Clark (West Dover, VT) took bronze Wednesday night during a fierce firefight in the Rosa Khutor halfpipe. Clark has now medaled in the last three out of four Olympic Winter Games and has collected more Olympic medals than any other snowboarder in history with two her bronze and one gold.

HIGHLIGHTS

•Team USA athlete Kaitlyn Farrington (Sun Valley, ID) earned the halfpipe snowboarding gold medal while teammate Kelly Clark (West Dover, VT) took bronze Wednesday night during a fierce firefight in the Rosa Khutor halfpipe.

•Clark has now medaled in the last three out of four Olympic Winter Games and has collected more Olympic medals than any other snowboarder in history with two her bronze

•Three Americans landed in the top four with Hannah Teter (Belmont, VT) finishing fourth after getting bumped off the podium by Clark's progressive second run that included a huge frontside 1080. The 2010 gold medalist and Australian halfpipe force Torah Bright

•Team USA halfpipe snowboarding athlete Arielle Gold (Steamboat Springs, CO) didn't compete in the day's event after falling in a training run and suffering a shoulder injury just prior to the start of heat two of qualifications. Farrington's gold medal run: Pop tart, switch backside 720, backside 900, alley-oop 540,

backside 540, frontside 720.

QUOTES: Kaitlyn Farrington

I can't believe it. I come out to each contest and I try to do a different run and that's my approach to it. Sitting at the bottom I was stoked I landed my run and once I knew I was going to be on the podium I was happy. I was hoping to make the finals, that was my main goal, and then during finals I thought if I land a good run I might be on the podium. So to come out on top-I just can't believe it.

I can't believe I was sitting there in front of the last three gold medalists. It's crazy. Snowboarding is changing so much. It's anybody's game on any day.

I used to do swim team when I was a kid and my coach used to tell me to 'cowgirl up,' and it was just kind of this theme of everything. I grew up on a ranch in Idaho and so that's just the other girls' joke with me, to 'cowgirl up.

This is Kelly's fourth Olympics and she's such an inspiration to all of us girls. She was the first lady to land a frontside 1080 and she just keeps pushing the sport. She's such a strong rider and she's been killing it all year. She's an amazing person as well and she's coached us young kids through this whole process and it's been great.

LADIES' SNOWBOARDING HALFPIPE FINALS RESULTS

USA Gold Kaitlyn FARRINGTON **USA** Gold Jamie ANDERSON 91.75 95.25 **FIN** Silver Enni RUKAJARVI 92.50 **AUS** Silver Torah BRIGHT 91.50 **Kelly CLARK GBR** Bronze Jenny JONES 87.25 **USA Bronze** 90.75

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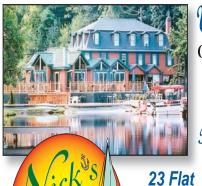
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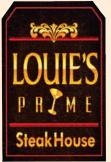
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Silver & Bronze for Weibrecht & Miller



Sochi 2014 Day 10 - Alpine Skiing Men's Super-G (L-R) Silver medalist Andrew Weibrecht of the United States, gold medalist Kjetil Jansrud of Norway and bronze medalists Jan Hudec of Canada and Bode Miller of the United States celebrate on the podium during the flower ceremony for the Alpine Skiing Men's Super-G

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 16) - In an historic and seemingly improbable finish, Andrew Weibrecht (Lake Placid, NY) took silver and Bode Miller (Franconia, NH) tied for bronze in the men's Olympic super G at Rosa Khutor Sunday. After taking the lead out of the number 13 start, Miller watched in wonderment as teammate Weibrecht put down a breathtaking run out of the 29th start position to claim silver behind Norway's Kjetil Jansrud. The race airs on NBC at 7:00 p.m. EST and can be streamed in its entirety on NBCOlympics.com. The women are up next, set to race giant slalom on Tuesday Feb. 18.

HIGHLIGHTS

- •Andrew Weibrecht (Lake Placid, NY) took silver and Bode Miller (Franconia, NH) tied for bronze in the men's Olympic super G at Rosa Khutor.
- •After taking the lead out of the number 13 start, Miller watched in wonderment as teammate Weibrecht put down a breathtaking run out of the 29th start position to claim silver behind Norway's Kjetil Jansrud. Miller tied for bronze with Jan Hudec of Canada.
- •Miller now has six Olympic medals, proving once again that he is one of the greatest alpine skiers of all time. He has the most medals among U.S. alpine skiers, for both men and overall. He moves into second all-time for U.S. winter Olympians, tying Bonnie Blair and trailing Apolo Anton Ohno's eight.
- •Miller is also the oldest medalist in Olympic alpine skiing at 36 years 127 days, surpassing Aamodt who was 34-170 in 2006.
- •Weibrecht becomes the fourth American male (Miller, Phil Mahre, Tommy Moe) with two or more medals in Olympic alpine skiing.
- •That makes back-to-back Olympic super G medals for Weibrecht after his bronze in 2010. He has never been on the podium at a World Cup or World Championships. His best World Cup finishes were two 10th place results, one in 2007 and one 2011, both of which occurred at Beaver Creek.
- •Sunday's two medals boost the USA to 16 total, putting America ahead in the total medal count in 2014.
- •Ted Ligety (Park City, UT) and Travis Ganong (Squaw Valley, CA) also raced in Sunday's super G, finishing 14th and 23rd respectively.
- •The race airs on NBC at 7:00 p.m. EST and can be streamed in its entirety on NBCOlympics. com.
- •Sunday's super G was the final alpine speed race of the 2014 Sochi Games.

QUOTES: Bode Miller

I think I came out and skied really aggressive, but too aggressive for this hill. I made a mistake on the bottom here that was just stupid. There's nothing really to do once you come off of Lake Jump. You basically get in your tuck and go to the finish. My mind was still looking for hundredths of a second. I pushed too hard and ended up costing





Bode Miller Training at the U.S. Ski Team Speed Center at Copper Mountain, CO. 2013 Nature Valley First Tracks Photo: Tripp Fay/Copper Mountain Resort

myself half a second or six tenths, and that's always tough. But to hang onto a medal today, I feel really lucky and very fortunate.

I've never been stuck on counting medals, but for me, I've put in a lot of work. This was a really hard year with a lot of effort coming back to get fit and get ready and just battle through everything life throws at you. To come out and ski hard—this is almost therapeutic for me to be in these situations where I really get to test myself. So I was happy to be on the right side of the hundredths. Some days medals don't matter, and today was one of the ones where it does matter.

I've skied with Andrew a lot of times and he's so much better than his results show on World Cup. He's one of the guys who could consistently win three events. He's just an unbelievable talent. The one thing he losses out on is the intensity, and that's why he does so well at the Olympics because everyone is focuses on him, he has tons of emotion and he lets his emotion out. He's usually pretty reserved emotionally. He doesn't connect skiing with emotion; he just skis with huge intensity normally. I think here he really connects the emotion to it, and that's why he gets such crazy performances out of himself.

Andrew Weibrecht

It's unbelievable. I came down and I knew I had skied well. I knew I had a good run. I came through the finish I just sort of appreciated my run and I took a couple seconds and looked at the time. I saw second, looked away and then I looked again and I saw it and was like, 'You've got to be kidding me!' It's been a rough couple years with all the injuries and everything else, but this makes up for it.

This is probably the most emotional day of ski racing that I've ever had. All the issues and troubles that I've had, to come and be able to have a really strong result like this, it reminds me that all the work I did to come back from the injuries and just dealing through all the hard times, that it's all worth it and it all makes sense. There have been times I've had to evaluate whether this is really what I want to do, even as recently as yesterday. There are only so many times you can get kicked before you really feel it. I try not to focus on the results, but I really needed a result to remind me that I'm capable of this and that I belong here.

Men's Super-G Official Results

NORWAY USA CANADA USA Gold Kjetil JANSRUD 1:18.14
Silver Andrew WEIBRECHT 1:18.44
Bronze Jan HUDEC 1:18.67
Bronze Bode MILLER 1:18.67

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First-Ever GS Gold For Ligety



Ted Ligety won the gold medal for Team USA in the men's giant slalom event at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi on Feb. 19, and the alpine ski racer says it's a "huge relief." Credit: Christophe Pallot/Agence Zoom/Getty

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 19) – Ted Ligety (Park City, UT) laid down a truly Olympic performance Wednesday to earn the first-ever giant slalom gold medal for the USA at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games. Ligety led by 0.93-seconds after his first run at the sunny Rosa Khutor venue, where he was able to become the second American in history to win two alpine gold medals after Andrea Mead Lawrence in 1952. France filled out the podium with Steve Missillier earning silver and Alexis Pinturault bronze.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ted Ligety (Park City, UT) laid down a truly Olympic performance Wednesday to earn the firstever giant slalom gold medal for the USA at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games.
- •Ligety carved out a 0.93-second buffer after his first run at the sunny Rosa Khutor venue, and he was able to hold the lead through his inspired second run.
- •Ligety is now the second American in history to win two alpine gold medals with Wednesay's gold and his 2006 super combined gold. Andrea Mead Lawrence was the only other American to do so in Olso in 1952, when she won gold in slalom and giant slalom.
 - •France filled out the podium with Steve Missillier earning silver and Alexis Pinturault bronze.
- •Tim Jitloff (Reno, NV) muscled through the challenging course to finish 15th in his very first Olympic appearance, while Jared Goldberg (Holladay, UT) skied into 19th. Sochi super G bronze medalist Bode Miller (Franconia, NH) finished 20th.
- •Mostly sunny skies and grippy snow created a great race for the athletes, although a few bumps in the steeper sections added the to the course difficulty.

QUOTES: Ted Ligety.

Today was awesome. There's not really any other way to put it. This is something I've been working for since I was a little kid. Being the favorite in alpine skiing is never easy, because it's an event that's so far from being guaranteed and not an event that's super simple to win even if you're skiing the best in the world. There are so many different factors out there. It's really easy to go out of the course. It's really easy for conditions to not match up to your technique. So to be able to win today when I knew that I had a very good chance and knew the pressures of it was an awesome feeling.

This one is way more meaningful than my first one. I'm not going to say my first gold medal was easy, but it came a lot easier. There was a lot less struggles of the World Cup and struggles of the grind that I hadn't experienced up to that point. To win a gold medal now, especially having Vancouver being really tough and the Olympics so far here have been somewhat lackluster, and to be able to

throw down in an event that I had the most pressure in and I was the favorite in, to be able to do that is awesome. This was really the event that I wanted to win. To be able to pull down in that kind of pressure and to be up there with some of the greats is really an honor.

It was a huge relief. I've been wanting to win this medal for my whole life and even more so in the last few years. All season long everybody talks about the Olympics, Olympics, Olympics...at a certain point I was like, 'Let's do it already. Let's just get this thing over with so we can stop talking about the pressure and everything with it.' So



Ted Ligety makes one of his signature turns in the first run of the men's giant slalom at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics

it's awesome to be able to come here and compete and finally do it and get the monkey off the back.

Bode Miller

It's asking a bit much of my left knee still on those kinds of bumps. Right in the middle, there's a left-footed turn that just seems like crazy big bumps. I just look at it thinking maybe I could do it, but confidence-wise I don't feel comfortable dropping it in that way and it's cost me both runs there. This is pretty aggressive stuff for the lower leg. The snow is so grippy and kind of jerks you around nonstop. We'll see how it feels after this and make a call.

Ted has shown for several years that he's the best GS skier, especially when the conditions are like this, kind of rolling and high-speed. Other guys are having trouble carrying momentum the whole way down. They make some really good turns and some good sections and then they scrub a little bit over a piece of terrain. Ted just carries his speed so smooth top to bottom and he makes time the whole way down.

I feel really good about where I'm at. I came back really strong, I really did a lot of work and I put in the time. That leaves me with a really positive feeling. I really feel like I did my best. Obviously I feel like I was capable of more, but my effort and my intensity were as good as I can possibly put out there. The Olympics are a super-challenging situation because you want to come in and do everything you can, but only one guy wins. I really feel like I did what I could and I came out with a medal, so I'm happy.

Tim Jitloff

USA

FRA

FRA

I'm happier with the second run than I was with the first. In the first run I was really intense on top and really tried to send it, but it was too aggressive and I made some errors that slowed me down. On this run I tried to balance that out. So the second run was a little more balanced in terms of intensity and push. Obviously, the first run is what did it. I needed to be a little bit better on the first. Between fifth place and me was only a couple tenths. It was not a lot. But that's how it was.

It's my first time running an Olympic event, so I was thinking about all those people that are supporting you and sending you little messages and wishing you good luck and you're like, 'Alright let's do this!' It's a little different than a World Cup, obviously. It's good to be here. I'm psyched for Ted. It's really special that America wins the event.

Men's Giant Slalom Official Results

Gold To Silver So Bronze A

GoldTed LIGETY2:45.29SilverSteve MISSILLIER2:45.77BronzeAlexis PINTURAULT2:45.93

Wise Wins Gold in Freestyle Halfpipe

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 18) – David Wise (Reno, NV) became the first-ever Olympic halfpipe skiing champion Tuesday night, winning gold at the sport's debut at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games. Heavy snow didn't slow down Wise, as he put down an unbeatable run in the first round and scored a 92.00 ahead of silver winner Mike Riddle of Canada and Kevin Rolland of France in bronze.

HIGHLIGHTS

- •David Wise (Reno, NV) became the firstever Olympic halfpipe skiing champion Tuesday night, winning gold at the sport's debut at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games.
- Heavy snow falling in halfpipe at the Rosa Khutor venue didn't slow down Wise, and he put down an unbeatable run in the first round that scored him a 92.00.
- •Aaron Blunck (Crested Butte, CO) was the only other U.S. athlete to advance to the historic final, where he pulled out a seventh-place finish in the stacked competition.
- Filling out the podium were Mike Riddle of Canada with silver and Kevin Rolland of France took with bronze.
- Justin Dorey of Canada was the top qualifier going into the final, but Wise was able to pull out in front of Dorey during the final.
- The wet, falling snow certainly had an effect on the athletes' speed in the halfpipe, but many were able to manage it effectively, keeping their momentum through the transitions and adjusting



Silver medalist Mike Riddle of Canada, gold medalist David Wise of the United States and bronze medalist Kevin Rolland of France celebrate during the flower ceremony for the Freestyle Skiing Men's Ski Halfpipe Finals on day 12 of the 2014 Winter Olympics at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park

the type and sequence of tricks in their runs.

- •Unfortunately, Team USA athletes Torin Yater-Wallace (Basalt, CO) and Lyman Currier (Boulder, CO) did not qualify for the final.
- •Wise's winning run: Rightside 900, leftside double cork 1260, rightside 720, switch leftside 720, rightside double cork 1260.

QUOTES: David Wise (gold)

"It's been amazing right from the start. Just walking through the opening ceremony with Team USA and just feeling like a part of this grand thing for the Olympics was really cool. To be out here representing not only USA freestyle skiing but also where I come from and the country that I live in, is just amazing."

It's amazing. It's always rough when the conditions aren't perfect and you don't get to do the runs that you were hoping to do. I've had a Sochi run on my mind for a long time that I really wanted to throw down tonight, but you guys will just have to wait to see that one. I'm really proud of freeskiing tonight. The riders all came out, stepped it up and put on a good show in spite of the rough conditions. I'm happy to have landed my run and it's an amazing honor.

Justin Dorey is one of the best skiers in the world. He's got both double corks, and after he landed his first double cork I was like, here we go! So the pressure was definitely on and I feel very fortunate to have survived for that for sure.

It's been a long road for freeskiing to get into the Olympics at all, and I've been a part of it for a long time, trying to get the recognition we need to get into the Olympics. First of all, hearing the an-

nouncement was a huge accomplishment for me in my life. Now to be here participating was a second huge accomplishment, and to be representing as the first-ever gold medalist in freeski halfpipe is amazing. I just want people to be excited about freeskiing. I think it's cool. It's exciting. It's really unique and I just want more people to ski.



Maddie Bowman Wins Gold in Halfpipe

ROSA KHUTOR, Russia (Feb. 20) – Maddie Bowman (S. Lake Tahoe, CA) became the first-ever women's Olympic halfpipe sking champion Thursday, taking gold in the sport's debut at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games. Bowman boosted to the top spot with her first run, and then extended her lead in a second round that saw Marie Martinod of France earn silver and Ayana Onozuka of Japan

HIGHLIGHTS

 Maddie Bowman (S. Lake Tahoe, CA) became the first-ever women's Olympic halfpipe skiing champion Thursday, taking gold in the sport's debut at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games.

•Bowman boosted to the top spot with her first run score of 85.80. One of her tricks early on forced her to improvise, and so she put down back-to-back 900s for the first time in her career. That gave her the confidence to put together an even smoother second run, which extended her lead with an 89.00.

•Bowman now has Olympic gold to add to her X Games collection, which includes two gold, one silver and one bronze as well as a 2013 AFP World Tour halfpipe title

•All four Team USA athletes advanced to the final, and Brita Sigourney (Carmel, CA) went on to finish sixth after crashing during her first run.



Team USA added another medal to its count on Day 15 of the Sochi Games, as Maddie Bowman won gold in the women's halfpipe final. Photo by Mike Ehrmann

•Annalisa Drew (Andover, MA) put down a solid first run, which included one of the night's only 1080s. She fell during her second run while attempting a 1260 and finished ninth.

•Angeli VanLaanen (Bellingham, WA) had great amplitude but fell during both runs and ended up 11th.

•Marie Martinod of France earned silver in the historic final and Ayana Onozuka of Japan took bronze.

•Bowman's winning run: Straight-air Japan, rightside 900, leftside 540 mute, straight-air mute, leftside cork 900, rightside 720 and switch 720.

QUOTES: Maddie Bowman

I feel like this isn't real. I think I was pretty shocked when it happened, and happy and excited and all of the emotions. This is pretty surreal. This doesn't happen every day. It only happens every four years and this is the first time it's ever happened for our sport. It's pretty crazy.

I was a little jittery before my first run. It's a big stage, but I felt the same way at X Games so I knew that I could probably handle it. After getting that first run down it takes a lot of pressure off and then you can really just go for it.

All the girls came out here and showed the world who we are and what we do. I think everyone should be proud of that tonight because this is the first time a lot of people in this world have seen what we do and exactly why we love it.

I grew up looking up to Sarah (Burke) and watching her ski. I met her for my first time at X Games and it was the coolest moment of my life. She was a hero in my eyes and she still is. Sarah has inspired us on snow and off snow, and I think she would have been proud of how all the girls rode tonight. I sure hope I, and everyone else, made her proud because we would not be here without her.





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