



2019 WINTER DEAFLYMPICS
 VALTELLINA-VALCHIAVENNA
 DECEMBER 12-21 2019

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US DEAFLYMPICS DAILY NEWSLETTER

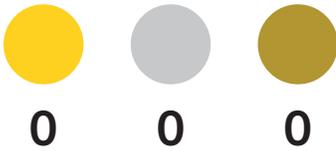
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. DEAFLYMPIC TEAM AT THE 19TH WINTER DEAFLYMPICS

VOL. 1 NO. 3

DECEMBER 15, 2019

Boardin' since 1985!

USA MEDAL TOTALS



MEDAL TABLE

				T
UNITED STATES	0	0	0	0
RUSSIA	5	6	4	15
UKRAINE	2	1	1	4
ITALY	2	0	1	3
CROATIA	0	0	1	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	0	1	1
POLAND	0	0	1	1

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

ALPINE SKIING (ALPINE COMBINED)

Wollan: 7th place - 1'47.25
 Williams: 13th place - 1'57.77

CROSS-COUNTRY (XC) SKIING

Classic sprint - Smith
 20th place
 1st run 3'34.02
 2nd run 3'28.10

SNOWBOARD

Parallel Giant Slalom
 Pollock, 8th place
 1st run 37.37
 2nd run 40.84
 Total 1'18.21

CURLING

USA wins against Korea, 6-4

CHESS

USA lost to Belarus 1.5 to 2.5

ICE HOCKEY

Rest



Jeff Pollock carves down the snowboard parallel slalom on Saturday Dec 14, 2019 in Santa Caterina, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

Jeff Pollock competes in his 5th Winter Deaflympics

Stacy Nowak and Sarah Gordon with Hugh Carey

SANTA CATERINA—Veteran snowboarder Jeff Pollock participated in the Snowboarding Parallel Slalom, his second event of the Games. Very good snow conditions combined with the mountain sun made for an ideal day to rip up the slopes, which Pollock has done continually for the last 34 years.

Pollock sped through his first run with a time of 37.37. His second run timed at 40.84, giving him a total time of 1'18.21, enough to propel him into the finals. He won his heat, and entered the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Pollock fell behind his competitor quickly, and was never able to regroup.

When he came to a halt, he threw his hands up in the air with pride and honor, knowing that he gave it his all.

Snowboarding Parallel Slalom (PSL) consists of using specific technical downhill skills around close sets of gates competing for the fastest time. Two boarders race parallel to each other carving extremely tight and quick turns on two separate courses.

In a field of 16, Pollock finished eighth. After every run, Pollock was always the first to congratulate his opponent. In an event that highlights cutthroat competition, Pollock demonstrates what it takes to be a world-class athlete.

A Top 20 finish!

Stacy Nowak

SANTA CATERINA—As the morning fog gave way to a brilliant sun above the Italian Alps, USA's Christopher Smith took to the snow as America's lone representative in cross country skiing.

Smith, who has been skiing competitively since 2010, was intent on advancing to the quarterfinals. Mentally prepared and physically fit, he capitalized on his experience of competing at the 2013 World Deaf Cross Country Skiing Championship in Russia.

The first run was individually timed, and despite insufficiently waxed skis, Smith timed in at 3'34.02, sending him into the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinals, Smith was placed into the 2nd wave with 5 other skiers. In that specific wave, the top 4 out of 6 skiers move on to the semifinals. Despite coming from behind to place fifth, Smith did not qualify for the semifinals. He timed in at 3'28.10, cutting off 6 seconds from his first run. When he reached the finish line, he fell onto the ground, breathless and exhausted. There was absolutely no question that he gave it his all—mind, heart and body.



U.S. XC skier Christopher Smith reacts at the finish line following the Classic Sprint on Saturday Dec 14, 2019 in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Province of Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

Curling wins third straight

Stacy Nowak

MADESIMO---Still riding the high of their adrenaline-filled win over Canada only 14 hours earlier, USA took to the ice, ready to pick up another win in order to stay in medal contention. Behind the solid play of their starting four—John Knetzger, David Nathanson, Herman Fuechtmann and Calvin Rausch, USA handled Korea, coming away with a 6-4 win.

Play began with a Korean point. USA responded with a point. Korea came right back with another point. USA took the next two points to make the score 3-2. USA stole a

point to make it 4-2, USA. Korea tried to steal a big point, but the USA played stingy defense and controlled the center line, kicking out all of Korea's stones. USA then widened its lead to 6-4 until the 10th End. USA led with the hammer and kept kicking out Korea's stones. Korea couldn't get points, so they surrendered.

The 6-4 win gives USA its third straight win. With a 3-2 record, USA looks forward to a 9AM matchup against Finland today before taking on the mighty Russians at 7PM.



The Curling venue heats up with competition among 12 teams on December 13, 2019 at the 19th Winter Deaflympics in Madesimo, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

Saturdays are for Chess

Dan DeLuca, USA Deaf Chess Coach

Team USA chess lost a close match with Belarus 1.5 to 2.5 on the first day of the Team Tournament. Results were: Abraham Glasser 1, Oscar Petrov 0.5, Branton Stewart 0, Byron Bridges 0. Rounds 2 and 3 will be played tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Fun On the Slopes



U.S. skiers Witt Williams, left, and Jakob Wollan share a laugh prior to their alpine combined slalom event during the 19th Winter Deaflympics on Saturday Dec 14, 2019 in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Province of Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

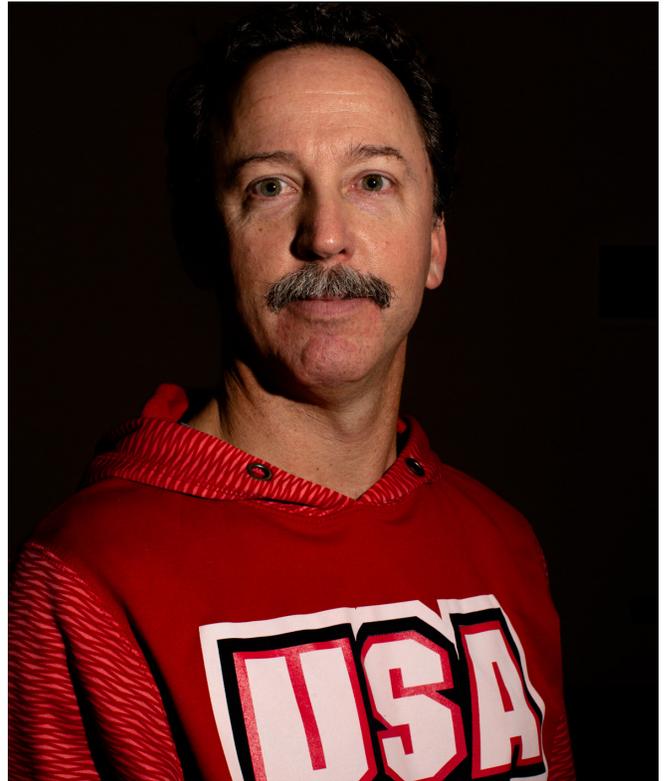
Sarah Gordon and Hugh Carey

Today on the Deborah-Compagnoni slope in Santa Caterina di Valfurva, American skiers Jacob Wollan, of Winter Park, Colorado, and Witt Williams, of Helena, Montana, competed in the Alpine Combined Downhill & Slalom. This time in the northwest facing shade of the mountain under blue sunny skies, Witt placed 13th with a time of 1:57.77 and Jakob placed 6th with a time of 1:47.25.

This competition was combined with two runs, with the first this morning of downhill skiing without gates and poles, and the

second of slalom in the afternoon with gates, requiring skiers to zig and zag quickly around them. Missing a gate would disqualify the racer. The skier's overall time is combined from both runs.

With increased visibility and more confidence in the course, Jakob carved impressive short, quick turns around the gates keeping minimal spray and a tight body form improving his speed today in the downhill race. Witt overcame his first time jitters for the Combined race and can safely say he had a successful run under his belt.



ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Every day, USADSF celebrates a USA Deaflympic star. For December 14, the star is veteran American snowboarder Jeff Pollock, who finished 8th out of 16 athletes in the Alpine Snowboard- Men's Parallel Slalom. In front of an excited American audience, Pollock advanced out of qualifications, but fell into the quarterfinals. The oldest athlete in the field by 14 years, Pollock has been snowboarding since 1985, before snowboarding was even popular. An original U.S. Deaf Snowboard Team member since snowboarding became a medal sport in 1999, Pollock has won four medals in three Deaflympics, and is an ardent supporter of his own teammates, as they advance in their own snowboarding careers.

TODAY'S EVENTS

- CHESS**
9:00 Team
- CURLING**
9:00 USA vs Finland
- ALPINE SKIING**
10:30 Super G
Wollan, Novoselov, Williams
- CHESS**
15:00 Team - Round 3
- CURLING**
19:00 USA vs Russia
- HOCKEY**
19:00 USA vs Kazakhstan

WEATHER REPORT

- CHIAVENNA**
Partly Sunny High 46 Low 37
- MADESIMO**
Partly Sunny High 34 Low 29
- SANTA CATERINA DI VALFURVA**
Sunny High 35 Low 28

FAST FUN FACT

In 1975, the Winter Deaflympics was hosted in Lake Placid, NY. 139 athletes from 13 nations competed for the gold in alpine skiing and cross country skiing. Speed skating and ice hockey were introduced as demo sports, and it was also the first time the Deaflympics featured figure skating, with a exhibition by deaf ice skaters from the US.