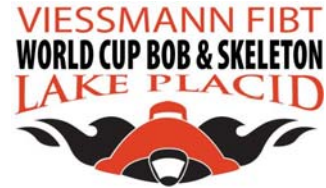


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**FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

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**WORLD CUP BOBSLED RIVALRY IS ON AS GERMANS AND AMERICANS  
APPROACH LAKE PLACID**

*Bobsled and skeleton races on tap Dec. 14-16 at Olympic Sports Complex*

Lake Placid, NY - It's as if no time has elapsed since last winter. The rivalry between Germany and the United States in bobsledding heated up instantly last weekend in Calgary, Alberta as both Andre Lange of Germany and Steve Holcomb of the U.S. posted victories on the opening weekend of the Viessmann FIBT World Cup season.

Chapter two will be written in Park City, Utah this week before the tour returns to Lake Placid Dec. 14-16 with men's two and four man bobsled races, women's bobsled, and men's and women's skeleton.

Holcomb, the defending World Cup two-man champ, ended months of anxiety waiting to prove himself again. The American finished second to Lange in the two-man competition in Calgary. The next day, Holcomb broke out a new Bo-Dyn sled that he tested in the fall and upended the three-time Olympic champion in the four-man race.

"I had six long months to think about being the best in the world," said Holcomb. "I didn't want to come back and flop. I didn't want my success last year to be a fluke."

With money for research and development once again coming into the Bo-Dyn sled project courtesy of the Geoff Bodine Bobsled Challenge and Whelen Engineering, Holcomb won't stay awake at night thinking negatively.

Women's bobsled (two-person) has been dominated over the years by German sleds - specifically pilot Sandra Kiriasis - with regular forays onto the podium by the United States. However, Kiriasis, the 2006 Olympic gold medalist, began slowly with a third place in Calgary behind Canadian winner Helen Upperton and another German driver, Cathleen Martini.

(please see next page)

The American team has experienced success on their home track over the years, although driver Shauna Rohbock and brakeman Valerie Fleming, 2006 Olympic silver medalists, were fifth last week.

Men's and women's skeleton podiums last weekend were all English-speaking affairs as Paul Boehm of Canada raced to the top. Kristan Bromley of Great Britain was runner-up followed by Jon Montgomery, another Canadian. Eric Bernotas led the United States in fifth place.

On the women's side, Michelle Kelly and Mellissa Hollingsworth, both of Canada, took gold and silver, respectively. Amy Williams of Great Britain was in the bronze position. Defending World Cup queen Katie Uhlaender of the U.S. was seventh, but with good reason. Uhlaender, a winner of five individual World Cup races last winter, has only recently returned to skeleton training after a stint on the television series, Survivor. Another top American, Noelle Pikus-Pace, will sit out the season to give birth to her first child.

Daily training begins Monday, Dec. 10, as competitors in all disciplines will negotiate the mile-long, 20-curve track that serpentine its way down Mt. Van Hoevenberg. Course crews from the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) will begin preparing the run for these top sledders on December 7.

The race schedule is as follows:

**Friday, Dec. 14:**

9:30am Men's Skeleton World Cup (Heat #1)  
10:30am Men's Skeleton World Cup (Heat #2)  
1:00pm Women's Skeleton World Cup (Heat #1)  
3:00pm Women's Skeleton World Cup (Heat #2)

**Saturday, Dec. 15:**

9:30am Men's Two-Man Bobsled World Cup (Heat #1)  
10:00am-12:00pm Hot Zone - Extra fun trackside giveaways and chance to enter to win the grand prize of the day  
11:00am Men's Two-Man Bobsled World Cup (Heat #2)  
12:00pm-1:00pm Party at the Base with the Lake Placid Bavarians, Santa, Games, Prize Giveaways, Fire pits and more!  
1:30pm Women's Bobsled Competition (Heat #1)  
1:30pm-2:30pm Hot Zone - Extra fun trackside giveaways and chance to enter to win the grand prize of the day  
3:00pm Women's Bobsled Competition (Heat #2)

(please see next page)

**Sunday Dec. 16:**

9:30am	Men's Four-Man Bobsled Competition (Heat #1)
10:00am-12:00pm	Extra fun trackside giveaways and chance to enter to win the grand prize of the day.
11:00am	Men's Four-Man Bobsled Competition (Heat #2)
12:00pm-1:00pm	Party at the Base with the Lake Placid Bavarians, Santa, Games, Prize Giveaways, Fire pits and more!
1:00pm	Team Competition (Skeleton Men/Women, Bob Two-Man/Woman)
1:30pm-2:30pm	Extra fun trackside giveaways and chance to enter to win the grand prize of the day

Between race runs, join Santa and the Lake Placid Bavarians for a Party at the Base Lodge Saturday and Sunday from 12-1pm. Fuel up on barbecue and s'mores before heading back up the hill for the continuation of the competitions.

And look for the Hot Zones over the weekend where special trackside parties will be held from 10am – 12pm and 1:30 – 2:30. There will be opportunities to win prizes, and a chance to enter the chase for the grand prize of the day.

To get into the holiday spirit, ORDA will offer free admission for those bringing a new, unwrapped toy per party to benefit Toys for Kids. In addition, holiday shoppers can get free tickets to World Cup bobsled and skeleton by visiting the new location of the ORDA Store on Main Street near the Palace Theater.

For more information on the weekend of world class racing and world class fun, please log on to [www.lakeplacidevents.net](http://www.lakeplacidevents.net).

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