



**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. 6

DECEMBER 18, 2019

## *20 Years in the Making* *U.S. beats Russia to advance to Gold Medal game*



Derek Struwing and Peter Gintoli celebrate with joy after one of Gintoli's goals on December 17, 2019 during the 19th Winter Deaflympics in Chiavenna, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

Stacy Nowak

CHIAVENNA---It took 20 long, painful years, but the United States hockey squad took down archrival Russia, 7-3 yesterday in front of a full house—made up mostly of the Red, White and Blue at the Centro Sportivo in Chiavenna.

It was a chippy battle between two experienced teams. Of the 23 men on the U.S. roster, 16 are veterans of international competitions—including bitter losses to Russia in years past.

Led by intensely focused and fearless goalie Jeff Mansfield, the USA fought Russia to a 0-0 stalemate in the first period. The U.S. shot at will, but the Russian goalie was on top of his game.

Three minutes into the second period, Grant Isenbarger decided to shake up the scoreboard with the first USA goal of the game. Barely fifteen seconds later, Garrett Gintoli made it 2-0 in America's favor. Russia scored next, but Peter Gintoli responded with two

consecutive goals in less than a minute to make it 4-1, America.

Russia scored again, making the game interesting. However, Garrett Gintoli was not interested in all, making another score—giving him a hat trick on the day, and the Americans a 5-2 lead.

Russia began to get frustrated. After an especially vicious Russian push, defenseman Miles Gates' head met the boards, splashing blood on the ice. Gates left the rink for the locker room, but returned a few minutes later with 6 stitches on his eyebrow. Anders Lindgren scored late in the third period to wrap up the scoring for the United States. At game's end, the scoreboard read 7-3 in America's favor.

The United States flew into Italy with only one goal in mind—winning a gold medal. With the win yesterday, the USA locks up a spot in the Final. The path has been paved. It will be up to the Americans to walk it.

### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### ALPINE SKIING

10:00 Slalom  
 Novoselov, Williams,  
 and Wollan

#### CURLING

10:00 USA vs Hungary

#### SNOWBOARDING

11:30 Slopestyle  
 Women:  
 Benedict Mowl,  
 Wheatcroft, Weibert

Men: Esson

**CHESS** Rest

**HOCKEY** Rest

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

#### CURLING

USA defeats Japan, 9-4

#### CHESS

USA defeats Brazil, 4-0

USA lost to  
 Bosnia Herzegovina, 1.5-2.5

#### ALPINE SKIING

Williams: DNF  
 Wollan: DNF  
 Novoselov: 26th place, 2'40.94

#### HOCKEY

USA defeats Russia, 7-3

## USA Deaf Chess Sips Caiprihanas as they handle Brazil



(Photo: Sarah Gordon)

Sarah Gordon

CHIAVENNA---The U.S. Men's Chess team swept Brazil in the Team tournament yesterday morning with a 4-0 win. Brazil arrived at the table with just 3 players, automatically giving the USA a point. Branton Stewart was the first to conquer the chessboard with his opponent, followed by Oscar Petrov, and finally, Abraham Glasser.

Petrov felt good about his play today. "We both started the opening pretty strong and pretty comfortable. I could tell that my opponent was well-prepared for the first 15 or so moves of the game. But eventually, he slipped under pressure a bit and I was able to infiltrate his space with my Queen. After that, it was easy for me to maneuver my pieces and take control for the win."

As a result of their win against Brazil, the squad took on Bosnia and Herzegovina at 3PM. Board 3 (Stewart) and 4 (Bridges) lost, while Board 2 (Petrov) won. It all came down to Board 1 (Glasser) to bring home the tie. He was leading but his opponent forced a draw. That ended the game with 1.5 points for USA and 2.5 points for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Curling Outsmarts Japan; still chasing Medal dreams

Stacy Nowak

MADESIMO---The USA Deaf Curling squad refuses to lose hope, as they continue to chase their medal dreams.

Yesterday, they went to work, and did what it took not to fall out of contention. They defeated Japan, 9-4. The US led 2-0 after End #2, then Japan made a point before End #3. The USA countered with 3 points in End #5 to go up 5-1. By End #7, the score was 9-3 in favor of the United States, and they wrapped up the game, 9-4.

For the USA to stay alive, three things have to happen. First, America must win. Second, Korea has to beat Ukraine. Third, the USA has to have a better draw to the bottom for the hammer than Ukraine and Korea. If both the USA and Korea win, they will fall into a 3-way tie with Ukraine for 4th place.



USA Deaf Curling team coach Joey Bata shares words of wisdom with his players on Dec. 17 at Madesimo, Italy during the 19th Winter Deaflympics. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)



The AHIIA Hockey team bangs their sticks on the ice as Troy Benson is announced as the USA Player of the Game on December 17 at Madesimo, Italy during the 19th Winter Deaflympics. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

## Two Americans Bail in the Grand Slalom



Artem Novoselov sprays snow during the Grand Slalom competition on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 in Santa Caterina, Italy. (Photo: Jon Mowl)

Jon Mowl and Danny Lacey

SANTA CATERINA---The USA Deaf Skiing squad didn't do well today in the Grand Slalom.

Jake Wollan fell early on his 1st run. According to USA Deaf Skiing assistant coach Anders Wollan, "Jake was flying out so fast. He gave it his all." Because the race was for who had the best combined time in 2 runs, Jake was disqualified. He missed a gate when he fell, meaning he wasn't able to take his 2nd run—throwing him out of the competition.

Witt Williams had a difficult first run, but finished the run. He went back up the mountain, and on his second run, he fell with only 1/4 of the course left to go.

Artem Novoselov was the only American to complete both runs. He finished in 26th place out of 45 racers with a total time of 2'40.94.

## Shredding the Gnar: Snowboard Slopestyle

Stacy Nowak

CHIESA IN VALMALENCO---Today, the Snowboard Slopestyle competition will take place. Athletes will start warming up at 10AM--each athlete is limited to 2 training runs. Each athlete has 3 runs. Each run will be judged by 3 judges with a 4th chief judge overseeing the whole competition.

The competition will start at 11:30AM. An earlier start is possible. The course is a 400-500 yard walk from the gondola on the top of the mountain. The medal ceremony will follow immediately after in the "Flintstones" building.

Four Americans will compete—Lauren Benedict Mowl, Sean Esson, Lauren Weibert and Hannah Wheatcroft.



## ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Every day, USADSF celebrates a USA Deaflympic star. For December 17, the star is Hockey player Garrett Gintoli. Garrett was the key factor in America's first victory over archrival Russia in 20 years. A Connecticut product, and a center from the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), Garrett has been outstanding in the 2019 Winter Deaflympics, with two goals and two assists against Kazakhstan, two goals against Finland and a hat trick yesterday against a defensive-minded Russian squad. As the assistant captain for the team, Garrett is a team player who always has a positive attitude. His determination to win Deaflympic gold is evident, and his teammates are rallying behind him in chasing that dream. Keep making goals, Garrett!

### MEDAL TABLE

	🥇	🥈	🥉	T
UNITED STATES	0	0	0	0
RUSSIA	14	12	10	36
UKRAINE	2	3	1	8
ITALY	4	0	2	6
CZECH REPUBLIC	2	3	1	6
FRANCE	0	2	2	4
AUSTRIA	0	1	3	4
ISRAEL	1	0	0	1

### WEATHER REPORT

#### CHIAVENNA

Rain High 48 Low 42

#### MADESIMO

Partly Sunny High 36 Low 34

#### SANTA CATERINA DI VALFURVA

Rain & Snow High 39 Low 34

#### CHIESA IN VALMALENCO

Rain High 45 Low 40

### FAST FUN FACT

Seven of the AHIHA Hockey players hail from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)---Curran Allison, Miles Gates, Sam Holzrichter, Ryne Kruger, Danny Kurchena, TJ Oricchio, and Derek Struwing.