

United States' goalkeeper Connor Hellebuyck makes a save during a preliminary round game of men's ice hockey between the United States and Germany at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Milan, Italy, Sunday.

THE PUCK STOPS HERE

Connor Hellebuyck shows why he's the U.S. starting goalie at the Olympics

MILAN — Connor Hellebuyck could not be doing much better midway through the Olympics.

"Is there more than 100%?" he asked with a laugh after backstopping the U.S. past Germany in the round-robin finale. "I feel good. It's pretty hot out there. I'm sweating a lot now I have to stand around and do a bunch of (interviews), so I'm going to chill now. I guess I'm at 99% right now as we speak. But, yeah, I feel good out there."

The Americans feel good about him. Hellebuyck showed in the preliminary round why he's the U.S. starting goaltender in Milan, leading the tournament with a .952 save percentage and matching Canada's Jordan Binnington for the best goals-against average at 1.00.

"He's one of the best goalies in the world," U.S. forward Matt Boldy said. "He's confident. He wants to be in the net. He wants to make the saves and to

make a big difference. He has the skills to back it up, but I think that attitude and how confident he is in himself and in his game is I think what makes him so great."

Hellebuyck started two of the three group-play games and stopped 40 of the 42 shots he faced against Latvia and Germany. Jeremy Swayman was shaky against Denmark, but bounced back from allowing a goal from nearly center ice to get the win.

Jake Oettinger dressed once as the No. 3 netminder, with coach Mike Sullivan repeatedly saying how tough a decision he and his staff had at the position with three options just about any country would love to have.

It was always Hellebuyck. He was the guy at the 4 Nations Face-Off last year and is the reigning NHL MVP and Vezina Trophy winner as the league's best goalie

"He's won a lot of trophies," winger Jake Guentzel said. "We feel good with him back there."

Not tested a whole lot by Latvia, Hellebuyck was there when Leon

Draisaitl, Moritz Seider, Tim Stützle and Germany had quality scoring chances. He allowed just one goal to Stützle, and Sullivan called it Hellebuyck's best game yet.

"You could feel his confidence from the bench just watching him make the saves," Sullivan said. "When he's at his best, my observation of him is he has economy of motion, and a lot of pucks just hit him, and he makes it look easy the way he squares up to pucks, but his rebound control, he swallowed everything. There was no rebounds for Germany to have an opportunity to create a next play."

Hellebuyck figures to be in the crease in the quarterfinals Wednesday night when the U.S. faces the winner of the qualification playoff between Sweden and Latvia. He feels in a good rhythm after playing twice in four days, with a little bit of rest before the next start.

"There was a conversation about how we wanted to go about things, and this just made the most sense," Hellebuyck said.

WINTER GAMES 2026

MILAN CORTINA, ITALY

OLYMPICS ON TV

ALL TIMES EASTERN

TUESDAY, FEB. 17

ALPINE SKIING
10 p.m. USA — Women's Slalom: Run 1

BIATHLON
5 p.m. USA — Men's 4x7.5km Relay (Re-air)

BOBSLED
11:30 a.m. USA — Two-Man Bobsled: Runs 3-4

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
11 p.m. USA — Men's & Women's Team Sprint Free: Qualifying

CURLING
11 a.m. CNBC — Denmark vs. United States (W Round-Robin)
3:30 p.m. USA — United States vs. Italy (M Round-Robin)

FIGURE SKATING
6:30 a.m. USA — Figure Skating Preview
6:45 a.m. USA — On USA: Women's Short
8:40 a.m. NBC — On NBC: Women's Short
7:30 p.m. USA — Women's Short Program (Re-air)

FREESTYLE SKIING
6 a.m. NBC — M&W Aerials: Qualifying
7:30 a.m. NBC — Men's Freeski Big Air: Final
12:15 p.m. USA — Women's Aerials: Qualifying (Re-air)
1 p.m. USA — Men's Aerials: Qualifying (Re-air)
11:30 p.m. USA — Women's Aerials: Final

HOCKEY
6:15 a.m. USA — Men's Qualification Playoff
9:10 a.m. USA — Men's Qualification Playoff
2 p.m. USA — Men's Qualification Playoff

NORDIC COMBINED
6:30 p.m. USA — Men's Large Hill (Re-air)

SNOWBOARDING
6:45 a.m. NBC — Women's Snowboard Slopestyle: Final

MILANO CORTINA 2026

MEDAL TRACKER

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Norway	12	7	8	27
Italy	8	4	10	22
United States	5	8	4	17
Japan	3	5	9	17
France	4	7	4	15
Germany	4	6	5	15
Austria	4	7	3	14
Netherlands	6	5	1	12
Sweden	5	5	1	11
Switzerland	5	2	3	10
Canada	1	4	5	10
Australia	3	1	1	5
South Korea	1	2	3	6
Czech Republic	2	2	0	4
Slovenia	2	1	1	4
China	0	2	2	4
Great Britain	3	0	0	3
Poland	0	2	1	3
Finland	0	0	3	3
Latvia	0	1	1	2
New Zealand	0	1	1	2
Bulgaria	0	0	2	2
Brazil	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	1	1

70 of 116 total events
Results as of Feb. 16, 9 a.m. EST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2026 WINTER GAMES

Loic Meillard of Switzerland wins slalom to close out men's Alpine program at Milan Cortina Games

BORMIO, Italy — Loic Meillard of Switzerland used a strong second run to win the men's slalom Monday on a day that saw Brazilian ski racer Lucas Pinheiro Braathen fall in the first run, ending his bid for another Olympic gold.

The event closes out the men's Alpine program at the Milan Cortina Games.

Meillard adds gold to a silver he won in the team combined and bronze from the giant slalom.

Meillard finished in a two-run combined time of 1 minute, 53.61 seconds. He edged Fabio Gstrein of Austria by 0.35 seconds, while Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway took bronze. It was quite a contrast of runs, too, with snow and fog in the morning and the sun peeking out for the afternoon.

Norway's Atle Lie McGrath, the

first-run leader, straddled a gate and was out. He was so irate that he threw his ski poles over the netting on one side. He then went outside the netting on the other side, trudging along the snow. He sat down and then fell back, breathing heavily.

McGrath has been racing with a heavy heart, with his grandfather dying the day of the opening ceremony. McGrath wore an armband as a tribute.

Last at halfway, smiling at the finish: Israeli team celebrates first Olympic bobsled run

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy— Israel has made its Olympic bobsled debut, and its two-man team celebrated even while it sits in last place. AJ Edelman and Menachem Chen competed in two heats at the Milan Cortina Games. They posted the slowest starts and finishes. They trail the leader by almost five seconds. Edelman says that still feels like a victory. He

says he wants kids to see Israel represented and believe they can try it as well.

The team lacks a full-time coach and faces high costs. Edelman and Chen get another run on Tuesday.

Dutch star Velzeboer wins 1,000 meters short track final for her second Olympic gold in Milan

MILAN — Dutch star Xandra Velzeboer won the 1,000 meters gold medal in women's short track speedskating four days after topping the podium in the 500 at the Milan Cortina Olympics. Velzeboer finished first in the final in 1 minute, 28.437 seconds, with Canada's Courtney Sarault in second for the silver medal followed by South Korea's Kim Gilli, who took bronze. Home favorite Arianna Fontana, in her sixth Games and owner of 13 Olympic medals in her career, was fourth.