Lake Tahoe area athletes in the hunt for gold

By Kathryn Reed

Lake Tahoe is often well represented in the Winter Olympics. Expect nothing less in 2014.

Today, 25 athletes are vying to be part of the Games that are in Russia Feb. 7-23. Some are household names – especially for those who live in the basin and follow skiing and snowboarding, while other athletes are newcomers to this level of competition.

Sierra-at-Tahoe, Heavenly Mountain Resort, Squaw Valley, Northstar, Sugar Bowl and Mammoth Mountain all expect to send competitors to the Olympics. In the coming months they will be competing throughout the world with the goal of making the U.S. Team.

Though, for Joanna "PNut" Dzierzawski, she is hoping to make the Poland team as a slopestyle snowboarder. She trains at Heavenly. And Kaya Turski, who trains at Mammoth, is hoping to be competing in skier slopestyle for Canada.

Here are the athletes from the greater Lake Tahoe who are in contention for the U.S. Olympic team:

• **Maddie Bowman:** Freeskier, from South Lake Tahoe, trains at Sierra-at-Tahoe. Gold at the 2013 X Games in halfpipe. This would be her first Olympics.

• **Jamie Anderson:** Snowboard slopestyle, from South Lake Tahoe, trains at Sierra-at-Tahoe. Decorated X Games competitor. This is the first year for slopestyle as an Olympic sport.

• **Hannah Teter:** Won gold at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games and a silver at the 2010 Winter Olympics in snowboarding, lives in

Meyers, trains at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

• **Kyle Smaine:** Halfpipe skier, from South Lake Tahoe, trains at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

• **Mark Hoyt**: Snowboard slopestyle, trains at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

• **Elena Hight:** Snowboard halfpipe, from South Lake Tahoe, trains at Northstar. Competed in 2006 and 2010 Olympics. Well decorated at the X Games.

• **Sho Kashima:** Moguls, lives in Stateline, trains at Heavenly. Missed the 2010 Olympics because of a knee injury.

• **David Wise:** Freeskiing halfpipe, from Reno, trains at Northstar. Multiple X Games awards.

• **Chas Guldemond:** Snowboarding halfpipe and slopestyle, lives in Reno, trains at Northstar.

• **Shaun White:** Snowboarding halfpipe and slopestyle, from Southern California, trains at Northstar. Won gold in snowboard halfpipe at 2006 and 2010 Winter Games.

• **Julia Mancuso:** Ski racer, from Squaw Valley, trains at Squaw Valley. Won gold in giant slalom at 2006 Olympics and at the 2010 Games won silver in the downhill and silver in the combined.

• **Marco Sullivan:** Ski racer, from Truckee, trains at Squaw Valley. Competed in the 2002 and 2010 Games.

• **Travis Ganong:** Ski racer, lives in Squaw Valley, trains at Squaw Valley.

• **Ross Andrews:** Boardercrosss, from Michigan, trains at Sugar Bowl.

• **Jayson Hale:** Boardercross, from Sierraville, trains at Sugar Bowl. Competed in 2010 Olympics.

• **Charlotte Mia Skinner:** Skiercross, lives on North Shore, trains at Sugar Bowl.

• **Greg Bretz**: Halfpipe snowboarding, lives in Mammoth, trains at Mammoth. Competed in the 2010 Olympics.

• **Trevor Jacob:** Boardercross, lives in Mammoth, trains at Mammoth.

• **Luke Mitrani**: Snowboard halfpipe, lives and trains in Mammoth.

• **Kelly Clark**: Snowboard halfpipe, lives and trains in Mammoth. Won gold in 2002 Olympics and bronze in 2010.

• **Sammy Carlson:** Freeskier, from Oregon, trains at Mammoth.

• **Aaron Blunck:** Halfpipe skier, from Colorado, trains at Mammoth.

• **John Teller:** Skiercross, lives and trains at Mammoth.