

Reno-Tahoe 2022 Winter Olympic Games?

By Susan Wood



The Winter Olympics is a hot ticket for those who are enthusiastic about cold weather sports. That's why the Reno-Tahoe Winter Games Coalition has not given up hope on hosting the world-renowned event again.

The group led by Chief Executive Officer Jon Killoran is so motivated to bring the Games back decades after Squaw Valley hosted them in 1960 that the board has agreed to engage in a game of chess in determining what year to bid for.

As it stands, the 2014 prospect once dreamed about by the late Reno Sports Commission Chairman Jim Vanden Heuvel moved to 2018. It was more recently bumped to 2022 once Chicago lost its bid for the Summer Games in 2016.

Killoran is still hopeful – especially since patience is the name of the game.

"I don't think there's a better North American region to host them than us. Mother Nature brings us this great skiing in close proximity to the Reno and Sacramento airports," Killoran told *Lake Tahoe News* shortly after Chicago lost its bid.

He further explained how the International and U.S. Olympic committees evaluate the strength of the bid based on the prospect of mass ticket sales. The population bases of the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Reno provides that potential.

"We feel we stack very well against any other region with this," he said.

And now, the USOC has a new chief executive officer, Scott Blackmun, who has expressed more interest in getting the Winter Games back in the United States in 2022.

The local coalition has been using the Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002 as a model for calculating the bottom line. Its budget came in at \$3 billion with a \$76 million profit. This was also just five months after 9/11, so people were not traveling.

Venues built for the Games are recognized for bringing in revenue long after the athletes and organizers have packed up. The budget for the Games scheduled in Vancouver in February is set at \$1.6 billion.

Killoran said enthusiasts shouldn't lose hope since the region has had them before.

"In the modern Olympics, 50 years is a long time," he said. "They don't tend to return to a region too quickly."

He could have a point. The United States hosted them twice at Lake Placid, N.Y., in 1932 and 1980. Innsbruck, Austria, is another two-time location.

Whatever the case, the bid would represent a far-reaching effort – with organizers acknowledging widespread support would be necessary from the ski resorts and local government groups.

Transportation and environmental issues represent the top concerns for hosting the Games here. Most agree a mass transit system would need to be put into place and environmental watchdog groups would need to be behind it. As former South Lake Tahoe Mayor Tom Davis put it when the idea circulated in 2001: "That's going to be our biggest hurdle."

In the meantime, the coalition will focus on more short-term goals such as the West Coast AAU Junior Olympic Games. This event received joint support from the Nevada Youth Sports Commission and Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority.

For now, the latter has developed no economic impact report for hosting the 2022 Winter Games but pledges marketing support, according to RSCVA officials.

“We’re more involved on the periphery for now,” spokeswoman Jill Stockton said.

Truckee Mayor Carolyn Dee, also Squaw’s director of business administration, summed up the quest with a familiar Olympic theme: “Time will tell.”

Other attempts have been made to bring the Games back to the Tahoe area. A group from Squaw tried for the 1976 games and a South Shore chamber of commerce had talked of going after the 1996 Games.

Rahlfes, Bahrke set for another Olympics



By USSA

PARK CITY – Four World Champions and an Olympic medalist were among 18 athletes announced Tuesday by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association to compete on the 2010 Olympic Freestyle Ski Team.

USSA President and CEO Bill Marolt, together with the U.S. Olympic Committee and Team partner Visa, announced the roster of athletes to compete in the freestyle events at Cypress Mountain near Vancouver.

"We have a good mix of experienced veterans and some exciting young skiers making their first Olympic appearance," said Freestyle Head Coach Jeff Wintersteen.

The moguls team is headlined by 2009 season-long World Cup champion Hannah Kearney (Norwich, VT). Kearney, who qualified in the Olympic Trials a month ago, leads a strong group of women who all posted World Cup podium finishes. First time Olympian Heather McPhie (Park City, UT) had a win and two seconds, while 2002 Olympic silver medalist Shannon Bahrke (Tahoe City, CA) was second and third. Michelle Roark (Denver) rounds out the team based on her third in Deer Valley.

The 2009 World Champion Patrick Deneen (Cle Elum, WA) leads the men's moguls squad following his victory in the Olympic Trials last month. Rookie Bryon Wilson (Park City, UT) took advantage of a pair of seconds in the season opener while 2005 World Champion Nate Roberts (Park City, UT) picked up a third that same weekend in Finland to make the Team. Michael Morse (Duxbury, MA) pieced together a fifth and two sixths to join the team. All four men are making their first Olympic experience.

"We're really excited for all the Olympians. We have a great mix of veterans and youth," Moguls Head Coach Scott Rawles said. "It's been a tough road to make it here. But, I'm really looking forward to Vancouver, so are our athletes and we want to get up there and get the job done."

Two-time Olympian Jeret "Speedy" Peterson (Boise, ID) and newcomer Lacy Schnoor (Draper, UT) head the aerials squad following their victories in the Olympic Trials in December. Veterans Ryan St. Onge (Winter Park, CO), the reigning World

Champion, Jana Lindsey (Black Hawk, SD) and Emily Cook (Belmont, CA) will be making return trips to the Olympics.

They will be joined by first-time Olympians including Dylan Ferguson (Amesbury, MA), Matt DePeters (Hamburg, NY) and Ashley Caldwell (Hamilton, VA). Caldwell, just 16, is the first skier to come out of the USSA's Elite Air Program in Lake Placid, NY, designed to fast track talented gymnastic or acrobatic athletes and train them in freestyle aericals.

"I'm very pleased with this Team," said Aerials Head Coach Matt Christensen. "It's a really good feeling when you look at veteran athletes like Ryan, Speedy and Emily who have all won World Cups. When Ryan does his jumps the best he can, he is so far ahead of the field ? same with Speedy. Emily has been on the podium many times and has a new triple-twisting double she started last year and is looking to perfect for Vancouver. And both Jana and Lacy are performing the same trick."

It has been a tough year results-wise for the aerialists, but Christensen remains optimistic. "So far our results have been less than what we would have liked. But our focus is on perfection and preparing for the perfect jumps in Vancouver."

Veteran ski racers Casey Puckett (Aspen, CO) and Daron Rahlves (Sugar Bowl, CA) will represent the USA in the debut of ski cross in Vancouver. It will be Puckett's fifth Olympics and the fourth trip for Rahlves, a 2001 World Champion in alpine super G. Both were former U.S. Alpine Ski Team racers who have had strong success in ski cross on the World Cup and in the X Games.

Rahlves will be competing this week in the X Games, while Puckett is resting a shoulder injury but is expected to be ready to go for Vancouver.

"I'm confident and excited for Daron and Casey," said Ski Cross Head Coach Tyler Shepherd. "We are all honored and proud to be Vancouver Bound with the first U.S. Olympic Ski Cross

Team. Both Daron and Casey are skiing extremely well and there's no reason they can't challenge for the podium."

Shepherd expects an exciting debut for the newest Olympic sport. "I think the audience will be amazed at the athletes' abilities."

The moguls team will conduct a final pre-Olympic training camp in Steamboat Springs next week while the aerials team is training in Park City. The Olympics will open with women's moguls in Vancouver Feb. 13.

The team is subject to final review by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

2010 U.S. Olympic Freestyle Ski Team

Aerials

Men

Matt DePeters, Hamburg, NY, 22

Dylan Ferguson, Amesbury, MA, 21

Jeret "Speedy" Peterson, Boise, ID, 28

Ryan St. Onge, Winter Park, CO, 26

Women

Ashley Caldwell, Hamilton, VA, 16

Emily Cook, Belmont, MA, 30

Jana Lindsey, Black Hawk, SD, 25

Lacy Schnoor, Draper, UT, 24

Moguls

Men

Patrick Deneen, Cle Elum, WA, 22

Michael Morse, Duxbury, MA, 28

Nate Roberts, Park City, UT, 27

Bryon Wilson, Park City, UT, 21

Women

Shannon Bahrke, Tahoe City, CA, 29

Hannah Kearney, Norwich, VT, 23

Heather McPhie, Bozeman, MT, 25

Michelle Roark, Denver, 35

Ski Cross

Men

Casey Puckett, Aspen, CO, 37

Daron Rahlves, Sugar Bowl, CA, 36

Mancuso, Sullivan and Jitloff packing for Whistler



By USSA

PARK CITY -â€ Double World Champion Lindsey Vonn (Vail, CO) and two-time Olympic silver medalist Bode Miller (Franconia,

NH) join 2006 Olympic gold medalists Ted Ligety (Park City, UT) and Julia Mancuso (Olympic Valley, CA) as the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) announced the 2010 Olympic Alpine Ski Team Monday.

USSA President and CEO Bill Marolt, together with the U.S. Olympic Committee and Team partner Visa, announced the roster of 22 athletes to compete in the alpine events at Whistler. The team is a mix of nine Olympic veterans and 13 first-timers.

Vonn's 2008 and 2009 seasons accounted for five World Cup titles and she set numerous ski racing high marks, yet her genuine approachability by fans and media alike have rocketed her to the forefront of Olympic sport, including a recently announced honor as 2009 USOC SportsWoman of the Year. Vonn has won every World Cup downhill this season and currently leads the overall, downhill, super G and super combined points standings.

"With Lindsey, there's potential in every event," said women's Head Coach Jim Tracy. "She's put in the hard work to make it happen and has proven she can. But the cream of the crop will be there and they all have the same goal. She's said it better than anyone, if she wins one medal of any color, she'll be happy. Everything else will be a bonus."

Joining Vonn and Mancuso in the Olympic spotlight is World Cup winner Sarah Schleper (Vail, CO) who becomes a four-time Olympian after missing the two seasons directly after the 2006 Games due to injury and the birth of her nearly 2-year-old son, Lasse.

"Sarah has achieved a huge goal that a year ago might have been unrealistic," added Tracy. "But she has a spirit like no other. If you look at the Olympics there's always someone who comes out of nowhere. It's exactly what Julia did in 2006 and now Jules has something that a lot of people will never have

â€“ an Olympic gold medal.”

Sparked by solid early season finishes in speed events and a January super combined victory in classic Wengen, Switzerland, Miller â€“ also a four-time Olympian and a double silver medalist from 2002 â€“ is poised to charge on North American snow.

Ligety’s big race success began in 2006 when he became the Olympic combined gold medalist. He has since continued the trend with multiple World Cup wins, a World Cup giant slalom title in 2008 and a World Championships giant slalom bronze in 2009.

“As a Team we’re proud of this group of guys,” said men’s Head Coach Sasha Rearick. “It’s an impressive mix of veterans like Ted and Bode, who’ve shown they can perform when it counts. But then we’ve got young guys like Andrew Weibrecht (Lake Placid, NY) and Tommy Ford (Bend, OR), who have consistently made progress all winter.”

Rearick noted World Cup veterans Marco Sullivan (Squaw Valley, CA), Steven Nyman (Sundance, UT) and Jimmy Cochran (Keene, NH) for putting in the hard work to earn yet another appearance at the Olympic Games. He also praised the Team’s European Training Base in Pagenella-Trentino, Italy for being instrumental in helping prepare his group with perfectly prepared training slopes all season.

“Each one of these guys has put in the work and effort to represent America in Vancouver,” said Rearick. “This staff has done an amazing job day in and day out taking care of all the details to make that happen. We’re a tight family who has been working together for many years and we’re looking forward to the opportunity to inspire Americans about the great sport of ski racing.”

Following a series of three World Cup speed races next weekend in St. Moritz, Switzerland, women’s speed will train at their

European Base at Zell am See-Kaprun, Austria until Feb. 5 before arriving in Vancouver on Feb. 9, while the tech athletes will prepare in Jackson Hole.

On the men's side two giant slaloms and a slalom are set for Kranjska Gora, Slovenia before both men's speed and technical groups move into a pre-Olympic camp in Park City. U.S. men will also arrive on Feb. 9 in time for the first downhill training run set for Feb. 10.

There are a total of five medal events for each gender with downhill, super G, super combined, giant slalom and slalom all on the Olympic calendar.

The team is subject to final review by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

2010 U.S. Olympic Alpine Ski Team

Men

Will Brandenburg, Spokane, WA, 23

Jimmy Cochran, Keene, NH, 28

Erik Fisher, Middleton, ID, 24

Tommy Ford, Bend, OR, 20

Tim Jitloff, Reno, NV, 25

Nolan Kasper, Warren, VT, 20

Ted Ligety, Park City, UT, 25

Bode Miller, Franconia, NH, 32

Steven Nyman, Sundance, UT, 28

Marco Sullivan, Squaw Valley, CA, 29

Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, NY, 24

Jake Zamansky, Aspen, CO, 28

Women

Stacey Cook, Mammoth Mountain, CA, 25

Hailey Duke, Boise, ID, 24

Julia Mancuso, Olympic Valley, CA, 25

Chelsea Marshall, Pittsfield, VT, 27

Megan McJames, Park City, UT, 22

Alice McKennis, Glenwood Springs, CO, 20

Kaylin Richardson, Edina, MN, 25

Sarah Schleper, Vail, CO, 30

Leanne Smith, Conway, NH, 22

Lindsey Vonn, Vail, CO, 25

Incline woman headed to X Games

Incline Village's Bev Vuilleumier will compete in the Snowboard Slopestyle competition at Winter X Games 14 on Jan. 28-31 in Aspen.

The finals will be live Jan. 31 on ESPN at 11am.

Lake Tahoe ski report, Jan. 26



Cloudy with scattered snow showers is the forecast, but it feels more like rain. Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe, delivers his ski report.

Maritime museum looking for water skiers

Did water skiing play a role in your family's history at Lake Tahoe?

The Tahoe Maritime Museum in Homewood is developing an exhibit to highlight the history of water skiing at Lake Tahoe which will be unveiled in the summer.

Officials are interested in hearing from people who are past water ski champions at various competitive levels, individuals who would like to share their oral history, old home movies, memorabilia, historic photographs and memories of water skiing on the lake, and from those who own historically accurate ski boats representing the evolution of the boat side of water skiing.

Contact a museum staff member at (530) 525.9253 or at Info@TahoeMaritimeMuseum.org.

Hockey skills class in SLT

Do you need to work on your dangle, toe drag or grinding in the corners? If so, the South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena has a Skills and Drills program that to improve your ability and understanding of the game of hockey.

Skills and Drills is offered Wednesdays from 6:15â€”7:45pm beginning Jan. 27.

You can sign up for the full four-week session or drop in on individual classes.

For more information, call (530) 542-6262, or come by the South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena at 1176 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe

Teter, Hight and Holland make Olympic team



By USSA

PARK CITY -â€” Olympic gold medalists Shaun White (Carlsbad, CA), Kelly Clark (Mt. Snow, VT), Hannah Teter (South Lake Tahoe, CA), and Seth Wescott (Sugarloaf, ME) each highlight a talent-filled roster as the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) announced the 2010 Olympic Snowboarding Team Monday.

USSA President and CEO Bill Marolt, together with the U.S. Olympic Committee and Team partner Visa, announced the roster

of 18 athletes to compete in the snowboard events at Cypress Mountain in Vancouver.

"We are going in to the 2010 Games with one of the strongest athletic lineups possible," U.S. Snowboarding Head Coach Peter Foley said. "We're hoping to go into Vancouver and build on the successes we saw in 2006. This Team is in position to do great things."

After winning four of five events at the Sprint U.S. Snowboarding Grand Prix, White, who took the gold medal in 2006, has kept his stronghold on winning halfpipe events and will be a favorite in Vancouver.

"Shaun is truly an amazing competitor. After winning in 2006 he has been non-stop and has played a huge role in the progression halfpipe has seen in these past four years," U.S. Snowboarding Halfpipe Head Coach Mike Jankowski said.

Joining White is a lineup of talented riders with unique style, including Louie Vito (Sandy, UT), who has back to back double corks in his repertoire and Scotty Lago (Seabrook, NH) who reaches mesmerizing heights with each hit in the pipe. Greg Bretz (Mammoth Lakes, CA) who has the coveted double cork in his bag as well, completes the men's roster.

Danny Davis (Detroit, MI) would have qualified for the Olympic team with a fourth in the Grand Prix standings, but suffered an injury earlier this month that will keep him out of competition.

On the women's side of things, the Olympic Team will be comprised of the same talent it featured in 2006.

Clark also won four of the five Grand Prix stops to make the team, and has been using her time to lock down new tricks that she plans to add to her run as she looks for success in Vancouver.

Filling out the women's roster, Olympic silver medalist Gretchen Bleiler (Aspen, CO), Teter, and 2006 Olympian Elena Hight (South Lake Tahoe, CA) all bring the Olympic experience and heavy-hitting tricks to make the grade at Cypress Mountain.

Defending snowboardcross champ Wescott fills out one of the most talented SBX men's teams making its way to Vancouver.

"It was a huge battle to make this men's SBX team. Six different U.S. riders have already been on the World Cup podium this season, and only four of them make the Olympic Team," Foley said. "Vancouver is going to be an incredible fight for the podium, and our guys are ready for it."

Five-time X Games gold medalist Nate Holland (Squaw Valley, CA) is gunning for success after an unfortunate fall in the 2006 Games. After getting a surprise shot at being an Olympian in 2006, Graham Watanabe (Sun Valley, ID) is prepared for 2010, toting World Cup wins and an X Games silver medal on his way in. And, joining the seasoned Olympians is World Championship bronze medalist Nick Baumgartner (Iron River, MI).

In the women's SBX field, Lindsey Jacobellis (Stratton Mountain, VT), who earned silver in 2006, has taken win after win in the four years leading up to the 2010 Games and looks strong going in to Vancouver.

Joining Jacobellis are Olympic newcomers and solid contenders Faye Gulin (Salt Lake City) and Callan Chythlook-Sifsof (Girdwood, AK).

Finalizing the Olympic Snowboarding Team are the alpine racers, who are led by 2006 Olympian Tyler Jewell (Steamboat Springs, CO), who came out on top of the team selection process.

Two-time Olympian and 2002 bronze medalist Chris Klug (Aspen,

CO) joins Jewell for the men. He notched two top-eight results on the World Cup this season to grab his third team spot and was on the original Olympic Team in 1998 for the sport's debut. Michelle Gorgone (Boston), who also competed in 2006, will represent the U.S. for the women.

"Klug's hard work and perseverance have really paid off," Foley said. "What an amazing accomplishment it is for him to make the Olympic teams in 98, and 2002, then miss the team in 2006, and now comeback and make the team again in 2010."

Snowboarding kicks off with the men's SBX on Feb. 15.

The Team is subject to final review by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

2010 U.S. Olympic Snowboarding Team

Halfpipe Men

Greg Bretz, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 19

Scotty Lago, Seabrook, NH, 22

Louie Vito, Sandy, UT, 21

Shaun White, Carlsbad, CA, 23,

Halfpipe Women

Gretchen Bleiler, Aspen, CO, 28

Kelly Clark, Mt. Snow, VT, 26

Elena Hight, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 20

Hannah Teter, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 23

SBX Men

Nick Baumgartner, Iron River, MI, 28

Nate Holland, Squaw Valley, CA, 31

Graham Watanabe, Sun Valley, ID, 27

Seth Wescott, Sugarloaf, ME, 33

SBX Women

Callan Chythlook-Sifsof, Girdwood, AK, 24

Faye Gulini, Salt Lake City, 17

Lindsey Jacobellis, Stratton Mountain, VT, 24

PGS Men

Tyler Jewell, Steamboat Springs, CO, 32

Chris Klug, Aspen, CO, 37

PGS Women

Michelle Gorgone, Boston, 26

Tahoe's talk of Vancouver, Jan. 25 pm edition

By Kathryn Reed

WHISTLER, British Columbia —WASP means something entirely different in British Columbia. It stands for Whistler Adaptive Ski Program.

Usually the staff numbers about 130 each year, with 10 paid and the rest volunteers.

A busy day would be about 20 clients participating. A normal day is five-10 people.



A sit-skier
plows through
the fresh
powder at
Whistler on
Monday.

Photo/Kathryn
Reed

Gil Tetrault was hauling a sit-ski up the Whistler Village Gondola on Monday morning for a client who is severely disabled. This 29-year-old client from the U.K. is here for three weeks. Last year he came out for six weeks.

Tetrault said many resorts in Europe have little regard for skiers with special needs. He said WASP caters to a slew of disabilities in its large, all-encompassing program.

He said the adaptive program has a number of autistic clients. About 20 percent need sit-skis. Two WASP instructors accompany sit-skiing clients.

“Every year we get new volunteers in the program,” Tetrault said. “We put them in a sit-ski and it freaks them out.”

He also said the volunteers must try to ski with a blindfold to simulate what a blind skier experiences.

“We find a lot of capable skiers fall over because they are not thinking through their feet to stay balanced,” Tetrault said.

Lake Tahoe ski report, Jan. 25



A winter weather advisory remains in effect today for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Snow will increase throughout the day, wrapping up Tuesday morning. Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe, delivers his ski report.