

Reno's Wise captures gold in freeski halfpipe



David Wise gets air during the ski halfpipe final at the Winter Olympics on Feb. 18 in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Photo/Sergei Grits/AP

Reno's David Wise on Tuesday made history in multiple ways.

The 23-year-old earned a gold medal Feb. 18 in the inaugural freeski halfpipe competition. He is also the first gold medalist from Reno.

Out of an initial field of 35, he made it to the final round of 12 earlier in the day. His first run in the finals was all he needed. He scored a 92. Wise fell on the second run.

Conditions turned a bit more winter-like on Tuesday. Even though it was snowing, the pipe was slushy.

Wise had a small army of family in the crowd for support. His wife, Alexandra, even had a near life-size photo of their 2-year-old daughter. The little one didn't make the trip to Russia.

Wise, who rides for Northstar, is well decorated in the sport of freeski halfpipe, having won three consecutive X Games gold medals.

Mike Riddle of Canada earned the silver with 90.60 points and France's Kevin Rolland the bronze with a score of 88.60.

Aaron Blunck was the other American to make it to the finals. He finished seventh with a score to 79.40.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report