

Davis vs. Hedrick

A Tonya-Nancy throwdown on Olympic oval



Shani Davis of the United States shrugs his shoulders after seeing that he won the silver medal during the men's 1,500-meter speedskating competition at Oval Lingotto in Turin, Italy, on Tuesday.

Americans finish 2-3 behind Italian in 1,500

By PAUL NEWBERRY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURIN, Italy
Shani Davis got the best of Chad Hedrick, though it wasn't good enough for gold. Then they both took the Olympics' hottest rivalry to a whole new level.

These guys really don't like each other.

That much they could shake on. While Italy's Enrico Fabris was becoming an Olympic hero in his home country, upsetting the Davis-Hedrick showdown with a victory Tuesday in the 1,500 meters, the most compelling storyline was the two American favorites who settled for silver and bronze.

Davis, the runner-up, and Hedrick, a disappointing third, were forced to spend an uncomfortable half-hour in a brightly lit room that might as well have been the scene of an interrogation.

Finally, the truth came out. Davis was still mad that Hedrick didn't shake his hand after Davis' victory Saturday in the 1,000. This time, Hedrick did shake hands and offer his congratulations, but that clearly was too late to soothe Davis' feelings. "I'll be honest with you," said Davis, the first black athlete ever to win an individual gold



Bronze medalist Chad Hedrick walks off after the flower ceremony during the men's 1500 meter speedskating competition in Turin, Italy, on Tuesday.

medal in the Winter Olympics. "Sure, Chad and I are fighting for the same thing. But it would have been kind of nice after I won the 1,000 if he would have been a good teammate and shook my hand."

With that, Davis jumped out of his seat and stormed from the room, mumbling on his way through the door, "Shakes my hand when I lose. Typical Chad."

Now sitting alone at the podium, Hedrick didn't back down. He flipped on his microphone

and said he was upset that Davis wouldn't take part in the team pursuit last week because he wanted to focus on his individual races.

A Hedrick-led trio was upset by the Italians in the quarterfinals, doomed by a slower skater who probably wouldn't have been on the ice if Davis had been available.

"We're all part of Team USA," Hedrick said. "We had a great opportunity to win the team pursuit. I felt betrayed in a way. Not only did he not participate, he wouldn't even discuss it with me as a leader of the team. I thought we passed up a medal."

Davis and Hedrick came into the metric mile as the two clear favorites, the former world record holder against the current record holder, two gold medalists whose frosty relationship only added to a buildup that seemed more suited to a heavyweight fight.

Fabris, skating in the 17th of 21 pairs, shot to the top of the leaderboard with a time of 1 minute, 45.97 seconds. Davis and Hedrick each started strong but had slow final laps.

"To be honest, I was pushing a little harder to beat Shani," Hedrick said. "We were so focused on each other that we were not focused on Enrico."

TUESDAY'S ACTION

Germans win biathlon relay

Germany won the men's 4x7.5km biathlon relay. It was their fourth Olympic gold in the event.

Russia was 20.9 seconds back, and France edged Sweden for the bronze in a photo finish.

The Americans took ninth.

Austria gets eighth gold

Felix Gottwald rallied to victory in the Nordic combined sprint, giving Austria its record eighth gold medal.

Magnus Moan of Norway took the silver, and Germany's Georg Hettich took the bronze. Americans finished in ninth and 10th.

Lone U.S. aerialist in finals

Americans Emily Cook and Jana Lindsey both failed to qualify for Wednesday night's aerials finals.

That left Jeret "Speedy" Peterson as the only one of six U.S. aerialists, men or women, to advance to the finals. The men's medal round is Thursday.

2006 WINTER GAMES



Medal count

As of Tuesday
Includes 58 of 84 medal events

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOT
Germany	9	7	5	21
United States	7	7	4	18
Norway	2	8	8	18
Austria	8	5	3	16
Russia	7	3	5	15
Canada	3	6	5	14
Italy	4	0	5	9
Switzerland	2	2	4	8
South Korea	3	3	1	7
France	3	1	3	7
Sweden	2	2	3	7
China	1	2	4	7
Netherlands	2	2	2	6
Finland	0	3	3	6
Estonia	3	0	0	3
Croatia	1	2	0	3
Czech Rep.	0	2	0	2
Ukraine	0	0	2	2
Australia	1	0	0	1
Britain	0	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	1	0	1
Slovakia	0	1	0	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1



The puck slides past goalie Robert Esche during the United States' loss to Russia on Tuesday in Turin, Italy. Russia won 5-4.

U.S. men's hockey team falls to Russia

By IRA PODELL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURIN, Italy

Brian Rolston's shot bounced off the goalie, struck the crossbar and sent a water bottle flying in its way into the net.

Needing all that effort for one goal, who knows what it will take to lift the U.S. men's hockey team to Olympic victory. Trouble is, the club has only one more chance to figure it out.

Rolston scored one of the Americans' three power-play goals Tuesday, but on a night they finally found their offense, the defense and goaltending wasn't up to par in a 5-4 loss to Russia.

"I wouldn't say it's frustrating; it's more maddening than anything else," coach Peter Laviolette said.

After managing only two goals in two consecutive losses, the U.S. team broke out in a game that could only serve them in the confidence department. It didn't quite work out that way.

The Americans (1-3-1), the fourth-place team in Group B, were already locked into a quarterfinal matchup today with Group A-winning Finland (5-0). As the No. 2 team in Group B, the Russians (4-1) will face Canada (3-2) in the quarterfinals.

"It's almost like a playoff game where you are playing a great defensive team with

"I wouldn't say it's frustrating; it's more maddening than anything else."

Peter Laviolette
U.S. men's hockey coach
on Tuesday's loss to Russia

great goaltending," U.S. forward Doug Weight said. "If we don't get a goal early, if something bad happens, we have to keep playing our game for 60 minutes."

The U.S. can win the scoring chances fight every game as Laviolette suggests, but if the scoreboard isn't in their favor against Finland, the Americans will truly be finished.

"I don't think that they're down," Laviolette said. "We just remain confident that we're going to win a hockey game."

Rolston, Brian Gionta and Scott Gomez all scored man-advantage goals, but the U.S. allowed as many goals by Russia as it did in the three previous games of the tournament.

With the Americans scheduled to play again today in the single-elimination medal round, goalie Rick DiPietro got the night off; Robert Esche started in his place.

He finished with 16 saves in what was likely his only appearance in these games. As is the norm, Laviolette wouldn't reveal who would start in goal against Finland.

• Cohen

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

She got the marks she felt she deserved, and the United States has yet another women's gold in sight. Americans have won three of the past four Olympic titles, and if Cohen, a two-time world silver medalist, is this dynamic in the finale, she could add another one.

"When the numbers came up, I wasn't sure where I would be," Cohen said. "To be in first, it was like 'Wow, I did it; the judges did it. We did it together.'"

A win for Cohen would break Russia's stranglehold on figure skating golds at these games. No country has swept all four events, and the Russians already own three: pairs, men's and dance.

Japan's Shizuka Arakawa and Fumie Suguri were third and fourth, and American Kimmie Meissner was fifth.

Emily Hughes, added to the U.S. team nine days ago when Michelle Kwan withdrew with a groin injury, wasn't intimidated in her first major international event. The 17-year-old sister of 2002 gold medalist Sarah Hughes, who was in the audience, finished seventh.

The 16-year-old Meissner, skating second, showed no stage fright. She hit all her elements, and although her footwork was somewhat faulty, it was a strong start.

"I was a little excited, and I think I got trippy," said Meissner, who walked to the rink pulling a rolling suitcase with her skates inside. "I wanted to do a clean short. I feel like I got an 'A' on that."

She finished with a personal-best 59.40 points.

That eclipsed the personal high of 57.08 for Hughes, who celebrated her performance as emphatically as anyone in the field.

With her sister and other family members holding a "Hughes Gotta Believe" banner and cheering from the upper deck, Emily Hughes wore a steely look through her early elements. After landing her double axel, though, it was all smiles as Hughes did her other elements, including a vastly improved spiral series.

"I went out for my warmup, and they were cheering my name. That's the first time that's ever happened," she said. "After the double axel, it was a great feeling to know I landed all the jumps and I could just focus on the spins and footwork."

America's sliding soldier wins silver

By TOM WITHERS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CESANA, Italy

Shauna Rohbock shivered as she grabbed the American flag and draped it around her shoulders, temporary shelter from the frosty mountain air.

This wasn't any U.S. athlete using the Stars and Stripes as a prop in some post-race celebration for TV.

This was a proud American soldier. And now, Olympic medalist.

"It's an amazing thing to win a medal for your country," she said. "We have the most beautiful flag, and I wanted to be wrapped in it."

Blasting down an Alpine slide in a shiny, dark American convertible, Rohbock won a silver medal in women's bobsled on Tuesday, finally ending an 0-for-Olympics stay for the U.S. sliding teams.

With roommate Valerie Fleming providing the push and applying the brakes, Rohbock completed her four runs down the track faster than everyone but gold-medal winners Sandra Kiriasis and Anja Schneiderheinze of Germany.

Gerda Weissensteiner and Jennifer Isacco of Italy won the bronze.

Rohbock, too, wanted to celebrate. The multi-sport star got dumped from her Olympic ride four years ago, and not long after that, she was nearly deployed to Iraq as a member of the Utah National Guard.

She had packed her bags, ready to serve her country when a torn rotator cuff, the result of an old soccer injury, kept her home and eventually landed her back behind the controls of a bobsled.

"Luckily for me," she said. "I



Valerie Fleming, left, and Shauna Rohbock celebrate after capturing the silver medal in women's bobsled in Cesana Pariol, Italy, on Tuesday.

thought I was done."

Rohbock, a brakeman before learning to drive after she was bounced from the U.S. team's No. 2 sled in 2002, finally ended a U.S. winless streak that chilled the Americans every bit as much as the biting winds blowing down from France.

The United States had been shut out in the first six sliding events on the 19-curve course, which had proved treacherous for many countries and thorny to the U.S. luge, skeleton and bobsled squads.

But Rohbock and Fleming busted through the ice for the Americans, and as they crossed the finish line, the pair threw their hands high in the air before Rohbock happily pounded on the cowl of USA-1.

As a kid, Rohbock dreamed of representing the United States in the Olympics.

"I dreamed I would win a medal," she said. "I just thought it would be in soccer."

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