



United States' Lindsey Vonn crashes during an alpine ski women's downhill race, at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Sunday.

BROKEN DREAMS

Lindsey Vonn breaks leg in downhill crash at Winter Olympics, in stable condition after surgery to repair left leg fracture

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy — Lindsey Vonn 's defiant bid to win the Winter Olympic downhill at the age of 41, on a rebuilt right knee and a badly injured left knee, ended Sunday in a frightening crash that left her with a broken leg and saw her taken to safety by a rescue helicopter for the second time in nine days.

Vonn lost control within moments of leaving the start house, clipping a gate with her right shoulder and pin-wheeling down the slope before ending up awkwardly on her back, her skis crisscrossed below her and her screams ringing out soon after medical personnel arrived. She was treated for long, anguished minutes as a hush fell over the crowd waiting far below at the finish line.

She was strapped to a gurney and flown away, possibly ending the skier's storied career. She was taken to a clinic in Cortina, then transferred to a larger hospital in Treviso, a two-hour drive to the south.

She was being "treated by a multidisciplinary team" and "underwent an orthopedic operation to stabilize a fracture reported in her left leg," the Ca' Foncello hospital said in a statement. The U.S. Ski Team said Vonn was "in stable condition and in good hands with a team of American and Italian physicians."

"She'll be OK, but it's going to be a bit of a process," said Anouk Patty, chief of sport for U.S. Ski and Snowboard. "This sport's brutal and people need to remember when they're watching (that) these athletes are throwing themselves down a mountain and going really, really fast."

Breezy Johnson, Vonn's teammate, became only the second American woman to win the Olympic downhill after Vonn did it 16 years ago. The 30-year-old Johnson held off Emma Aicher of Germany and Italy's Sofia Goggia on a bittersweet day for the team.

"I don't claim to know what she's going through, but I do know what it is to be here, to be fighting for the Olympics, and to have this course burn you and to watch those dreams die," said Johnson, whose injury in Cortina in 2022 ruined her hopes of skiing in the Beijing Olympics. "I can't imagine the pain that she's going through and it's not the physical pain — we can deal with physical pain — but the emotional pain is something else."

Vonn had family in the stands, including her father, Alan Kildow, who stared down at the ground while his daughter was being treated after just 13 seconds on the course where she holds a record 12 World Cup titles. Others in the crowd, including rapper Snoo

Dogg, watched quietly as the star skier was finally taken off the course. Fellow American star Mikaela Shiffrin posted a broken heart emoji on social media.

Vonn's crash was "tragic, but it's ski racing," said Johan Eliasch, president of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation.

"I can only say thank you for what she has done for our sport," he said, "because this race has been the talk of the games and it's put our sport in the best possible light."

All eyes had been on Vonn, the feel-good story heading into the Olympics. She returned to elite ski racing last season after nearly six years, a remarkable decision given her age but she also had a partial titanium knee replacement in her right knee, too. Many wondered how she would fare as she sought a gold medal to join the one she won in the downhill at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

The four-time overall World Cup champion stunned everyone by being a contender almost immediately. She came to the Olympics as the leader in the World Cup downhill standings and was a gold-medal favorite before her crash in Switzerland nine days ago, when she suffered her latest knee injury. In addition to a ruptured ACL, she also had a bone bruise and meniscus damage.

WINTER GAMES 2026

MILAN CORTINA, ITALY



OLYMPICS ON TV

ALL TIMES EASTERN

MONDAY, FEB. 9

ALPINE SKIING
6:45 a.m. NBC — Men's Team Combined: Downhill & Slalom
7 p.m. USA — Men's Team Combined (Re-air)
10:30 p.m. USA — Women's Team Combined: Downhill

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
9:15 p.m. USA — Men's & Women's Sprint Classic: Qualifying

CURLING
11 a.m. CNBC — Mixed Doubles Semifinal
12:30 p.m. CNBC — Mixed Doubles Semifinal
2:45 p.m. USA — Mixed Doubles Semifinal (Re-air)

FIGURE SKATING
7:20 a.m. USA — On USA: Rhythm Dance
8 p.m. USA — Ice Dance: Rhythm Dance (Re-air)

FREESTYLE SKIING
12:30 a.m. USA — Women's Freeski Slopestyle: Final
11:45 p.m. USA — Men's Moguls: Qualifying Round 1

HOCKEY
6 a.m. USA — Germany vs. France (Women's Group B)
8:40 a.m. USA — Switzerland vs. United States (Women's Group A)
11 a.m. USA — Canada vs. Czechia (Women's Group A)
5 p.m. USA — Switzerland vs. United States (Women's Group A) Re-air

LUGE
7 a.m. USA — Women's Singles Luge: Run 2
2 p.m. USA — Women's Singles Luge: Runs 1-2 (Re-air)

SKI JUMPING
11:30 a.m. USA — Men's Normal Hill
4:15 p.m. USA — Men's Normal Hill (Re-air)

SNOWBOARDING
7:30 a.m. NBC — Women's Snowboard Big Air: Final

SPEED SKATING
5:30 a.m. USA — Women's 1000m
6 a.m. NBC — Women's 1000m
12:45 p.m. USA — Women's 1000m (Re-air)

MEDAL TRACKER

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Italy	1	2	6	9
Norway	3	1	2	6
Japan	1	2	1	4
Austria	1	2	0	3
Germany	1	1	1	3
United States	2	0	0	2
Czech Republic	1	1	0	2
France	1	1	0	2
Sweden	1	1	0	2
Switzerland	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
South Korea	0	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
China	0	0	1	1

13 of 116 total events

Results as of Feb. 8, 5 p.m. EST

CONTENT BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Breezy Johnson wins 1st gold for US at Milan Cortina Olympics after Lindsey Vonn crashes

MILAN — The crash. The gasps. The helicopter.

Lindsey Vonn's frightening fall in the women's downhill at the Milan Cortina Olympics couldn't help but overshadow U.S. teammate Breezy Johnson's feat — winning her country's first gold medal at these Games.

Johnson's victory Sunday in Cortina wasn't the Olympic comeback story everyone expected, as the focus was on Vonn going for gold despite a torn ACL. Even as Johnson sat in the leader's box on the verge of securing her first Olympic gold medal, her emotions swung from anticipation to anguish when Vonn went down.

"It was one of the most heartbreaking moments of my life," Johnson said.

Still, the 30-year-old Johnson became



only the second American woman to win the Olympic downhill — Vonn won it in 2010 — and it came after her own injury concerns as well as a 14-month ban for violating "whereabouts" rules when it comes to testing for doping.

Sometimes, she said, "you just have to keep going because that's the only option."

NHL players arrive to Milan

Five charter planes carrying NHL players — including Canada's Sidney Crosby — arrived in Milan on Sunday morning from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. This is the first Olympics with NHL players since the Sochi Games in 2014.

Sweden was the first of the teams comprised of almost exclusively NHL players to take the ice for practice at Milano Santagiulia Arena, followed by the U.S., Czechia, Canada and Finland.

The 12-team men's tournament starts Wednesday. The U.S. and Canada are the



heavy favorites, and both teams begin their campaigns Thursday. The Americans face Latvia. Canada plays the Czech Republic.

Finland is the defending champion, but Canada has won each of the past two Olympics with NHL players.

Big favorite Ester Ledecka stunned in snowboarding

No surprise that a Czech racer won snowboarding's parallel giant slalom Sunday in Livigno. The shocker was that it wasn't Ester Ledecka.

Ledecka, who was trying to become the first snowboarder to win gold medals at three straight Olympics, lost her quarterfinal race by 0.06 seconds to Austria's Sabine Payer.

The gold medal went to Ledecka's teammate, 22-year-old Zuzana Maderova. It was her first victory in a major event. Payer took the silver medal. Italy's Lucia Dalmaso won bronze.

