



# WINTER Olympic Report



## Medals leaders

Updated Tuesday:

	G	S	B	T
Norway	14	8	9	31
Italy	9	4	11	24
United States	6	10	5	21
Japan	4	5	10	19
Austria	5	8	4	17
Germany	4	7	6	17
France	5	7	4	16
Netherlands	6	6	1	13
Sweden	5	5	2	12
Canada	3	4	5	12
Switzerland	5	2	3	10
South Korea	1	2	3	6
China	0	3	3	6
Australia	3	1	1	5

## Team USA medalists

A complete list of medalists for Team USA through competition early Tuesday:

**Gold:** Breezy Johnson, women's downhill skiing; U.S. team, figure skating mixed team; Elizabeth Lemly, women's moguls; Jordan Stolz, men's 500m, 1000m speed skating; Elana Meyers Taylor, women's monobob

**Silver:** Ben Ogden, men's sprint classic style cross country skiing; Alexander Hall, men's slope-style freestyle skiing; Korey Dropkin and Cory Thiesse, mixed doubles curling; Jaelin Kauf, women's moguls, women's dual moguls; Alexander Hall, men's slopestyle; Ryan Cochran-Siegle, men's super-G; Madison Chock and Evan Bates, mixed ice dance; Chloe Kim, snowboard, women's halfpipe; U.S. men, speedskating, team pursuit; Max Forehand, men's big air freestyle skiing

**Bronze:** Jacqueline Wiles and Paula Moltzan, women's combined downhill skiing; Ashley Farquharson, women's single luge; Jessie Diggins, women's 10km freestyle cross-country skiing; Elizabeth Lemly, women's dual moguls; Kailie Ambruster Humphries, women's monobob



Ashley Farquharson

## TV top picks

Wednesday, February 18

All times Central. Broadcast on NBC, USA and CNBC. Streaming on Peacock and other subscription services.

**ALPINE SKIING** » 6:20 a.m.: Streaming only — Women's Slalom: Run 2; 6:55 a.m.: USA — Women's Slalom: Run 2

**BIATHLON** » 7:45 a.m.: Streaming only — Women's 4x6km Relay; 11 a.m.: NBC — Women's 4x6km Relay; 2:45 p.m.: USA — Women's 4x6km Relay (re-air)

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** » 7:30 a.m.: USA — Men's & Women's Team Sprint Free: Finals; 11:45 a.m.: NBC — Men's & Women's Team Sprint Free: Finals

**CURLING** » 7:05 a.m.: Streaming only — China vs. Czechia (M), Italy vs. Canada (M), Norway vs. Switzerland (M), United States vs. Great Britain (M); 8:15 a.m.: USA — United States vs. Great Britain (W); 12:05 p.m.: Streaming only — Canada vs. Italy (W), China vs. Sweden (W), Great Britain vs. Japan (W), Switzerland vs. Denmark (W); 4 p.m.: CNBC — United States vs. Great Britain (M); 7 p.m.: USA — Canada vs. Italy (W)

**FREESTYLE SKIING** » 12:30 p.m.: NBC — Women's Aerials: Final; 4 p.m.: USA — Women's Aerials: Final (re-air)

**HOCKEY** » 5:10 a.m.: Streaming only — Men's Quarterfinal; 9:40 a.m.: Streaming only, USA — Men's Quarterfinal; 11:10 a.m.: Streaming only — Men's Quarterfinal; Noon: USA — Men's Quarterfinal; 2:10 p.m.: NBC — On NBC: Hockey, Streaming only — Men's Quarterfinal; 5:15 p.m.: USA — Men's Quarterfinal; 10 p.m.: USA — Men's Quarterfinal (re-air)

**SHORT TRACK** » 1:15 p.m.: Streaming only — Men's 500m & Women's Relay Finals; 1:30 p.m.: USA — Men's 500m & Women's Relay Finals

**SNOWBOARDING** » 5:30 a.m.: Streaming only — Men's Snowboard Slopestyle: Final; 5:45 a.m.: USA — Men's Snowboard Slopestyle: Final; 1:15 p.m.: NBC — Men's Snowboard Slopestyle: Final

## MEN'S HOCKEY

# Quiet captain leads U.S. into quarters

STEPHEN WHYNO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILAN — The spotlight is constantly on Auston Matthews, no matter where is.

He carries a lot on his shoulders in the NHL as captain of the Toronto Maple Leafs in what is known as the center (centre in Canada) of the hockey universe. He also has tons of pressure wearing the "C" for the U.S. at the Milan Cortina Olympics.

By the time the preliminary round ended, Matthews looked precisely like the leader the Americans were hoping he would be. He scored two goals and had an assist on an otherworldly pass in a performance against Germany that coach Mike Sullivan called inspiring to the whole group.

Teammates are quick to defend Matthews the captain and the player, with his style being far more about leading by example than with words.

"He's a quiet leader, but he does things the right way," center Dylan Larkin said Tuesday. "He sacrifices offense by being on the defensive side of the puck all the time, he blocks shots and then he rises to the occasion. There's no one better



Carolyn Kaster | Associated Press

**Auston Matthews scores** the United States' fifth goal during a preliminary round game against Germany on Sunday in Milan, Italy.

to lead our group than him."

Matthews leads the U.S. into the quarterfinals against Sweden or Latvia tied for first on the team in scoring with five points. The Germany game stood out because, by his standards, the 28-year-old cen-

ter had a quiet start in Milan.

"He's been great all tournament," linemate Jake Guentzel said. "You guys put a lot of heat on him for no reason. He's just an unbelievable player and plays in all situations."

Jack Eichel is the first-line center

between brothers Brady and Matthew Tkachuk, but Sullivan loves what the trio of Matthews, Guentzel and Matt Boldy can provide for his team. Matthews as a second-line center is an incredible luxury reserved only for tournaments like the Olympics when the collection of elite talent is this deep.

"The way he plays the whole game defensively — winning faceoffs, he's great down low and he's always in the right place," Boldy said. "The way he's able to score and the way he's able to play such an honest game is pretty remarkable."

Matthews led the NHL in goals three times in his first nine seasons and is not far removed from scoring 69 in 2023-24. That's not what the players and coaches around him are talking about when they see what Matthews is doing on the ice.

"He does a lot of things really well, even when he's not producing, that people might not notice," defenseman Zach Werenski said. "Everyone's always focused on his goal-scoring and rightfully so. He's one of the best goal-scorers in the world. But since we've been here, he's been such a leader for us the way he plays the game."

## BOBSLEDDING: WOMEN'S MONOBOB



Aijaz Rahi | Associated Press

**United States gold medalist Elana Meyers Taylor** celebrates at the finish after the women's monobob competition Monday in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

# THE POWER OF HOPE

## Team, husband, NBA's Spurs help Meyers Taylor reach top of podium

TIM REYNOLDS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy — It was a couple of weeks before Christmas. Elana Meyers Taylor was in Norway, prepping for a World Cup bobsled weekend.

Things were going horribly. Her body was hurting, she wondered if she was doing right by her two deaf children, and the racing results were, well, bad.

So, she texted her husband. The message: I'm done.

"This is just impossible," the U.S. bobsledding great wrote. "It's never going to work."

Funny how an Olympic gold medal changes things. Barely two months after nearly quitting — her husband, former bobsledder Nic Taylor, flew to Norway after

those texts to talk her out of it — Meyers Taylor won the women's monobob gold medal at the Milan Cortina Games.

And she was back on the ice Tuesday, prepping with Jadin O'Brien for the two-woman race that starts Friday.

"The only thing that has really changed is I'm sleep-deprived now," Meyers Taylor said. "I'm an Olympic gold medalist with a lack of sleep."

That's a good problem to have.

At 41, she became the oldest woman to win an individual gold medal in Winter Games history. (Anette Norberg, then 43, was on the Swedish team that won curling gold at the 2010 Vancouver Games.)

Meyers Taylor's sixth career Olympic medal tied Bonnie Blair

for the most by a U.S. woman in the Winter Games, and it also extended her record for most medals by a Black woman in the winter showcase.

"Oh, I don't think I'm going to process this for a while," Meyers Taylor said. "There were so many moments during this entire season, during this past four years, that we just thought it was impossible, or I thought it wasn't possible. My team around me believed in me the entire time."

Turns out, so did her husband's team. Nic Taylor is now a performance coach and works with the NBA's San Antonio Spurs. When a Spurs player — the couple won't say who — learned Meyers Taylor was struggling, Nic Taylor was gifted a plane ticket and told to go to Norway immediately.

Without that gift, who knows what would have happened.

"As soon as I saw that E had won, I just started screaming, jumping, hugging anyone who was close. Almost passed out because I was excited," said O'Brien, a bobsled rookie who was recruited to the team last fall by Meyers Taylor — and now is an Olympian. "Without a doubt, the coolest sports moment I've ever been part of."

To put that praise in perspective — "the coolest sports moment" she's ever been part of — consider that O'Brien won three NCAA indoor track championships in pentathlon at Notre Dame and was a 10-time All-American there.

"Yeah, that's saying something," O'Brien said. "It was beyond incredible."

# Ski mountaineering makes its Olympic debut

PAT GRAHAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BORMIO, Italy — The newest sport on the Olympic program goes by the name "skimo," which is short for ski mountaineering. It's basic principles are just as condensed: race up the slope and back down as fast as possible.

There's so much more nuance to it, though, in a sport that traces its roots to the late 19th century. Ski mountaineering became fashionable before the arrival of mechan-

ical lifts when the only way to go up was by climbing. And the best way to get back down was, of course, skiing.

"I love this sport because it takes me into the mountains and gives me an incredible sense of freedom," explained Swiss athlete Marianne Fatton, who won the women's sprint event at the skimo world championships last March. "For me, the Olympic Games were really the cherry on top. I was already incredibly happy just to be able to compete at a high level."

A range of skimo categories blend a combination of endurance, technique, speed and Alpine ability. For the Milan Cortina Games, the focus will be on just the individual sprint and the mixed team relay. The men's and women's sprint competitions are Thursday in Bormio with the mixed relay two days later.

The individual sprint features a bracketed-style setup. The top finishers keep advancing until they reach the final, which will consist of six athletes. The course is composed

of an ascent on skis with an assist of "skins," which are pieces of fabric that allow athletes to hurry uphill but prevent sliding backward. After going through a diamond-shaped pattern, there's a running section in boots with the skis on their backs and then another uphill section on skis. From there, the athletes remove the skins and ski down.

A typical individual race lasts about three minutes. The total ascent is roughly 76 yards and the course length about a half mile.



Antonio Calanni, file | Associated Press

**Athletes compete** during the men's sprint race at the Ski Mountaineering World Cup event in Bormio, Italy, in February 2025.