

US Biathlon Association
National Governing Body for the Olympic Sport of Biathlon
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For Immediate Release
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National Team Athletes Dominate Biathlon Trials

US Biathlon Team members Jeremy Teela, of Anchorage AK and Andrea Nahrgang of Wayzata, MN captured the second of four US Biathlon Olympic Trials competitions today at the Soldier Hollow Olympic Biathlon Venue in Heber City, UT.

Teela, who had a disappointing 8th place in the 20K Individual Competition yesterday, topped the Men's 10K Sprint field with strong skiing despite 2 shooting penalties. He commented after the competition, "I felt enough pressure after yesterday's race to help keep me focused today. The 10K is more of a skier's race and you can afford to miss a couple of shots, although I would prefer not to." This result is similar to Teela's 9th place finish at the 2001 world Biathlon Championships, where he missed 2 targets, but still recorded an outstanding performance with strong skiing.

Close behind Teela, was first year US Biathlon Teammate Lowell Bailey of Lake Placid, NY. Bailey recorded no shooting penalties, to finish seconds behind the winner. Bailey, 20 showed his talent last year as a junior, with 2 Bronze medals at European Championships, and later a win in a Europa Cup. 1.2 seconds behind Bailey was Jay Hakkinen of Kasilof, AK who missed 3 targets, but still made the top 3, giving the National Team a clean sweep. The 20K Champion, Lawton Redman finished 5th, 44.2 seconds behind Teela's winning time of 28:34.4.

Andrea Nahrgang skied strong like Teela, but recorded only one range penalty. She had been announced mistakenly as the winner of the Women's 15K Individual due to a computer error on Saturday, but ended up 4th. Today she won outright, and commented when asked about the mistake of Saturday "It did not bother me. I thought that it was unusual that I would have won after missing 5 shots. But today is satisfying. I did not feel too much pressure and just executed like our coach told us to do." Nahrgang's winning time of 24:09 for the 7.5K course topped teammate Kristina, Sabasteanski, of Standish, ME, by 24.4 seconds. Sabasteanski's placing put her back in contention after a disappointing 12th in the Individual competition.

Third placer Kara Salmela, of Duluth, MN duplicated her Individual finish. This time she recorded 2 penalties to cross the line 39.9 seconds behind Nahrgang. Top-ranked US woman, Rachel Steer of Anchorage, AK was 4th, 22 seconds behind Salmela, a 1998 Olympian.

The Biathlon Olympic Trials take a New Year's hiatus to allow the athlete's to recover and prepare for the final 2 competitions Wednesday and Thursday. The US Biathlon Olympic Team will be named Thursday evening at a banquet in Midway, Utah.

The US Biathlon Team Competes under the auspices of the US Biathlon Association, the National Governing Body for the Olympic Sport of Biathlon. LL Bean, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Federal Cartridge, and Exel Ski Poles sponsor the US Biathlon Team.