Men from Squaw earn points in downhill

By USSA

WENGEN, Switzerland – Olympic gold medalist Bode MIller (Franconia, N.H.) finished fifth, a mere 0.35 behind winner Patrick Kueng of Switzerland in a wind shortened running of the 84th Lauberhorn downhill on Saturday.

The race start was lowered as high winds ravaged the upper half of the fabled course, cutting over a full minute from the normal leg burning run time. Young gun Jared Goldberg (Holladay, Utah) took advantage of the rugged and technical bottom half to storm to 12th from the 40th start position.

Miller navigated the turny middle part of the sprint course flawlessly, then made a small mistake just above the finish to drop out of podium contention.

Marco Sullivan (Squaw Valley) also charged from the late start numbers to finish 16th from bib 29. Travis Ganong (Squaw Valley) was the only other American to finish inside the points with 28th.

Ted Ligety (Park City) opted to sit out the downhill in order to rest for Sunday's slalom.

Anderson claims Sprint Grand

Prix title

By USSA

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN -– Jamie Anderson (South Lake Tahoe) took the Sprint U.S. Grand Prix overall slopestyle title and a $10,000 cash prize with her win Saturday at Mammoth Mountain.

Karly Shorr (Truckee) put down a progressive run to land second while Jessika Jenson (Rigby, Idaho) took third. Nominations for the first U.S. Olympic team for slopestyle snowboarding will be announced Sunday after the final halfpipe qualifier.

In addition to Olympic qualification, athletes have been competing for a total of $500,000 in cash prizes throughout the Sprint U.S. Grand Prix tour, including a $10,000 bonus for Jamie Anderson for winning the Sprint U.S. Grand Prix Tour overall.

Anderson’s winning run: 50-50 on down rail, gap to boardslide switch out, cab tail 270 out, switch backside 540, backside 540 and cab 720.

“I didn’t have to compete today but I chose to just because it’s really good practice going into X Games next week. More than anything it’s snowboarding and it’s so fun,” Anderson said. “It’s beautiful weather, the park is all time and I’m just having a good day. It’s not just the local Tahoe community; it’s the entire U.S. and even my friends throughout that world that are supporting me. It’s really special to come together for the Olympics because of how much love you get from your country and representing your nation. It’s like nothing I’ve ever done before.”

Snowmaking saving Lake Tahoe's ski season

By Lisa M. Krieger, San Jose Mercury News

These are the unlikely saviors in the lofty peaks of the serene Sierra: high-tech snow machines, roaring like jets and spewing million-dollar crystals.

"If it wasn't for snowmaking, we probably wouldn't be open," said Barrett Burghard, head snowmaker at Heavenly Mountain Resort, who is propping up the beleaguered mountain economy with his vast computer-driven complex of snow guns, pumps, compressors, pipes, hydrants, nozzles and miles of hoses.

Mother Nature, always fickle, has been especially cruel this drought year to the resorts and mountain communities that depend on snow for their economic survival. Instead of fluffy powder, there's just granite, mud and manzanita.

Innovations in technology – such as the $40,000 Super PoleCat, with a built-in automated weather station that alters man-made snow characteristics – make it possible to produce an acre of thigh-deep snow in an hour. That's enough to blanket a football field with snow 8 feet deep during a three-hour game.

In this dry and balmy winter, the small, historic and family-owned resorts without extensive snow making – such as Donner Ski Ranch or Dodge Ridge – haven't opened, costing jobs and starving local businesses. The National Winter Trail Days event at Tahoe Donner Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Center was canceled. But big corporations running Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows and Mammoth Mountain have made major investments in snow-making tools. Squaw Valley alone has spent $5.2 million since 2012. This month virtually all of the snow at the resorts came out of machines.

Read the whole story

No snow: USFS delays school trips to Heavenly

The U.S. Forest Service has had to push back its dates for Winter Trek field trips.

The agency takes fifth-graders in the basin to Heavenly Mountain Resort for an environmental lesson on snowshoes.

It was supposed to start next week, but has been delayed until February. And then that's assuming the conditions improve.

"I evaluated on-mountain coverage and conditions late last week and did not feel confident beginning our program on time. The current conditions are simply unsafe, especially with the projected forecast," Megan Dee, USFS Winter Trek coordinator, said in an email to educators.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Calling 911 can be a life-saving decision

By Dale Hemstalk

Each year, about 600,000 Americans – one in four deaths – in the United States are from heart disease, according to the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Of the 715,000 Americans who have a heart attack each year, about 525,000 are first-timers, says the CDC, and those individuals may not know what's happening. Sadly, many people do not get to the hospital on time.

If someone is having a heart attack, for example, they should get to the hospital without delay upon the initial onset of symptoms.

We live in an age in which we should be taking greater advantage of our technology for health purposes – but you have to call for help first..

Here are warning signs that it's time dial 911:

• Symptoms for a heart attack: Men and women frequently report different symptoms. Men tend to have the "classic" signs, such as pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that goes away and comes back; pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms; chest discomfort with light headedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

For women, symptoms tend to be back or jaw pain; difficulty breathing; nausea or dizziness; unexplainable anxiety or fatigue; mild flu-like symptoms; palpitations, cold sweats or dizziness. Triggers tend to be different between the sexes, too. In women, it's often stress; in men, it's physical exertion.

• Symptoms for a stroke: There are clear, telltale characteristics of a stroke, including sagging on one side of the face, an arm that's drifting down and garbled speech. But there are also more subtle signs from the onset, such as sudden numbness of one side of the body, including an arm, leg and part of the face; sudden confusion, trouble speaking and understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden loss of balance; sudden headache for no apparent

reason. Risk factors include diabetes, tobacco use, hypertension, heart disease, a previous stroke, irregular heartbeat, obesity, high cholesterol and heavy alcohol use.

• Symptoms for heart failure: This is not the same as a heart attack, which occurs when a vessel supplying the heart muscle with oxygen and nutrients becomes completely blocked. Heart failure is a chronic condition where the heart can't pump properly, which may be due to fluid in the lungs. Warning signs include shortness of breath, fatigue, swollen ankles, chest congestion and an overall limitation on activities. Just one of these symptoms may not be cause for alarm; but more than one certainly is. Risk factors include various heart problems, serious viral infections, drug or alcohol abuse, severe lung disease and chemotherapy.

At no point should anyone be discouraged from calling 911; the bottom line is, if you feel it's an emergency and you need to call 911.

There are many reasons to seek assistance from emergency responders, and they are not limited to those that I've mentioned.

Dale Hemstalk is an Air Force veteran and career firefighter paramedic who has been providing emergency care for over 20 years.

2-week mountain festival on North Shore

The first winter edition of the Alpenglow Mountain Festival is Feb. 14-March 2.

The two-week festival is a celebration of human-powered events, clinics, presentations, film and more. Participants may Nordic ski, backcountry ski, snowshoe and partake in natural history excursions.

The festival has been designed to inspire participants to enjoy and explore North Lake Tahoe’s playground with friends and family. Alpenglow Mountain Festival is geared toward beginner and intermediate winter recreation enthusiasts, offering a range of

activities for all interests and ability levels. The majority of events are free and space is limited. Participants are encouraged to register online in advance.

Bettors: 49ers are Super Bowl bound

By Case Keefer, Las Vegas Sun

The 49ers are channeling their namesake in Las Vegas.

San Francisco is inciting a sports-book gold rush in the form of betting slips. Coach Jim Harbaugh’s squad was the most gambled-on team of the weekend in each of their first two playoff games as slight favorites against the Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers.

Nothing has changed now that they’re taking points, three or 3.5 depending on the shop, on the road against the Seahawks in Sunday’s NFC Championship Game.

While bookmakers would take a hit if the 49ers won in Seattle for the first time since 2011, it might be worthwhile

considering the Super Bowl implications. San Francisco's presence in the game Feb. 2 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., would boost Super Bowl betting volume up to 8 percent, according to Vaccaro. Last year's record of $98.9 million wagered statewide on the Super Bowl would find itself in imminent danger.

Read the whole story

Snowboarders sue for access to Utah ski resort

By Dennis Romboy, Deseret News

SALT LAKE CITY – Snowboarders have wanted to "free" Alta for years.

On Wednesday, four of them and a group called Wasatch Equality dropped a federal lawsuit on the Little Cottonwood Canyon resort, challenging its longstanding skiers-only policy.

A lawyer for the snowboarders said that because of Alta Ski Area's arrangement with the U.S. Forest Service, it must comply with the equal protection clause in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Forest Service is also named as defendant.

"Alta is one of only three ski resorts in the United States that does not allow snowboarding, and Alta is the only one of these resorts that is operated on public land controlled by the Forest Service," said Jonathan Schofield, an attorney with Parr Brown Gee and Loveless.

Read the whole story

Tahoe’s shoreline to be subject of 2 meetings

There will be two meetings this month about the near shore of Lake Tahoe. This area extends from the shoreline out 350 feet into the lake, or to a depth of 69 feet, whichever is further.

The Nearshore Evaluation Report, completed last fall by the Desert Research Institute, UNR and UC Davis describes the current understanding about the near shore and the changes it is experiencing. These meetings are an opportunity to learn more about the Nearshore Evaluation Report and what the agencies are doing to monitor, protect and improve nearshore conditions.

The meetings are put on by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Meeting details:

- Jan. 30, 1:30-3pm, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Hearing Room, 971 Silver Dollar Ave., South Lake Tahoe
- Jan. 30, 6-7:30pm, Tahoe City Public Utility Office Board Room, 221 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City.

The presentations at the meetings will be identical and will include a synopsis of the Nearshore Evaluation Report. Lahontan Water Board staff will also present an overview of the Lahontan Water Board’s draft Nearshore Implementation Plan, the agency’s response to changes in the near shore described in the Nearshore Evaluation Report.

For more information, contact Dan Sussman at Lahontan Regional at (530) 542.5466 or dsussman@waterboards.ca.gov or Lauri Kemper at (530) 542.5436 or lauri.kemper@waterboards.ca.gov.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Tom Moore is president of Douglas County School District's board for the next year, Karen Chessell vice president and Ross Chichester clerk – the same as it was the last year.

• Journey and the Steve Miller Band will be at Harveys on July 30 at 6:30pm.

• Sierra Sotheby's International Realty agent Lexi Cerretti has achieved the National Association of Realtors' Green Designation, the only green real estate professional designation recognized by NAR.

• South Lake Tahoe Recreation Facilities Joint Powers Authority is meeting Jan. 24 at 9am at Lake Tahoe Airport.

• Here is the El Dorado-Tahoe roadwork schedule for the week from Caltrans