Winter Olympics

US' Chris Mazdzer humbled by breakthrough luge medal

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — The math humbled Chris Mazdzer.

He's one of 33 American men who have competed in singles luge competitions at the Olympics. The way he sees it, each of them devoted somewhere between 10 to 20 years to the sport and the quest of becoming the first to win a men's singles medal for the U.S. And until these Pyeongchang Games, they all fell short.

That is, until Mazdzer broke through. He got the silver medal, but made clear it's not only for himself.

"It's our entire lives," Mazdzer said. "There have been 33 lives that went into this. That's centuries of hard work."

Finally, another corner has been turned by USA Luge. Erin Hamlin's bronze in the women's race four years ago was one breakthrough, and Mazdzer's silver at these games was another. He nearly got another medal in the final luge event in Pyeongchang, when he was on the relay team that finished fourth — just one-tenth of a second shy of bronze.

"We put in our best effort," Mazdzer said. "Fourth place is the hardest place to be in the Olympics, that's for sure. But honestly we all did an awesome job and I couldn't be happier."

AP Photo/Andy Wong

Summer Britcher, in red, Chris Mazdzer, in green, Matt Mortensen and Jayson Terdiman of the United States react in the finish area after the luge team relay at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea on Thursday.

If Mazdzer returns — and every indication is he will — the U.S. men should continue being a major contender internationally. The women's team will face a void at the top with Erin Hamlin retiring, though Summer Britcher and Emily Sweeney have both won World Cup races and it wouldn't surprise anyone on the team if they were both back at the Beijing Games in 2022.

Britcher and Sweeney both said Hamlin's Olympic bronze was a confidence boost. The men's team may get a similar jolt from Mazdzer's silver.

"I'm incredibly thrilled for him," USA Luge teammate and World Cup race winner Tucker West said.

Luge is Mazdzer's career, in more ways than one.

Medal Count

Through 4 of 7 medal events for Feb. 16
Through 43 of 46 total medal events

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Germany	9	2	4	15
Norway	6	7	5	18
Netherlands	5	5	2	12
United States	5	1	2	8
Canada	4	5	4	13
Sweden	4	2	0	6
France	3	2	2	7
Austria	3	1	4	8
Italy	2	1	3	6
South Korea	2	0	1	3

Sliding season only lasts a few months each year, but the training is year-round. And Mazdzer also serves on International Luge Federation boards, meaning he travels extensively for offseason meetings to both advocate for his fellow sliders — all of them, not just the Americans — and help set policy to better the sport going forward.

"I only can use this as a way to further our sport and better myself as an individual and help others," Mazdzer said. "And that's really (bleeping) cool. It's incredible."

He's friends with Russians, Germans, Italians. He's as good at talking as he is at luge, if not better. There are some plans getting made to help him capitalize on his Olympic success — not just in a financial sense, but in an awareness one as well. He's always wanted to be an ambassador for his team and his sport, and that new silver Olympic bauble dangling from his neck is surely going to open some new doors.

"It's really cool in the sense that I have the ability to give back in a really meaningful way," Mazdzer said.

Now, the victory tour disguised as an offseason awaits.

First, they've gone totally mad for Mazdzer in his hometown of Saranac Lake, New York. His family home now has an oversized homemade silver medal hanging by the door, and schoolkids gathered at an ice palace for a watch party during the team relay. He's been front-page news in the local paper; "Olympic hero" was the headline in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise when he won silver in the men's race, the package taking up two-thirds of the page.

To be an Olympic medalist from anywhere, that's a big deal.

To be one from the Lake Placid area, where accomplishments from their Olympic-hosting years of 1932 and 1980 are celebrated daily, that makes one local royalty for life.

Thing is, Mazdzer wants to ensure the other 32 men who went before him to the Olympics share in the credit.

"We finally did it," Mazdzer said. "To be the person that after 54 years, to be the one who can say thank you to all the generations before, I think that's the coolest part. I can say thank you and say it with a tangible item."

NASCAR

Team Penske, Ford stakes claim as Daytona 500 favorites

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Roger Penske has a car capable of winning the Daytona 500.

Maybe even three of them.

Penske again went 1-2 at Daytona International Speedway for its second sweep of Speedweeks. This time, Ryan Blaney went to victory lane after winning the first of two Thursday night qualifying races that are used to set the Daytona 500 field.

Chase Elliott won the second race in a Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet to put a temporary halt on the Team Penske dominance.

Joey Logano finished second to Penske teammate Blaney for the Ford sweep in the first race. Kevin Harvick was second to Elliott in the second race and Harvick was also in a Ford — proving the automaker has the same speed it did a year ago when it swept all four restrictor-plate races.

Daytona 500

- **When:** Sun., 11:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Daytona International Speedway
- **TV:** FOX

"There's no doubt we have the speed," Harvick said of the Ford camp.

Logano has finished second now twice in Speedweeks. He was beaten last week by teammate Brad Keselowski in an all-star race that opened activity at Daytona International Speedway.

Keselowski is the Las Vegas favorite to win Sunday's season-opening Daytona 500, but he wrecked with two laps remaining in the qualifier and he'll need a backup for the main event.

AP Photo/John Raoux

Ryan Blaney (12) holds off a challenge by Darrell Wallace Jr (43) and Joey Logano (22) on a restart after a caution with two laps left during the first of two qualifying auto races for the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Thursday in Daytona Beach, Fla.

No matter, it seemed, because the Penske cars so far have the Daytona field covered.

"There's no question, we're going to get it done," Logano said about the Penske effort Sunday.

The three Penske drivers dominated the all-star race and were at the front of the field for the entire Thursday night race. Blaney won it in overtime after Keselowski's accident brought out the caution.

What was interesting was that Blaney did it with a pass that didn't work last week. When he tried to pass Keselowski in the all-star race, he pulled out of traffic and didn't get the help he needed to complete the move. This time he was able to get past leader Logano, then the Keselowski accident brought out the caution.

"I didn't make a good move and I kind of lost that (all-star) race," Blaney said. "I learned a little bit and I thought about that forever. I thought we learned a little bit from our mistakes. Hopefully we can make it another one here on Sunday. That would be the one that counts."

On the restart in overtime, Blaney got a huge push from best friend Darrell "Bubba" Wallace Jr. and pulled away for the win.

"I saw (he) was third and I'd figure he'd give me a good push," Blaney said about Wallace.

Wallace finished third and was congratulated with a huge hug from team owner Richard Petty, the seven-time NASCAR champion.

Jimmie Johnson was in his second accident of Speedweeks. The seven-time NASCAR champion dropped out of line just minutes after his race began with an apparent tire problem, and his car took an unexpected hard right into traffic. The contact wrecked Johnson, Daniel Suarez and Aric Almirola, and sent Johnson and Almirola to backup cars. He also wrecked on Sunday in an all-star exhibition race.

"Tough way to start Speedweeks," Johnson said. "The car started to shake a little bit entering the trioval, that's why I pulled down. It finally went flat and hooked me around and into Aric. We will pull out that next bullet and get ready."

SWIMMING: Competition for 5A swimmers begins at 6:30 p.m. in Gresham

Continued from 1B

the preliminary heats Friday, he'll swim next to Thurston's Brady Spear, who enters with the fastest time at 47.65. The top six swimmers in each event will make it to the finals Saturday, and Hamblin believes that's where Wrathall will shine.

"With his time and his placement, he has the best chance of getting first, second, or third," he added.

In Wrathall's second individual event — the 100-yard breaststroke — he sits middle of the pack, and will be swimming in the second heat with the likes of Parkrose senior Joe Lundberg, who enters with the fastest time of the entire field (1:01.41).

Wrathall is only one of two Bulldog boys competing in individual events. Junior Ryan Barnard will try his luck in the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard individual medley (IM). He earned the district title in the IM by nearly 15 seconds by clocking 2:05.08, and is swimming in lane two during the first heat Friday.

Wrathall and Barnard also help make up the two relay teams making the trip for Hermiston. The 200-yard freestyle relay — with Wrathall, Seth Buck, Lane Stevenson and Barnard — won a district championship in 1:36.57 last weekend, while the 200-yard medley relay came in second (1:49.00) behind Hood River Valley.

The relay teams are poised to make a splash, and make up the biggest group Hamblin has ever taken to a state competition — in his 36 total years of coaching.

Adding their name to the mix is freshman Georgia Stevenson, who automatically qualified for state after winning first at districts in the 100-yard backstroke.

With a time of 1:10.14, Stevenson is the slowest of the bunch but Hamblin is confident in her ability to swim a new personal best.

"All these kids, every time they swim, it's the best they have swam in their entire life," he said. "Even if its one-hundredth of a second off."

Stevenson will be up against Cresent Valley's Soule Lindsey in Heat 1. Lindsey has the second quickest time of all qualifiers, entering sub-60 in 59.43.

Para-athlete Rian Middleton will also be representing the Bulldogs in the mixed 50-yard freestyle, a race that Hamblin believes will be a crowd favorite.

"He's an inspiration to a lot of the kids," he said of Middleton. "So, his race is going to be really heartfelt to a lot of people."

A handful of Pendleton Buckaroos will also be making the trip. On the boys side, senior Shane Miltenberger will be competing in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle.

Juniors Elisabeth House and Landry Huth and freshman Kyndra Nelson will be competing in individual events and also make up Pendleton's two qualifying relay teams.

The experienced swimmers are no stranger to the state meet, but are looking to improve on last year's 11th place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The 2017 district championship team has senior Abby Williams filling in the third spot.

The four will also compete in the 400-yard freestyle relay, where they will have to save off some time since their second place performance at districts (4:04.16).

Individually, House will be competing in the 50-yard free, Nelson in the 100-yard free and Huth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Competition for the local swimmers won't being until 6:30 p.m. Friday.

HERMISTON
Boys
200-yard individual medley
Ryan Barnard, jr. (2:05.08)
100-yard butterfly
Ryan Barnard, jr. (55.65)
100-yard freestyle
Carson Wrathall, sr. (49.92)
100-yard breaststroke
Carson Wrathall, sr. (1:03.04)
200-yard medley relay (1:49.00)
(Wrathall, Seth Buck, Barnard, Lane Stevenson, Keaton Mikami, Alexis Perez, Ryland Kestler, Preston Strong)
200-yard freestyle relay (1:36.57)
(Wrathal, Buck, Stevenson, Barnard, Kestler, Strong, Perez, Mikami)
Girls
100-yard backstroke
Georgia Stevenson, fr. (1:10.14)

PENDLETON
Boys
200-yard freestyle
Shane Miltenberger, sr. (1:58.27)
500-yard freestyle
Shane Miltenberger, sr. (5:19.80)
Girls
50-yard freestyle
Elisabeth House, jr. (26.69)
100-yard freestyle
Kyndra Nelson, fr. (1:00.6)
100-yard breststroke
Landry Huth, jr. (1:12.92)
200-yard freestyle relay (1:49.70)
(Nelson, House, Abby Williams, Huth, Aspen Garton, Kaiya Spencer, Headley)
400-yard freestyle relay (4:04.16)
(Nelson, House, Williams, Huth, Garton, Spencer, Headley)

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday
Condon/Wheeler vs. Horizon Christ. (BSL Districts at Madras), 4:30 p.m.
Irrigon at Umatilla (EOL District Final), 6 p.m.
The Dalles at Pendleton, 7 p.m.
Hermiston at Hood River Valley, 7 p.m.
Arlington vs. Sherman (BSL Districts at Madras), 7:30 p.m.
Stanfield vs. Heppner (at Pendleton Convention Center), 8 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (OOL Districts at Baker), 8 p.m.
Saturday
Pilot Rock vs. TBD (CBC District Final at Pendleton Convention Center), 1 p.m.
BSL District Championship (at Madras), TBD
OOL District Championship (at Baker), TBD

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Friday
Ione vs. South Wasco (at Madras), 6 p.m.
Heppner vs. Culver (CBC District Semifinal at Pendleton Convention Center), 6 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. Helix (OOL Distrcits at Baker), 6:30 p.m.
Pendleton at The Dalles, 7 p.m.
Hood River Valley at Hermiston, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Weston-McEwen vs. TBD (CBC District Final at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD
OOL District Championship (at Baker), TBD
BSL District Championship (at Madras), TBD

PREP WRESTLING
Friday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner, Echo at OSAA State Tournament (at Portland), 8:30 a.m.
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Riverside, Irrigon, Heppner, Echo at OSAA State Tournament (at Portland), 8:30 a.m.

PREP SWIMMING
Friday
Hermiston, Pendleton at OSAA Class 5A State Championships (at Gresham), 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton at OSAA Class 5A State Championships (at Gresham), 6:45 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday
Oregon Tech at EOU, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Walla Walla CC at BMCC, 4 p.m.
Southern Oregon at EOU, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday
Oregon Tech at EOU, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
Walla Walla CC at BMCC, 2 p.m.
Southern Oregon at EOU, 5:30 p.m.

Basketball

NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	41	16	.719	—
Boston	40	19	.678	2
Philadelphia	30	25	.545	10
New York	23	36	.390	19
Brooklyn	19	40	.322	23

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	33	24	.579	—
Miami	30	28	.517	3½
Charlotte	24	33	.421	9
Orlando	18	39	.316	15
Atlanta	18	41	.305	16

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	34	22	.607	—
Indiana	33	25	.569	2
Milwaukee	32	25	.561	2½
Detroit	28	29	.491	6½
Chicago	20	37	.351	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	44	13	.772	—
San Antonio	35	24	.593	10
New Orleans	31	26	.544	13
Memphis	18	38	.321	25½
Dallas	18	40	.310	26½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	36	25	.590	—
Oklahoma City	33	26	.559	2
Denver	32	26	.552	2½
Portland	32	26	.552	2½
Utah	30	28	.517	4½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	44	14	.759	—
L.A. Clippers	30	26	.536	13
L.A. Lakers	23	34	.404	20½
Sacramento	18	39	.316	25½
Phoenix	18	41	.305	26½

Thursday's Games
Denver 134, Milwaukee 123
Minnesota 119, L.A. Lakers 111
Friday's Games
Team World vs. Team USA at Los Angeles, 6 p.m.

NCAA Men's Basketball
Top 25 Schedule
Thursday
No. 9 Gonzaga 76, Loyola Marymount 46
No. 19 Wichita St 93, Temple 86
Hosuton 67, No. 5 Cincinnati 62
Penn St 79, No. 8 Ohio St 56
Wisconsin 57, No. 6 Purdue 53
No.17 Arizona 77, No. 25 Arizona State 70
San Francisco 70, No. 15 Saint Mary's 63
Friday
No. 16 URI at St. Bonaventure, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)

Pac-12 Schedule
Thursday
USC 72, Oregon 70
No. 17 Arizona 77, No. 25 Arizona St 70
Utah 70, Washington 58
UCLA 75, Oregon St 68
Colorado at Wash. St, 8 p.m. (PAC12)
Friday
No games scheduled.

NCAA Women's Basketball
Top 25 Schedule
Thursday
No. 2 Mississippi St 95, Vanderbilt 50
No. 4 Louisville 87, Boston College 52
No. 5 Notre Dame 83, Virginia 69
No. 8 South Carolina 77, No. 20 Georgia 65
No. 12 Florida St 91, Clemson 43
No. 13 Missouri 59, Auburn 51
No. 14 Stanford 74, Cal 69
No. 17 Texas A&M 85, Florida 80
No. 24 Belmont 95, E. Kentucky 62
Alabama 72, No. 11 Tennessee 63
Syracuse 68, No. 17 Duke 65
Purdue 75, No. 10 Maryland 65
Cleveland St 71, No. 19 Green Bay 60
Friday
USC at No. 9 Oregon, 6 p.m. (PAC12)
No. 7 UCLA at No. 15 Oregon State, 8 p.m. (PAC12)

Pac-12 Schedule
Thursday
Cal at No. 14 Stanford, 7 p.m.
Friday
Washington State at Utah, 6 p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 6 p.m.
USC at No. 9 Oregon, 6 p.m. (PAC12)
Arizona at Arizona State, 6 p.m.
No. 7 UCLA at No. 15 Oregon State, 8 p.m. (PAC12)

Hockey

NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	58	39	16	3	81	208	155
Boston	55	35	12	8	78	185	133
Toronto	59	35	19	5	75	198	165
Florida	54	25	23	6	56	158	175
Detroit	56	23	24	9	55	150	170
Montreal	57	22	28	7	51	146	179
Ottawa	56	20	27	9	49	150	196
Buffalo	58	17	30	11	45	139	191

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	57	33	17	7	73	181	167
Pittsburgh	59	33	22	4	70	185	175
New Jersey	57	29	20	8	66	173	176
Philadelphia	57	28	19	10	66	169	167
Carolina	58	27	22	9	63	160	174
Columbus	57	29	24	4	62	154	162
N.Y. Islanders	59	28	25	6	62	197	214
N.Y. Rangers	58	27	26	5	59	166	178

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	56	34	13	9	77	176	147
Winnipeg	57	33	15	9	75	183	154
St. Louis	59	34	21	4	72	170	151
Dallas	57	33	20	4	70	175	151
Minnesota	57	31	20	6	68	170	163
Colorado	56	31	21	4	66	176	163
Chicago	58	24	26	8	56	162	169

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	57	38	15	4	80	196	155
San Jose	58	31	19	8	70	170	159
Calgary	58	30	20	8	68	165	167
Anaheim	59	28	20	11	67	164	168
Los Angeles	57	30	22	5	65	163	143
Edmonton	56	23	29	4	50	158	188
Vancouver	58	22	30	6	50	151	188
Arizona	58	16	32	10	42	142	197

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's Games
Pittsburgh 3, Los Angeles 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
New Jersey 5, Carolina 2
Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 1
Ottawa 3, Buffalo 2, OT
Calgary 4, Nashville 3
Washington 5, Minnesota 2
Anaheim 3, Chicago 2
Arizona 5, Montreal 2
Vegas 4, Edmonton 1
San Jose 4, Vancouver 1
Friday's Games
Philadelphia at Columbus, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 4:30 p.m.
Colorado at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.

Olympics

2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games
Television Schedule
Friday

NBC
12-3 p.m. — Speedskating: Women's 5000m Gold Medal Final; Cross Country: Men's 15km Gold Medal Final; Ski Jumping: Men's Individual Large Hill
5-9:35 p.m. (PST) — Figure Skating: Men's Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Alpine Skiing: Women's Super G Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Freestyle Skiing: Women's Aerials Gold Medal Final; Women's Skeleton
9:35-11 p.m. — Freestyle Skiing: Women's Slopestyle Gold Medal Final

NBCSN
11:40 p.m.-2 a.m. — Men's Ice Hockey: Olympic Athletes from Russia vs. Slovenia (LIVE)
2-4:10 a.m. — Women's Curling: Sweden vs. Olympic Athletes from Russia
4:10-7:45 a.m. — Men's Ice Hockey: Sweden vs. Germany (LIVE); Women's Skeleton
7:45-11 a.m. — Speedskating: Women's 5000m Gold Medal Final; Ski Jumping: Men's Individual Large Hill
11 a.m.-2 p.m. — Women's Curling: South Korea vs. Switzerland
4-7:10 p.m. — Figure Skating: Men's Gold Medal Final (LIVE)
7:10-9:30 p.m. — Men's Ice Hockey: Canada vs. Czech Republic (LIVE)
9:30-11:40 p.m. — Women's Curling: United States vs. Olympic Athletes from Russia

USA
4-6:30 a.m. — Men's Ice Hockey: Finland vs. Norway (LIVE)
CNBC
2-5 p.m. — Men's Curling: United States vs. Denmark
7-9:30 p.m. — Ice Hockey: Women's Quarterfinal, Olympic Athletes of Russia vs. Switzerland (LIVE)