

December 12, 2021

Calgary, Canada

USA take home Team Pursuit World Cup Trophy with Mantia on the bench while Lollobrigida (ITA) wraps up brilliant weekend with Mass Start win

One week on from their staggering Team Pursuit World Cup win in Salt Lake City, USA confirmed their status with another gold medal, claiming the World Cup Trophy in the process. The Americans showed the depth of their team, keeping last week's anchor [Joey Mantia](#) (USA) on the bench in Calgary. Earlier on Sunday [Viktor Mushtakov](#) (RUS) won the 500m while [Ning Zhongyan](#) (CHN) took his career first 1000m World Cup gold.

In the Women's competition [Francesca Lollobrigida](#) (ITA) wrapped up the best World Cup weekend of her career by sprinting to gold in the Mass Start while [Brittany Bowe](#) (USA) made amends in the 1500m by a 0.01s margin after finishing second by 0.03s in the 1000m.

From underdog to champions

With three minutes and 35.59 seconds, [Ethan Cepuran](#), [Emery Lehman](#) and [Casey Dawson](#) (USA) broke the 2017 Calgary track record set by [Jan Blokhuijsen](#), [Sven Kramer](#) and [Koen Verweij](#) (NED).

Joey Mantia, who won Saturday's 1500m, did not start and the others showed that it made little difference.

"We trained, so any three of the four can do it. Whoever's feeling it that day can do it," Cepuran said.

Lehman added: "We have the luxury of having two teams that we know now can win. So I think we can all rest easy, knowing that we can not only rely on the two other guys out there skating with us, but also the alternate that we have on the infield just waiting to step in."

With their back-to-back gold Team USA also secured the season's World Cup Trophy.

"I don't know if anybody was really expecting that," Dawson said. "The team started in the B group at the first World Cup, so who knows?"

Lehman insisted that it was less of a surprise for the Americans themselves than it had been for the outside world.

"Going into this season we may have been the underdog to other people but in the back of our minds we knew that there was a target on our heads.

"We knew that, based on the times we're doing in practice, we are capable of skating in the 1500m and the 5000m, that we could come out of the World Cups with medals, maybe even the Olympics with a medal."

Norway second with Pedersen back in the team

Norway ([Peder Kongshaug](#), [Hallgeir Engebråten](#) and [Sverre Lunde Pedersen](#)) took silver in 3:36.24, and also came in second in the season ranking.

“We’re pretty satisfied,” Pedersen said. “Of course we went for the victory but USA was overall the strongest team and they put down a world record last weekend, so they're really strong and maybe the biggest favorites for the Olympic Games.”

Pedersen was happy to be back in the team. The veteran is still recovering from a severe bike accident in summer training.

The Team Pursuit medal gave him confidence in his struggle to get back into shape for the Olympic Games but he doesn’t know whether he will be selected to skate the 5000m for Norway - they only have one Olympic slot in the distance.

Canada still working on tactics

Canada ([Jordan Belchos](#), [Ted-Jan Bloemen](#) and [Connor Howe](#)) took bronze in 3:38.60, ending up third in the season’s ranking as well.

The team is still searching for the right tactics.

“We need to do better. We’re just talking about what you can do better,” Bloemen said.

Belchos added: “We’re trying to learn different strategies and practise them under this kind of pressure, to see if we can do them at the (Olympic) Games.

“We see a lot of teams pushing the whole way. You see some combinations of pushing and leading. So we’re trying to find, I guess, one of these different combinations, and the strengths and weaknesses to each one.”

Mushtakov makes amends

[Viktor Mushtakov](#) (RUS) started the final day of competition of the World Cup weekend with a personal best of 33.90 and gold in the 500m.

The Russian took his first medal of the season, making amends after crashing in Salt Lake City last week.

“I was fourth three times and today was the last chance to show a good result. It was not a perfect race but I’m satisfied with the time.”

Mushtakov followed up his 500m victory with a bronze in the 1000m.

“After my crash in Salt Lake City, I had a problem with my neck. Despite this I’ve got two medals. I’m leaving Canada in a good mood,” he said.

[Yuma Murakami](#) (JPN) celebrated his 29th birthday with a silver medal in 33.99s, after claiming bronze on Friday.

“I’m happy with my shape and I’m fully recovered from a shoulder injury I suffered in November,” he said.

“I’m looking forward to the Japanese Olympic trials but it’s going to be very hard to qualify for the 500m with so many great sprinters in Japan.”

[Laurent Dubreuil](#) (CAN) followed up Friday’s track record and gold medal with bronze in 34.06s on Sunday.

Ning takes 1000m as Stolz breaks his own record

[Ning Zhongyan](#) (CHN), who already collected a 1500m gold in this season’s World Cup, added a first 1000m gold to his tally in 1:06.65.

Jordan Stolz (USA) finished second, breaking the junior world record he had set last week in Salt Lake City in 1:06.96 and Mushtakov clocked 1:06.98 to take the bronze.

Lollobrigida takes second gold

Lollobrigida won the Mass Start, beating [Ivanie Blondin](#) (CAN) in the final sprint.

“It’s the first time that I’m winning in the sprint in the Mass Start. Last time I won in the breakaway,” she said after an exhausting final day of competition. “It’s just like a dream.”

The 30-year-old Italian, who collected her first medal in a classical distance by winning the 3000m on Friday, had to start in three races on Sunday.

“Today was really hard,’ she said. “We had the heats and then the 1500m and then less than an hour later the Mass Start final. It was crazy.”

Despite having spent energy in the two previous races, Lollobrigida decided not to sit back in the Mass Start final.

“My idea was not to let anybody in the breakaway. In the beginning I chased a German and a Dutch (escapee) but I was alone (without a teammate in the race), so when the Japanese (Rin Kosaka) went in front I said to myself ‘if I try to follow, I’m gonna break my legs’.

“So I just let the others lead because I knew that Ivanie (Blondin) had a teammate and that she wanted to win because we skate in Calgary. In the end, I wanted to be smart.”

Kosaka skated solo almost three quarters of a lap ahead of the pack going into the last five laps, when the peloton finally picked up pace.

[Valérie Maltais](#) (CAN) went for points in the final intermediate sprint and the pack quickly closed in on Kosaka.

Blondin, who took silver in the sprint, agreed that Lollobrigida had deployed the best strategy.

“Strategically, she (Lollobrigida) just had a better race than I did. I was kind of put out in the front and it was just a little bit too early to start the sprint.

“Of course I'm always gunning for the gold but I'm happy for Lollo (Lollobrigida), she had a beautiful race.

“She got me on the backstretch and I just didn't have the legs today. I think that's normal at this point after such a long weekend and so many weekends of racing.”

[Elizaveta Golubeva](#) (RUS) took bronze behind Lollobrigida and Blondin, who did not have any regrets.

“I feel happy to be on the podium and happy to share it with Lollo and also Elizaveta, who I got to know better this week,” said Blondin. “She's such a sweet girl. It's always nice to share the podium with girls who are very nice.”

Blondin retained the lead in the World Cup ranking with Lollobrigida climbing up to second and absent [Irene Schouten](#) (NED) dropping from second to sixth.

Bowe holds off Japanese rivals

Brittany Bowe (USA) kept the Japanese competition at bay in the 1500m.

In the absence of World Cup leader [Miho Takagi](#) (JPN), who had chosen to skate the 500m and the 3000m in preparation for the Japanese Olympic trials, her sister [Nana Takagi](#) set a high bar of one minute and 52.06 seconds in the fourth pair.

Bowe was the only one who managed to beat it, albeit by the smallest possible margin, clocking 1:52.05.

“I don't feel bad taking that one after losing by a hair yesterday,” she said.

“After seeing Nana's time I just put it in my mind I was gonna go for it.”

Coming from the sprint side, Bowe went out at staggering pace, hoping to hold on to the end.

“Obviously that third lap is a struggle for me but I didn't want to have any regrets at the end of the race and the first lap of 26.9s, that felt really good. (The) second lap was strong and that last lap I just had to hang on and chase that backstretch and (I) did everything I could to get to the finish line.”

Bowe was not surprised by Takagi's time.

“It was fast but it didn't surprise me because if you watch her throughout this whole season, every race has gotten better and better. It was a great time to light a fire within me today for sure.”

[Ayano Sato](#) (JPN) took bronze in 1:52.19, showing the depth of Japanese Women's Speed Skating.

“It’s incredible,” Bowe said.

“The level of competition on the female side is higher than it's ever been depth wise. What you'll continue to see as the year goes on, some really competitive races and something great to happen in Beijing.”

Takagi was happy to take her first medal in a classic distance having won Mass Start and Team Pursuit silverware.

“I trained really hard for the Mass Start and the Team Pursuit and to do that I also focused on the individual distances. Now I eat the fruits of my labor,” she said.

Sato celebrated her finest World Cup with a big smile and said: “I’m very happy because I got two races and two medals. This weekend is my best World Cup ever and I also had medals in the second and the third World Cup.

“That came as a big surprise for me. I’ve got the strength and the technique and I’m very proud of my results.”

500m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 500m Women](#)

1000m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1000m Women](#)

1500m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1500m Women](#)

3000m Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 3000m Women](#)

Mass Start Women

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Mass Start Women](#)

Team Pursuit Women

ISU World Cup Team Pursuit Women [Standings Team Pursuit Women](#)

Team Sprint Women

ISU World Cup Team Sprint Women [Standings Team Sprint Women](#)

500m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 500m Men](#)

1000m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1000m Men](#)

1500m Men

ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 1500m Men](#)

5000m Men
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings 5000m Men](#)

Mass Start Men
ISU World Cup Speed Skating [Standings Mass Start Men](#)

Team Pursuit Men
ISU World Cup Team Pursuit Women [Standings Team Pursuit Men](#)

Team Sprint Men
ISU World Cup Team Sprint Women [Standings Team Sprint Men](#)

The event entry quotas for the individual distances will be determined by the [Special Olympic Qualification Classification \(SOQC\)](#) based on results from the different ISU World Cup Speed Skating Competitions and the full details are available in [ISU Communication 2405](#).

For full entry lists and further information regarding the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series please visit: isu.org/speed-skating. Results are [here](#) and you can follow the discussion on social media by using #SpeedSkating.

Where to Watch

Viewers will be able to watch either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#). You will find the full list in the [Where to Watch news here](#).

Subscribe to the [ISU Newsletter](#) to receive the latest information and the “Where to Watch” news. You can also subscribe to the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#) to receive notifications when live streams start or new videos are published.

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For further information on ISU Speed Skating visit <https://www.isu.org/speed-skating>

ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series 2021/22:
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[Stavanger \(NOR\) - Nov 19 - Nov 21, 2021](#)
[Salt Lake City \(USA\) - Dec 03 - Dec 05, 2021](#)
[Calgary \(CAN\) – Dec 10 - Dec 12, 2021](#)
[Final – Heerenveen \(NED\) – Mar 12 - Mar 13, 2022](#)

About ISU World Cup Speed Skating Series

The ISU World Cup Speed Skating is a Series of international Speed Skating competitions which takes place annually. The Series started in 1984 and usually consists of six or seven Events including the ISU World Cup Speed Skating Final. However during the Olympic season the Series consists of five Events.

Skaters can earn points at each competition, and the Skater who has the most points on a given distance at the end of the Series is the World Cup winner of that distance. The World Cup Competitions held from November to December serve as qualifying events for entry quotas at the ISU European, World Single Distances, World Sprint and World Allround Speed Skating Championships and during the Olympic season they are Olympic Qualifying Events. A number of World Cup titles are awarded every season; For Men: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, combined 5000m / 10,000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For Women 500m, 1000m, 1500m, the combined 3000m / 5000m, Mass Start, Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. For further information please visit isu.org/WorldCupSpeedSkating.