U.S. team seems ready to break medal record

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — At first, the idea that Americans could win 20 medals at the Winter Olympics seemed farfetched.

Now it appears conservative. Heck, the way things are going, the hosts might wind up with 30.

Nine medals have been draped around the necks of U.S. athletes through four days of competition, with Tuesday's haul including three: gold for Casey FitzRandolph and bronze for Kip Carpenter in the men's 500-meter speedskating, and silver for Travis Mayer in moguls.

So, even with skiers Jonny Moseley and Picabo Street unable to add to their medal collection Tuesday, the United States is still rapidly closing in on its record of 13 and could shatter the goal of 20 set in April by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Figure skater Todd Eldredge, a six-time national champion, isn't likely to add to the count after falling on his triple axel and botching the quadruple jump in the short program.

American Tim Goebel has a better chance as his mistake-free program left him third. Russia's Alexei Yagudin came first, followed by Japan's Takeshi Honda.

The action on the ice was overshadowed by the controversy over the pairs title won by Russia even though most observers felt the Canadians were better.

Canada's Olympic delegation demanded an investigation and the International Skating Union said Tuesday it would conduct a rare "internal assessment" of the way the two performances were judged.

The United States leads the overall medals count with three gold, four silver and two bronze. Austria is second with seven medals while Norway is the only country with as many gold as the Americans.

There are six chances to add to the total Wednesday, starting with 120-kilometer ski jumping. Also to be decided around midday are men's 10-kilometer biathlon sprint, the women's 7.5-kilometer biathlon sprint and men's combined slalom.

Wednesday night events include finals in the 1,500-meter women's short track speedskating and women's luge singles.

— MEN'S SPEEDSKATING: FitzRandolph's path to a gold medal was supposed to be super-fast laps. Nobody said anything about dodging orange cones.

Carpenter accidentally booted one into FitzRandolph's lane. It knocked off his right clapskate, causing him to wobble. He briefly dragged his left hand along the ice to steady himself, yet still crossed the finish 0.03 seconds ahead of defending Olympic gold medalist Hiroyasu Shimizu of Japan.

"To do it here in America, before so many friends and family and in these times, makes it perfect," said FitzRandolph, America's first 500 champion since Eric Heiden won all five events in 1980.

Carpenter grabbed third by 0.02.

"I just looked up and saw the number '3' and knew I'd won a bronze," he said.

Eighth grade breaks even over week

The Grant Junior High eighth grade girls came out even last week, beating Burlington at home Tuesday, 44-20, and falling in Hoxie Thursday, 28-24, despite leading most of the first half.

On Tuesday, the Mustangs came out strong in the first quarter, leading 18-6. It slowed down in the second, with Grant scoring six, and holding Burlington to two. The third quarter had the Mustangs outscoring Burlington 12-4, and the teams tied at eight in the fourth.

Melissa Swager led with 14 points, eight rebounds, one assist and two steals, followed by Justeen Koehler with 12 points, 10 rebounds and five steals.

Jordan Frazier had 10, 4, 1, 0; Chelsea Gray 4, 3, 1, 4; Morgan Titus 2, 1, 0, 2; Katrina Cotter 2, 0, 0, 0; Lisha Tedford 0, 5, 1, 3; Tatum Schultz 0, 2, 1, 1; Megan Rubio 0, 0, 4, 2; Melissa Schritter 0, 0, 0, 1.

In the "B" team match, the Mustangs came out on top 37-15.

Schritter led with 13 points, seven rebounds, no assists and no steals and Briana Taylor had six points, seven rebounds and no steals.

May Davis 4, 5, 2, 2; Kali Rietcheck 4, 2, 1, 1; Katrina Cotter 4, 1, 0, 1; Abby Martin 2, 3, 2, 2; Janelle Wolak 2, 3, 3, 1; Megan Stefan 2, 3, 1, 1; Sami Philbrick 0, 3, 0, 0; Jodi Roane 0, 0, 1, 0.

Against Hoxie on Thursday, the Mustangs led 6-2 at the end of the first quarter and 12-11 at the half. Hoxie jumped ahead in the third, scoring 10 and holding Grant to 4. The Mustangs outscored the Tigers in the fourth 8-7, but it wasn't enough to overcome the gap.

Swager led with 12 points, seven rebounds and four steals. Koehler had eight points, 13 rebounds and four steals.

Frazier had 4, 6, 1, 6; Rubio 0, 5, 2, 1; Gray 0, 3, 3, 3; Tedford 0, 2, 0, 3; Courtney Deines 0, 0, 1, 1; Tatum Schultz 0, 1, 0, 0.

Seventh-grade Mustangs wipe out Hoxie

The Grant Junior High seventh grade girls basketball team traveled to Hoxie Thursday and creamed the Tigers 31-11.

Whitney Archer led all players with 11 points, five rebounds, six steals, one block and three assists. Emily Murray followed with eight points, four rebounds, four steals, no blocks and no assists.

Kaylee Billinger had 4, 3, 4, 0, 0; Lindsay Schields and Dani Bedore 3, 2, 1, 0, 0; Nicole David 2, 1, 2, 0, 0; Amber Cowan 0, 7, 1, 0, 0; Nicolette Clancy 0, 3, 2, 1, 0; Alicia Studor 0, 3, 1, 0, 0; Tanae Garrett 0, 2, 0, 0, 0; Jenna McCall 0, 1, 2, 2, 0; Stephanie Sheldon 0, 0, 1, 0, 0; and Emily Linden also played.

In the fifth quarter, Hoxie beat Grant 8-2.

Hannah Burkett scored both of Grant's points. Sandy Johnson had four rebounds, and Emily Linden, Ashley Cebula, Valerie Macias, Candice Meissinger, Tanae Garrett and Nicole David each had a rebound.

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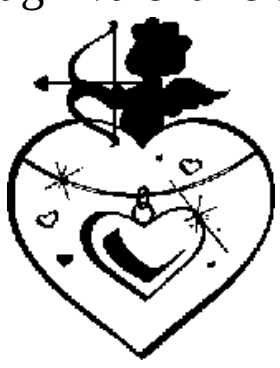

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In observance of Valentine's Day week, hearts will be the high suit for this game of five-card poker.

The High poker hand will receive a FREE dinner for two, on Saturday, Feb. 16th, at Second Chance Bar & Grill. Must be 18 or older to win. No purchase necessary.

Happy Valentine's Day!

From The Goodland Daily News