



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 17, 2019

Smith and Offreda develop a bond

Stacy Nowak

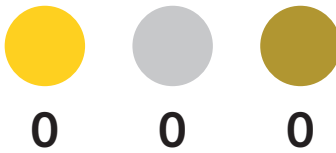


Christopher Smith raced in his final event of the 2019 Winter Deaflympics—the 5k Individual Classic. He finished with a time of 20'19.3. When asked how he felt about the race, he responded by saying “I’m pleased with myself—I tried my hardest.”

Smith, who has been in training on his own for the last 15 months, does not have a coach. He met USA Team Coordinator Liza Offreda on the day Team USA landed in Milan. In the time that has transpired since then, they have developed a special bond. Smith credited Offreda for her tremendous support and encouragement. After he finished the race, he skied to Offreda and told her—“My dream came true.” That exchange was a testament to their newfound connection.

Christopher Smith and Liza Offreda are all smiles after Smith’s final race. (Photo: Tiffany Williams)

USA MEDAL TOTALS



MEDAL TABLE

				T
UNITED STATES	0	0	0	0
RUSSIA	11	8	7	26
UKRAINE	1	2	1	4
ITALY	3	0	1	4
FINLAND	0	2	0	2
AUSTRIA	0	0	2	2
POLAND	0	0	1	1
ISRAEL	1	0	0	1

TODAY'S EVENTS

CURLING

9:00 USA vs Japan

CHESS

9:00 USA vs Brazil

ALPINE SKIING

10:00 Giant Slalom
 Wollan, Williams,
 Novoselov

HOCKEY

13:00 USA vs Russia

CHESS

15:00 USA vs TBA
 (Depending on
 morning results)

SNOWBOARDING

Training

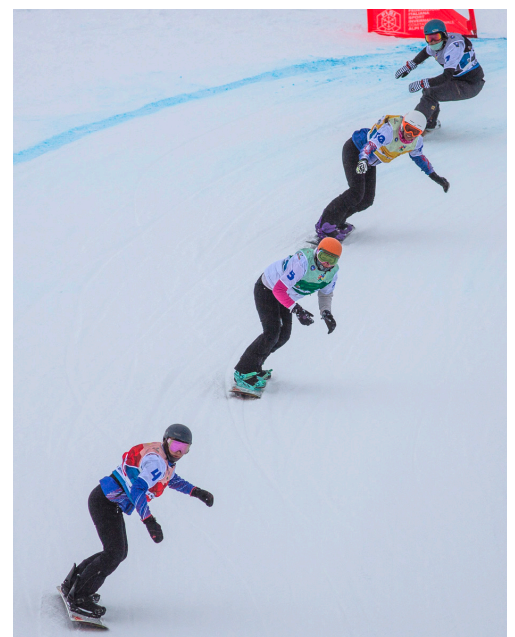
No Luck in the Fog

Stacy Nowak

The USA snowboard delegation took to the snow for the highly anticipated Boardercross event amidst very foggy conditions. Unfortunately, it was not a very good day for the Americans, as none of them found their way to the medal podium.

The women were led by Lauren Weibert, who finished sixth. Right on her heels was rookie Lauren Benedict Mowl, who took eighth. Despite a thrilling qualifying run, Hannah Wheatcroft bowed out before the quarterfinals—only the top two in each heat advanced, and Wheatcroft barely missed making the top eight.

On the men’s side, Eric Cohen and Jeff Pollock advanced out of qualifying. Along with Sean Esson, all three men made it into the top 15 spots, out of 25 racers.



U.S. snowboarder Lauren Weibert, in back, races in the pack during the Boardercross race Monday Dec 16, 2019 in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Province of Sondrio, Italy. (Photo: Hugh Carey)

Shredding New Terrain

Stacy Nowak

The USA snowboarding teams made their way to Chiesa in Valmalenco yesterday afternoon after the Boardercross competition. They will train on Tuesday, before competing in the Slopestyle and Big Air competitions on Wednesday and Thursday. Santa Caterina did not have enough snow for these competitions, so off they went.

More than 60 km of slopes make up the ski area of Alpe Palù, which is the calling card of Valmalenco. More than 11 feet of snow has fallen in that area in the last few days, making for ideal conditions for the final two snowboard competitions of the Games.

Hockey Gives Back to Chiavenna

Amelia Hamilton and Stacy Nowak with Tony McGaughey

The rink manager for the Chiavenna hockey rink asked the USA Hockey coaches if they could help train the local Italian youth team. The USA coaching team obliged, much to the delight of the youth, whose ages ranged from eight to sixteen.

The USA coaches taught drills and helped the youth develop new skills. In return, they were presented with authentic Chiavenna hockey jerseys, which they proudly wore around town all evening.

The Deaflympic spirit extends far beyond the rink—as demonstrated by the coaches on ice. They serve as role models, not only for the Chiavenna youth, but for their own American players.



USA hockey coaches poses with the local Chiavenna hockey team on December 17, 2019 in Chiavenna, Italy. (Photo: AHHA)

USA Chess loses to Uzbekistan

USA Deaf Chess lost to Uzbekistan, 1-3 yesterday during the Team tournament. Results were: Abraham Glasser, 1, Oscar Petrov, 0, Branton Stewart, 0, Byron Bridges, 0. Round 5 will be played tomorrow at 9AM against Brazil.



ATHLETE OF THE DAY

Every day, USADSF celebrates a USA Deaflympic star. For December 16, the star is Herman Fuechtmann of USA Deaf Curling. In a tightly contested game against Poland yesterday morning, Herman’s strategy rallied his team to a comeback win, 10-9. Herman had to make his last shot count to score two points to secure the win. Herman’s shooting ability has improved throughout the week. No stranger to the Deaflympics, this marks Herman’s fifth Deaflympics as an athlete. He owns a silver medal in curling from the 2007 Winter Deaflympics in Salt Lake City, UT. He also coached the women’s handball team to a silver medal in the 2001 Rome Deaflympics. Keep hammering it, Herman!

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

BOARDERCROSS
Women
Weibert: 6th
Benedict Mowl: 8th
Wheatcroft: Out in qualifying

Men
Esson: Out of qualifying
Cohen + Pollock: Out in 1st round

CURLING
9AM: USA beat Poland, 10-9
7PM: USA lost to China, 2-9

CHESS
USA lost to Uzbekistan 1-3

CROSS COUNTRY (XC) SKIING
Individual Classic - Smith, 20'19.3

WEATHER REPORT

CHIAVENNA
Rain High 47 Low 43

MADESIMO
Snow High 36 Low 34

SANTA CATERINA DI VALFURVA
Rain + Snow High 41 Low 34

CHIESA IN VALMALENCO
Rain High 44 Low 40

FAST FUN FACT

Five USADSF Board members and the Executive Director have a total of 12 Deaflympic medals amongst themselves. Of these 12 medals, 5 of them are Gold medals.