

BEIJING OLYMPICS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022



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WOMEN'S HOCKEY • GOLD MEDAL GAME • CANADA 3, UNITED STATES 2

Color-coordinated

Canada reclaims gold medal by turning tables on longtime rival Team USA

By RACHEL BLOUNT • rachel.blount@startribune.com

BEIJING - After losing to the U.S. in the gold medal game four years ago in South Korea, some dejected Canadian players took off the silver medals around their necks. Thursday, they won a color that suited them better.

Canada defeated the U.S. 3-2 for the gold medal in women's hockey at the Beijing Olym-

pics, avenging that bitter shootout loss in Pyeongchang. The country's fifth Olympic medal ended a dominant run through the tournament, outscoring opponents 57-10, and gave Canada the upper hand once again in one of the most heated rivalries in sports.

Marie-Philip Poulin, a constant thorn in the Americans' sides at the Olympics, scored Canada's second and third goals as it took a 3-0 lead at

Wukesong Sports Centre. Hilary Knight got the U.S. on the board at 16 minutes, 39 seconds of the second period with a shorthanded goal, and former Gopher Amanda Kessel cut the margin to one with 13.5 seconds remaining in the game.

The U.S. earned silver for the fourth time. The teams have met in the gold medal game in six of the seven Olympics that included women's hockey, with Canada now holding a 4-2 advantage.

U.S. goalkeeper Alex Cavallini and former Gopher forward Kelly Pannek (12) of Plymouth scrambled for the puck against Canada forward Melodie Daoust.

Photo by PETR DAVID JOSEK • Associated Press

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING TEAM SPRINT

No repeat for Diggins, and no disappointment

By RACHEL BLOUNT
rachel.blount@startribune.com

ZHANGJIAKOU, CHINA - Jessie Diggins knew she couldn't escape the expectations. Never mind that the team sprint at the Beijing Olympics would be raced in a different technique, at a different altitude, on different snow, with a different partner.

When it was over, the outcome was different, too.

Four years after winning Olympic gold in the freestyle team sprint, Diggins paired up with Rosie Brennan for a fifth-place finish in Wednesday's classic team sprint. Germany,

Sweden and Russia took the medals this time, pulling away on the final leg of the six-lap, tag-team event in the mountains of Zhangjiakou.

Diggins expressed no disappointment at finishing off the podium. The Americans, less proficient in classic skiing than in freestyle, came in as underdogs this time.

Brennan was in third place when she handed off to Diggins for the final lap, but Diggins faded as the pace heated up. Germany's Victoria Carl swept around the outside to pass Sweden's Jonna Sundling and Russia's Natalia Nepryaeva

See **SPRINT** on C6 ▶



GABRIELA BHASKAR • The New York Times

"Technically, this was some of my best classic skiing. I went as hard as I could."

Jessie Diggins on the team sprint

MEN'S CURLING

Team Shuster, clutch again, gains semifinals

By La VELLE E. NEAL III
lavelle.neal@startribune.com

BEIJING - The curling world's biggest nightmare is back.

The Americans have returned to the medal round. Facing a win-and-in challenge to move on to the semifinals of men's Olympic play, Team USA dispatched a lesser Denmark side 7-5 to finish 5-4 in round robin play. Team Shuster, the defending gold medal-winning team from the Pyeongchang Games in 2018, has a chance for a repeat performance.

The path to the medal

Rise and watch

Team USA will face Great Britain at 6:05 a.m. Central time Thursday (TV: Peacock)

round was perilous at times as Team USA struggled against teams it should handle. They complained of tough playing conditions Tuesday in a loss to ninth-place Italy. But Team Shuster also had to rally during round-robin play in 2018 before advancing with an identical 5-4 record. And that turned into a gold medal run.

No one with Team Shuster will complain about following a

See **CURLING** on C7 ▶