



## 20 March 2010

### IN FOCUS

- USA Wins Ice Sledge Hockey Gold
- Final Day of Alpine Skiing at Whistler Creekside
- Athletes' Council Election Results
- Vancouver Volunteers in Words

### TEAM USA WINS ICE SLEDGE HOCKEY GOLD

Athletes from USA took the prized gold medal today against Japan, winning 2:0 in a tightly contested game at the UBC Thunderbird Arena. The team secured their gold medal with forward Taylor Lipsett having scored on a tip through Japanese goaltender Mitsuru Nagase. Team USA only allowed five shots on goal throughout the game, with them having been mostly on the offensive.

Lipsett has been an offensive scoring machine, having scored five goals and tallied two assists throughout the Ice Sledge Hockey tournament.

"It is unbelievable! I think that it was the hard work, our guys moved around the country - all the sacrifices that the families as made and now it is all paid off," Lipsett said.

He added that a major reason for their victory was their defense, with goalkeeper Steve Cash leading the way.

"I knew that we had to counterattack the Japanese speed but our defense did a great job of shutting them down, and they got behind our defense a couple times, but Cash was there to shut the door," Lipsett said.

The wins from Team USA at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games have been in a convincing fashion, having scored a total of 14 goals and not allowing for a single goal. Furthermore, they have won all seven meetings versus the Japanese, outscoring them 29-2.

This victory is special to USA Head Coach Ray Maluta since they become the first country to win two Paralympic Gold Medals.

"The game is just not about defense but our offense, as our success in this tournament can come from our depth running three lines rather than two lines here," Coach Maluta said.

He added that Cash was a big reason why they won gold today - "having the number one goaltender in the world backing us up is great".

Japan's Satoru Sudo had a great chance to tie the game with under three minutes left in the third period with his hard shot on net, but his shot was stopped by Cash.

Takayuki Endo, Japan's captain, said that the team was still filled with happy emotions, winning the silver medal.

"I think that we tried to play hard and as one solid unit, but the USA was just a little better than us today," Endo said.



He continued, saying that he was very happy that there has been so much media coverage of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games, with at least print 20 journalists from Japan covering the game.

“I think that it was a turning point as it showed Ice Sledge Hockey can really inspire a nation,” he said.

### **CANADA WINS GOLD IN WHEELCHAIR CURLING**

In the Gold medal game, Canada defeated Korea 8:7 to earn top glory in an exciting game. Canada started off strong, with skip Jim Armstrong throwing a precise raise to take three with the hammer in the first end. A couple of misses on the takeout from Korea in the fourth end will allow Canada to draw for four and a big seven point lead.

However, Korea would chip away the lead, taking a deuce in the fifth end and stealing two more in the sixth with some excellent freezes. A great hit in the seventh will allow Korea to steal one more, but conservative play by Canada in the final end would stop them just short of a full comeback as Canada holds Korea to one and walk away with the gold.



Sweden defeated USA in the Bronze medal game 7:5 in the afternoon. A missed draw shot by USA's skip Augusto Perez would push a Swedish rock into the house, helping Sweden to steal three to start the game. USA would fight back, taking three with the hammer in the fourth end to tie up the game. However, a steal by the Swedes in the sixth and an excellent draw in the last end with Jungnell's first throw would let them take the win.

### **ALPINE EVENTS FINISH STRONG AT WHISTLER CREEKSIDE**

The final day of races at Whistler Creekside included the speed of Super-G and the finesse of Slalom during the Super Combined events.

In the Men's Visually Impaired category, Slovakia continued to dominate with Jakub Krako (SVK, B2) and guide Juraj Medera winning their third gold medal and Miroslav Haraus (SVK, B2) with guide Martin Makovnik winning their second bronze of the Paralympics.

“On the course we are enemies and in the finish we are friends,” said Krako of his relationship with teammate Haraus.



“Today the national anthem will play and that's perfect because Jakub is our colleague and we congratulate him,” Haraus said about sharing the podium with his teammate.

Between the two Slovaks was Gianmaria Dal Maistro (ITA, B3) with guide Tommaso Balasso taking the silver medal in possibly the last race of his competitive skiing career.

With thoughts of retirement, Gerd Schoenfelder (GER, LW5/7-2) may have ended his Paralympic career on a high note by winning gold in the Super Combined (Standing) with a time of 2:11.84. This was his fourth gold medal and fifth medal overall at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.



Adding to the excitement of the day for Schoenfelder, his wife also gave birth to their second child, Leopold, during the Super-G race of the Super Combined event. Finishing just 0.2 seconds behind Schoenfelder was Vincent Gauthier-Manuel (FRA, LW6/8-2) to win his second silver medal, with Cameron Rahles-Rahbula (AUS, LW2) skiing the bronze.

Martin Braxenthaler (GER, LW10-2) won his third gold medal in the Super Combined Sitting category. Two Austrians, Juergen Egle (AUT, LW11) and Philipp Bonadimann (AUT, LW11) finished behind Braxenthaler winning the silver and bronze respectively.

In the Women's Super Combined (Visually Impaired), Danelle Umstead (USA, B2) with guide Rob Umstead won their second bronze. Viviane Forest (CAN, B2) with guide Lindsay Debou managed to reach the podium in all five Alpine Skiing events by winning silver in the Super Combined race. Henrieta Farkasova (SVK, B3) and guide Natalia Subrtova skied to their third gold medal with a combined time of 2:34.61.

Lauren Woolstencroft's (CAN, LW3-1) supremacy continued in the Super Combined races, as she won her fifth gold medal of the Games. Her combined time of 2:22.67 was just too fast for Solene Jambaque (FRA, LW9-2), who was 12.15 seconds behind Woolstencroft but won the silver medal. Karolina Wisniewska (CAN, LW3-2) won her second bronze of the Vancouver Games.

In the final Alpine Skiing competition, Team USA continued their success in the Women's Sitting category by finishing with a gold for Stephani Victor (USA, LW12-2) and a bronze for Alana Nichols (USA, LW11) in the Super Combined event. Claudia Loesch also ended successfully, winning her fourth medal, a silver, in this event.

With the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games closing on the slopes of Whistler mountain, all of the fans, officials, volunteers and athletes have truly shown the world the excitement that can be found in Alpine Skiing!

### **DIFFERENT STRATEGIES IN CROSS-COUNTRY RELAY**

With ideal weather at Whistler Paralympic Park, the Men's Cross-Country relay began with Norway's Trygve Toskedal Larsen (LW12) flying out of the starting position. The Men's Cross-Country relay consisted of 1x4km (Sitting category) and 2x5km (Standing and/or Visually Impaired). Norway was named as the favourite for winning this race, as the country won gold in the relay at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

After the first 2km lap, Larsen was first with a time of 5:01.5. China's Fu Chunshan (LW12) skied impressively and was in second place, with France's Georges Bettega (LW11.5) in third. Surprisingly, Russia's Sergey Shilov (LW10) was in sixth place after the first lap and seventh after the second.



In the second lap, Russian Kirill Mikhaylov (LW4) made up significant time, bumping the Russian team up to second place from seventh. At the end of the second lap, Norway was still in first place, but Mikhaylov had raced the fastest out of the second group of skiers.

In the third lap, Norway, Russia and the Ukraine raced hard for the gold medal. However, Russia's Nikolay Polukhin (B2) with guide Andrey Tokarev caught up to Norway's Nils-Erik Ulset (LW3) with Ukraine's Vitaliy Lukyanenko (B3) and guide Volodymyr Ivanov also closing in on the gap.



In the end, Russia took gold, with Ukraine winning silver and Norway winning bronze.

The Norwegians after the race however were not disappointed with losing the lead. Ulset commented on how it feels to win a team medal.

“It’s really good because we train together and worked hard together so when the whole team gets a medal it’s good,” he said. “It shows that what we’re doing as a team works.”

### **ELECTION SEES THREE NEW MEMBERS IN ATHLETES’ COUNCIL**

A record number of 403 athletes (79.96%) in both Paralympic Villages (Vancouver, Whistler) voted for three of the six candidates running for the IPC Athletes' Council. By comparison, at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, 79.87% of all accredited athletes took the opportunity to vote.

Athletes elected to the IPC Athletes' Council include: Katarzyna Rogowiec, Poland, Biathlon & Cross-Country Skiing (275 votes); Todd Nicholson, Canada, Ice Sledge Hockey (203 votes); Eskil Hagen, Norway, Ice Sledge Hockey (193 votes).

Marketa Sidkova, IPC Athletes' Council Election Task Force Chairperson and member of the IPC Athletes' Council, stated: "We are very happy with this election. It was very successful and an enriching experience for all members of the Election Task Force. We worked well as a team and had the great help of our VANOC Volunteers."

The Athletes' Council is composed of nine Paralympic athlete representatives elected for a four-year term. Six athlete representatives are elected during the Paralympic Summer Games and three during the Paralympic Winter Games.

### **PARALYMPIC ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS**



**Eric Walser** and **Timothy Zawacki** are from Thunder Bay, Ontario, and are part of the official forerunner team at the Whistler Creekside venue for Alpine Skiing. Both Walser and Zawacki go down the course to check and make sure it is safe for athletes, and free of loose snow. Zawacki said that going down the course first is a great experience, with the snow very clean and clear of any holes and tracks. In how to find out if the course is safe or not, Zawacki said that “If I fall, then it is not safe”. Both men are semi-retired from skiing, and found the job from Walser’s father, who is the Chief of Race.


**Alessandro de Franzoni** is the press manager for Whistler’s Paralympic Park, where the Biathlon and Cross-Country competitions take place. Franzoni, originally from Italy, flew into Vancouver in September 2009 to work for the Vancouver 2010 Organization Committee. This is his second Olympic and Paralympic Games, saying that his experience here has been amazing. He noted that “the whole feeling from the people here in Canada has been awesome and to have the opportunity to work with all the athletes and press has been really great.”



## CALENDAR

21 March	Cross-Country Skiing (Men and Women`s 1km)	Whistler Paralympic Park
21 March	Closing Ceremony	Medals' Plaza, Whistler
21 March	IPC Exhibition	Snow Dome, Whistler
21 March	LiveCity Downtown Vancouver (13:00-21:00)	Corner of Georgia & Cambie Streets, Vancouver

## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE OF ONLINE COVERAGE AT [www.ParalympicSport.TV](http://www.ParalympicSport.TV)

Sunday 21 March		
19:00	Closing Ceremony of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games	LIVE
Proudly presented by Visa and Samsung		
		

Please note: All times are PST. This schedule is subject to change

## PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games are broadcast on [www.ParalympicSport.TV](http://www.ParalympicSport.TV).

**BECOME A FAN ON FACEBOOK:** Stay up to date with what happens on ParalympicSport.TV and become a fan on Facebook! Be the first to get news and videos from the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, with additional LIVE programming information. Simply log in to Facebook, type in the address [www.facebook.com/ParalympicSport.TV](http://www.facebook.com/ParalympicSport.TV), and click on the "Become a Fan" button at the top of the page.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Lieven Coudenys and Rob Prezioso return as the IPC's official photographers during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. Photos of daily events and competitions can be viewed and purchased from Lieven Coudenys and Rob Prezioso through their respective websites. For more information about Lieven Coudenys, please visit his official website at [www.coudenys.be/paralympics](http://www.coudenys.be/paralympics). For more information about Prezioso Photography, please visit the official website at [www.prezioso.com.au](http://www.prezioso.com.au).

## VANCOUVER 2010 INFORMATION

For more information on the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, please visit [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

## PARALYMPIC INFORMATION

For more information about the Paralympic Movement, please visit [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org). For more detailed information on this Newsletter, please send an email to [jeff.wolfshohl@paralympic.org](mailto:jeff.wolfshohl@paralympic.org).