

U.S. women sweep X Games halfpipe

By USSA

OSLO, Norway – Chloe Kim (La Palma) led a huge U.S. podium sweep for the halfpipe women at X Games Oslo, with Kelly Clark (West Dover, Vt.) earning silver and Arielle Gold (Steamboat Springs, Colo.) taking bronze. Chase Josey (Hailey, Idaho) had a stellar showing for the men, earning bronze.

It was another historic performance for Kim, the 15 year old who has been breaking records as fast as they can be counted. She became the first athlete in X Games history to win two gold before the age of 16 when she won at Aspen less than a month ago. She extended that record to three gold medals in Oslo, also becoming the youngest athlete to win three consecutive golds. She had a groundbreaking run that featured jaw-dropping amplitude and back-to-back 1080s, earning the highest score ever awarded to a female halfpipe rider at X Games – 98.00.

“I was really excited on how tonight went,” Kim said with another X Games gold medal hung around her neck. “It’s really crazy to win three X games medals in a row. It’s just an unbelievable experience.”

Clark, the veteran in the field in her 19th consecutive X Games appearance, powered through an injury to earn her 14th overall medal, the most by a female in X Games history. Clark pulled her groin on the first night of practice and was struggling with obvious pain going into the final. She rode with focus, however, pushing through to land a frontside 1080 on her third and final run and a spot on the podium in the silver-medal position.

Behind the podium sweep, Maddie Mastro (Wrightville) finished

fourth and Hannah Teter (Meyers) eighth.

It was a highly-competitive men's competition as well, and Josey's bronze-medal performance was an excellent showing at his second X Games appearance (he placed 11th at Aspen in January in a contest that was abbreviated to one run due to inclement weather). He finished behind Ayumu Hirano of Japan in first and Iouri Podladtchikov of Switzerland in second.