

U.S. women improve on Canadian downhill course

By USSA

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta -- U.S. women showed a bit of improvement Saturday with Olympic gold medalist Lindsey Vonn (Vail) finishing 11th in her second downhill race since her season-ending injury in February at World Championships. The U.S. speed team women posted three top-20 results in the second of two downhill runs at Lake Louise.

Germany's Maria Hoefl-Riesch went two-for-two in this weekend's downhills, a feat accomplished by Vonn just 12 months ago.

Team veteran Stacey Cook (Mammoth Mountain) also moved up from Friday, finishing just behind Vonn in 12th. Last year in Lake Louise, Cook nabbed two second-place finishes.

Leanne Smith (North Conway, N.H.) and Julia Mancuso (Squaw Valley) finished 17th and 21st, respectively, and rookie Jackie Wiles (Aurora, Ore.) finished just outside the points in 31st.