Team Alberta Saturday Media Round Up from the Canada Winter Games

Daily Medal Count:	Gold 4	Silver 4	Bronze 3
Total Medal Count	Gold 20	Silver 35	Bronze 35

Judo Athletes Add Silver and Bronze to Record 15-Medal Haul

Alberta's judo athletes capped off a record-setting week by winning a silver and bronze medal in Saturday's team competitions to bring their podium total to 15 for the week.

The women's team snagged the silver after losing the final of the Team Competition to Quebec. The men triumphed over New Brunswick to lock up the bronze.

The judo team left their mark on Prince Edward Island, winning the most amount of medals ever at a Canada Winter Games. The previous record was 12.

"All of this starts years ago, and I want to thank Sport Alberta for the support they give us because without their direction we can't get everythig done that allows us to perform," said Ewan Beaton, Team Alberta Judo Manager. "This touramennt, we had 13 individual medals and we have 14 top-five finishes. This is fantastic because going in, we didn't know if we'd be able to match that with this team.

"This team is a little younger. They made it through the pandemic and to pull off what we did, we are very proud of all of them. Everybody gave everything they possibly could."

The most memorable podium of the week may have been the bronze-medal triumph by Troy Gallant, of Lethbridge, Alta., in the men's -66kg class. The 17-year-old, whose father Russ was coaching this week, won the same colour of medal his dad did when he competed at the 1991 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island.

'So many things had to go right for that to happen. When you go into a Games and you think about those things it is not a guarantee that it is going to happen, so the fact a father is here with his son 32 years later and they both have medals from PEI is fantastic,' said Beaton, who added that Troy was also part of Sunday's bronze-medal team.

Mixed Curling Team Makes History Winning First Canada Games Gold

Alberta's mixed curling duo of Evan Crough and Kaylee Raniseth will etch their names in the history books as the first ever athletes to win a mixed curling title at the Canada Winter Games.

"This feels so good. It is so exciting," asid the 20-year-old Crough.

The Alberta duo won a thriller at the Montague Curling Club on Saturday night, stealing a point in the final end to edge Ontario 6-5.

"We really have fun playing together and we know how to help each other when situations come down on us and it just works," said Raniseth, a 19-year-old from Delburne.

Crough and Delburne have been rock solid since arriving in Prince Edward Island for mixed curling's Canada Winter Games debut.

"Ever since the first time we were on the ice it has been instant chemistry. It has been really good," added Crough, who hails from Calgary. "We haven't skipped a beat and we know how to pick each other up. It has been a blast the entire time."

That chemistry was on full display standing on top of the nation with gold medals around their necks.

Archery Athletes Win Gold and Bronze in Compound Team Mix
Alberta's Adam Berge (Sturgeon Country) and Haley Priest (Airdrie) joined forces to win the gold in archery's Compound – Team Mix competition.

It was the second gold of the week for the 19-year-old Berg, who also finished on top of the individual men's event.

"It feels awesome to win two gold medals, but it is even more special to do it in the team competition," said Berg. "I'm just so happpy Haley was able to get a gold because she was amazing today."

Archery's Recurve – Team Mix athletes also made a trip to the podium, winning the bronze medal.

Edmonton's Alison Dewling and Luke Smollett defeated British Columbia in the bronze medal contest.

Team Alberta Storms to Silver Medal on Nordic Trails
Team Alberta shocked the nation late in the 4x5 kilometre skate-ski mixed relay to cap off the cross-country ski events at the Canada Winter Games with a silver medal on Saturday.

The Alberta team of Alison Mackie, Noah Weir-Chaba, Sabine Comeau, and Jonas Rolseth, clocked a second-place time of 47:34.6.

It was an epic battle amongst the nation's top prospects in cross-country skiing at the Mark Arendz Provincial Ski Park at Brookvale. Teams of four athletes from across Canada made their way to the start line with each member skiing two laps around the 2.5-kilomtre loop.

A group of seven teams representing British Columbia, Quebec, Alberta and Ontario pulled away from the field of 29 in the opening five kilometres. They stuck together until the final lap of the third leg when Quebec and British Columbia made a surge.

It appeared to be a two-province race between Quebec and British Columbia with Ontario and Alberta dropping out of golden contention. Things changed after three kilometres in the final leg.

Quebec's Audet and British Columbia's Luxmoore skated alongside each other while completing the first lap, but Edmonton's 17-year-old Alison Mackie was charging hard from behind and closing the gap.

Luxmoore made an attack and Audet wasn't able to respond. Mackie turned in the performance of the day, surging to second place and nearly catching Luxmoore.

Team Alberta piled onto Mackie who came crashing across the finish line after taking over second place following an inspiring final leg that saw her win her fourth medal of the week (one gold and three silver).

Para-Nordic skiing has also been part of the Canada Winter Games since 2011. On Saturday, Para athletes were also included in the mixed gender relay with Olympic stream athletes.

"It has just been so incredible to be here. I have learned so much from everyone," said Edmonton's Denyse Dawe. "It was really, really cool. There were a lot of teams that needed people, so it was great that Para athletes were able to jump in. So cool to see mixed gender on the course and have everyone included today. This was just a really fun event."

Girl Power in the Ring: Alberta Boxers Dance to Four Medals on Historic Day

Alberta's boxing athletes combined to win two gold and two silver medals on Saturday inculding Emily Vigneault becoming the first woman to win a boxing title at the Canada Winter Games.

Vigneault from Airdrie, Alta. made history after winning 2-1 in a unanimous decision over Ontario's Victoria Vergos at the Canada Games Multi-Sport Dome in Summerside, P.E.I.

'This feels so amazing. I got so emotional and was so happy when I knew my hard work had paid off," said the 16-year-old. "I put my heart into it and I'm really happy about the results. I'm making history today for other women athetes out there."

Vigneault had extra girl power in her corner for the debut of women's boxing at the Canada Winter Games.

"This is so great for a our sport to be here and showcased now," said Jessica Sparrow, coach and reigning national boxing champion herself. "These women deserve it. They are such great athletes and they need to be recognized. To be a small part of Emily's journey and to have her here and see her at the top is such an honour."

Attila Ahmed also won gold. The 17-year-old came out on top of the men's 67kg weight class after a 2-1 decision over Nova Scotia's Logan Walsh.

"This is amazing. I put four years of hard work in for this medal, and now here it is," said Ahmed.

Two Alberta athletes won silver medals on Saturday.

Brody Andrie, of Red Deer, lost his final bout in the 57kg class to Quebec's Jeremy Drapeau. Calgary's Gatwich Kol Kot also lost the final bout in the heavyweight division.

Felcity Geremia Soars to Snowboard Bronze

Felicity Geremia landed on the podium in the women's Big Air event at Mark Arendz Provincial Ski Park at Brookvale.

The 15-year-old Calgary-based snowboarder, who won a silver earlier in the week in the parallel giant slalom, secured the bronze with a score of 102.00.

Men's Curling Team to Play for Bronze

Alberta's men's curling team will play for bronze after losing their semifinal game 6-5 to British Columbia on Saturday.

The team of Nate Burton, Oliver Burton, Jaxon Hiebert and Kolby MacDonald will face Ontario in the bronze-medal game Sunday.

Quotes of the Week – Youngest Athlete at Canada Winter Games

Alberta fielded the youngest athlete at the Canada Winter Games – 10-year-old figure skater, Lia Cho.

The Red Deer, Alta. skater won the silver medal this week after celebrating a personal best score.

"It feels like a miracle to me. I had a big dream when I was six to compete in these Games and I'm now competing in it so I'm really happy. I love skating, competing and hanging out with friends and some of the pin trading here."

"In my opinion, I love to jump and that is one of my strengths as well as my flexibility."

"In the last Canada Winter Games I was a flower girl. Watching all of those amazing figure skaters made me want to go into competitive skating even more."

Results and Medal Standings

Celebrate medal-winning moments by Alberta's next generation of national, international, Olympic, Paralympic, and Special Olympic champions. The official list of medal winners, results and schedule by sport is available here.

Follow Team Alberta on our Social Media Channels #GoTeamAB
Facebook: facebook.com/teamab
Twitter & Instagram: @GoTeamAB

Broadcast;

There will be more than 1,200 hours of live event coverage from the 2023 Canada Winter Games. The 15-day broadcast will be featured live and on-demand through the following platforms:

- CanadaGames.ca/Watch
- CBC Sports
- Radio-Canada Sports
- [CBC Gem](CBC Gem)