



**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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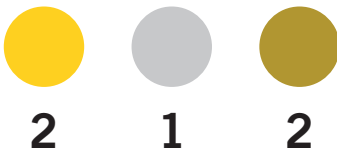
DECEMBER 20, 2019

## *Tears of Joy for Bronze* *Benedict Mowl Takes Third in Snowboard Big Air*



U.S. snowboarder Lauren Benedict Mowl tears up as she receives the Bronze medal from ICSD President Mr. Kang Chen for the Big Air competition during the 19th Deaflympics on Wednesday, Dec 19, 2019 in Chiesa In Valmalenco, Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)

### USA MEDAL TOTALS



### MEDAL TABLE

				T
UNITED STATES	2	1	2	5
RUSSIA	15	14	13	42
UKRAINE	3	3	3	9
ITALY	5	0	2	7
CZECH REPUBLIC	2	4	1	7
FRANCE	0	3	2	5
AUSTRIA	0	1	4	5
FINLAND	0	2	0	2

### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### CHESSE

9:00 USA vs Germany

#### HOCKEY

15:00 USA vs Canada

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

#### CHESSE

USA lost to Mongolia, 0-4

USA ties India, 2-2

#### SNOWBOARDING

Big Air - Best of 3 runs

Women:

Weibert: 2nd place

**59.33**, 19.66, 54.00

Benedict Mowl: 3rd place

27.66, 23.00, **51.66**

Wheatcroft: 4th place

**48.66**, 39.66, 45.33

Men:

Esson: 3rd place

**70.66**, 68.00, 20.33

*Stacy Nowak with Hugh Carey*

CHIESA IN VALMALENCO---As the sun rose on the Snow Eagle, one of the longest ski lifts in the world, heading up to Alpe Palù, the excitement of the USA Deaf Snowboarding squad was mounting. After all, it was the last snowboarding event of the 2019 Winter Deaflympics. And it was the Big Air—the name speaks for itself. You either go big, or you go home. The USA crew of Lauren Benedict Mowl, Sean Esson, Lauren Weibert and Hannah Wheatcroft were raring to add to the medal total for the United States—in fact, only snowboarders have earned medals for the United States so far in these Games.

Weather delays, venue changes and various issues led to changes in the schedule that affected the snowboarders. They did not compete for six days, and then they were forced to compete two days in a row. Already sore from the Slopestyle competition the previous day, the boarders had to dial into their innermost strength and mentality in order to hang some serious Big Air.

Lauren Weibert's first run was her cleanest and highest, as she flew above the ramp, using the method grab. Her score of 59.33 was her highest of the day, and when the snow settled, it earned her the Silver medal, adding another one to her ever-growing collection of medals.

Lauren Benedict Mowl's air time increased with every run she made—she was saving the best for her last run—she pushed the altitude (high above the ramp) to the extreme, and executed a clean Indy grab. That move gave her 51.66 points for the run, locking down the Bronze medal.

Hannah Wheatcroft completed three clean, strong runs—the first run was her best, giving her a 48.66 score, good for fourth place.

Sean Esson's first run was his best one—he threw down an underflip-540 method grab. The 70.66 points he earned on that run gave him the Bronze medal, his second medal in less than 24 hours.

(Cont'd on next page)

There was a long wait for the medal ceremony, there was major confusion, there was miscommunication, and there were protests; but when all was said and done, the American flag swayed in the air once, twice, and thrice—as the three Americans brought pride and honor to their country. As the USA snowboarders fly westernward, heading home for the holidays, they bring home not only medals, but memories to last a lifetime.



Team USA reacts to Lauren Benedict Mowl's Bronze medal announcement during the 19th Deaflympics on Wednesday, Dec 19, 2019 in Chiesa In Valmalenco, Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Amelia Hamilton)



## ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Every day, USADSF celebrates a USA Deaflympic star. For December 19, the star is rookie snowboarder Lauren Benedict Mowl, who made her Deaflympic debut here in Italy, and leaves on Sunday with a Big Air Bronze medal around her neck.

Imagine yourself competing with torn ligaments in your shoulder, riding a snowboard 20-30 feet in the air, let alone racing the Boardercross for the first time and placing eighth? Without a real Boardercross board like the opponents have? Well, add a million-dollar watt smile, positive energy, and no complaints to the mix, and you've got Lauren, delivered on a bronze platter.

Back home in San Diego, Lauren lives the beach life, doing everything in the extreme—from wakeboarding to photography to skateboarding. Keep on flying, Lauren!

### WEATHER REPORT

**CHIAVENNA** Rain High 48 Low 42

### FAST FUN FACT

The curling stones used in the 2019 Winter Deaflympics are the very same curling stones that were used in the 2006 Torino Winter Olympics. Each stone weighs 42 pounds.

Curling is the only sport in which the players shake hands before and after the game. Courtesy and respect are important!

## USA Deaf Chess Collapses against Mongolia and Ties India

Stacy Nowak and Dan DeLuca

Yesterday was another difficult day for USA Deaf Chess. They began the day with a loss to Mongolia, 0-4. It was the first time in these Games that the USA was shut out. Coach DeLuca had this to say—"the strange part was that they all played especially well this morning."

Byron Bridges had a good game until he made a mistake that lost a piece, leading to the loss. Branton Stewart was neck to neck with his opponent until late endgame, when his opponent managed to queen a pawn. Oscar Petrov was flat out winning until he started making a succession of mistakes. Abraham Glasser had the toughest matchup of the match versus their top player, a former graduate student at Gallaudet University who went on to get a PhD. Glasser battled his opponent, but was outsmarted at endgame.

In the afternoon, the men regrouped to tie India, 2-2. Glasser and Petrov both earned wins, while Stewart and Bridges were handed losses. USA Deaf Chess closes out their 2019 Winter Deaflympics experience with a 9AM match today against Germany.