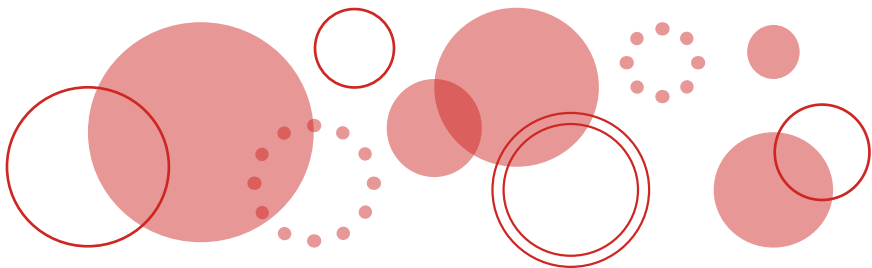




Sports



ELLIOT'S OLYMPIC UPDATES: MEDAL RACES AND KEY RESULTS FROM THIS WEEK

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The current gold medal standings in the Olympics have Norway with the lead at 16, followed by Italy with nine and lastly the USA with eight according to the official Olympics website on Feb. 19, in the afternoon.

The United States men's ice hockey team defeated Sweden and will advance to the Olympic semifinals to face off against Slovakia. The USA has struggled in past matchups against Sweden but were able to take down the Swedish 2-1 in overtime thanks to a Quinn Hughes game winner. The men will take on Slovakia on Feb. 20.

The United States women's ice hockey team is on a hot streak, going undefeated in the preliminary rounds, scoring 20 goals and only letting one in. The women have not been scored on since the first game of the Olympics, while netting a total of 31 against opponents.

In the gold medal match on Feb. 19, Team USA took on Canada and found themselves down 0-1 after the second period. The USA tied the game with 2:03 left in the third period with a goal by Hilary Knight.

Team USA would go on to defeat Canada 2-1 in overtime to bring home gold for the Americans. The game's winning goal was scored by Megan Keller.

American alpine ski racer Mikaela Shiffrin captured her first gold medal since 2018 in the women's slalom finishing with a combined time of 1:39:10 – 1.5 seconds ahead of Switzerland's Camille Rast, according to Cody



Breezy Johnson during the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympics. Johnson got engaged at the Olympics. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BREEZYJOHNSONSKI ON INSTAGRAM

Nagel of CBS.

This is her second gold medal of these Olympics after struggling in Beijing four years ago.

As for other Americans, Ben Ogden continued to find success in Milan Cortina after he and teammate Gus Schumacher fought for silver in the men's cross country skiing team sprint. This was the United States' first ever Olympic medal in that event, according to Nagel.

In other news, Olympic legend Lindsey Vonn announced she will undergo at least two more surgeries after her crash during her downhill race. The crash came after she ruptured her left ACL in a different accident last month.

The Olympic accident had Vonn airlifted to the nearest hospital and was announced with a broken leg, according to CBS sports.

Ukrainian athlete, Vladislav Heraskevych was unable to compete after a dispute with officials surrounding his helmet. The helmet featured photos of deceased athletes who were killed in the Ukrainian-Russia War.

Following this, "Heraskevych received a \$200,000 financial gift from a fellow countryman in order to continue his athletic career and advocacy work," according to People magazine. "The AP reported the \$200,000 amount is equal to what a Ukrainian athlete would have received from the government for winning a gold medal at the 2026 Winter Olympics."

Love is in the air for some athletes, as four athletes have been proposed to during this year's games.

American alpine skier Breezy Johnson claimed a gold medal, and five days later added an en-

agement ring to her hardware.

On Feb. 12, she crashed during the Super-G event but was met at the finish line with her boyfriend Connor Watkins down on one knee.

She told NBC, "I may have told him that I always kind of had the dream of getting engaged at the Olympics," according to People.

With Valentine's Day last week, two more Olympians made it official when former rival figure skaters Olivia Smart (Spain) and Jean-Luc Baker (USA) announced their engagement. Baker was a former ice skater for Team USA, and last skated in the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

The proposal occurred on the streets of Milan on Valentine's Day, and Baker posted a video on Instagram of her eventual engagement ring with footage of her competing on the ice, before popping the question.

Also, on Feb. 14 Ukrainian freestyle skier Kateryna Kotsar received a proposal from boyfriend Bohdan Fashtyha. This proposal happened after Kotsar qualified for the big air final in Livigno, according to People.

"I'm still really excited and can't understand what happened tonight, because it's two really huge things for me," Kotsar said.

Lastly, two USA athletes shared their proposal at the 2026 Olympics after they fell in love at the 2022 Beijing Olympics. The two were Brittany Bowe (who placed No. 4 in the 1000m speed-skating race this year) and Hilary Knight (the captain of Team USA women's hockey team).

Lastly, there is another famous dog at the Olympics this year. Snoop Dog has been involved in the Olympic Games since the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, according to NBC. However, the famous rapper was joined by a famous four-legged dog after a 2-year-old Czechoslovakian wolf-dog ran across the finish line at the women's team sprint cross country race on Feb. 18, according to Fox News.

The dog did not have major implications on the race, however it did influence the racers' mental state.

Croatian skier Tena Hadzic told NPR, "I was like, 'am I hallucinating?'" according to Fox News.

"I don't know what I should do, because maybe he could attack me, bite me".

The Olympics this year have been filled with record breaking gold medal races, proposals and dogs.

Only a few days are left for this year's games.

Men's Basketball: No. 5 Huskies face a Big East survival test with Villanova

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No. 5 UConn looks to avoid

its third loss in five games on Saturday when it travels to play Villanova on Saturday. The Huskies (24-3, 14-2) have lost two of their last four

games and are ranked No. 51 in net rating over their last five. UConn had its conference slate derailed by Creighton

on Wednesday night. The Huskies fell 91-84 in front of their rowdy home crowd. They missed 2-of-16 during a nine-minute stretch in the second half, which allowed the Blue Jays to go up 10 late in the game.

Braylon Mullins hobbled off the court in the second half amidst a career night where he scored a personal best 25 points. He was put in a knee brace while the trainers tended to him on the bench, but later checked back in and finished the game.

Mullins assured the media that he would be ready to play on Saturday at the press conference following the game.

Hurley was unaware that Mullins was ever in a brace after the game and said that both Mullins and Alex Karaban are both dealing with "something" injury wise, which he neglected to elaborate on. He did say that Karaban had a "leg thing" after the win over Georgetown on Saturday.

Karaban's mysterious lower body injury was prevalent against Creighton. He scored just two points on 1-for-6 shooting. Hurley even second guessed if playing him hurt was the right decision, saying he was moving like a "cargo ship" on the court.

Wednesday night was the most points the program has allowed in regulation since 2019 against St. Joseph's.

The Huskies' defense, which was once the team's identity, has begun to deteriorate in recent weeks. Their four worst performances in defensive efficiency this year have occurred over the last five games.

"Our defense has just been

so bad these last four games... we've been playing with fire," Hurley said.

UConn's defense was rated as high as No. 2 this season. It now sits at No. 13.

"There's multiple players on our team that are great individual defenders and are getting worse as the season's getting later, and it's not fatigue," Hurley said.

The Wildcats (21-5, 12-3) enter the game on a six-game winning streak, juxtaposed to the Huskies' recent struggles. Their last loss? An overtime battle on the road against UConn in January. Solo Ball scored 24 points in that game, including five three pointers.

The Huskies dominated the overtime period 14-4 and shut the game out on an 8-0 run following a back-and-forth affair in regulation.

The Huskies allowed 37 total points from the Blue Jays back court tandem of Josh Dix and Nik Graves. Their defense will be tested by another high scoring guard duo against the Wildcats in Acaden Lewis and Tyler Perkins.

Lewis scored 21 points in Villanova's overtime win over Xavier on Tuesday. The freshman is averaging over five assists per game which ranks No. 3 in the conference. The Huskies held him to just four points in their first meeting of the year.

Perkins is the Wildcats' leading scorer with 13.7 points per game. He is shooting a career best 36% from three this season and has scored at least 15 points in each of Villanova's games since Jan. 13.

Tipoff is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the game can be watched on truTV and TNT.



UConn men's basketball takes on Villanova at PeoplesBank Arena on Saturday, Jan 24, 2026. Both teams were tied 61-61 at the end of the second half, but the Huskies toppled the Wildcats in overtime, winning 75-67. PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS