

Holland on podium in team snowboardcross

By USSA

SOLITUDE, Utah— American snowboardcross athletes continued their successful run on home soil Sunday at the Toyota U.S. Grand Prix at Solitude Mountain Resort. In Sunday's team event, Rosie Mancari (Anchorage) and Lindsey Jacobellis (Stowe, Vt.) took the win for the ladies, while Alex Deibold (Boulder, Colo.) and Nate Holland (Squaw Valley) combined to take third place for the men.

The snowy conditions that plagued Saturday's event moved out of the area and the course stayed relatively clear of snow overnight, which made conditions much faster for Sunday's team event.

Jacobellis and Mancari combined fast speeds and strategies to take the win for the U.S. "Last run was fighting the whole way down," Jacobellis said after the race. "We were all really close and I was just trying to take away lines and options and slow down the girls so that Rosie did not have to fight through the pack."

All the U.S. athletes were happy to be in the States, competing in a World Cup on home soil. "I can't even really put words to (how it feels to win on home soil)," Mancari noted. "My mom is here watching for her first race ever so it's really awesome. This is my first race in the U.S. that's a World Cup, so the whole atmosphere and community is amazing. I see 100 people and they all want to give me hugs – it's amazing."

Mancari fought hard to hold off France's Nelly Moenne Loccoz, who took second with teammate Chloe Trespeuch. Italy 1 team Raffaella Brutto and Michela Moioli rounded out the podium in

third.

For the men, Deibold took the lead early on, but had a bobble down the course that left Holland fighting from behind. "I think our finish today could be pretty squarely put on my shoulders," Deibold said of their third-place result. "Nate was definitely the fastest guy out there. I had the lead, I was trying to protect my line and I just unfortunately made a small bobble and it cost us."

Holland did make a great effort to get the American team on the podium. "All the gates dropped, I was off the back, I just pinned it as hard as I could," he said. "I know I'm pretty fast on this course and in these conditions I think I'm the fastest. I made a strong push, made up a lot of ground, but it wasn't enough for the win today."

Reigning world champion Luca Matteotti and his teammate Emanuel Perathoner of Italy took the win for the men, while Austrian team of Julian Lueftner and Lukas Pachner were second.

Also making the final brackets for the U.S. in team snowboardcross at the Toyota U.S. Grand Prix: Colleen Healey (Incline Village) and Faye Gulini (Salt Lake City) were seventh; Hagan Kearney (Telluride, Colo.) and Robert Minghini (Snowshoe, W.Va.) were seventh; Katie Wilson (Mequon, Mich.) and Danielle Steinhoff (Colfax) were eighth.