

Winter Olympics

No thoughts of Sochi agony as US chases gold once again

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Dani Cameranesi watched on TV when the Americans blew a 2-0 lead with less than a minute left before losing the gold medal game to Canada four years ago at the Sochi Olympics.

She uses the word “devastating” to sum up the 3-2 overtime loss.

Now the Americans are back with another chance at the Olympic gold that has eluded them since they won it all in 1998, when women’s hockey made its debut at Nagano.

And their archrival is in the way again. The showdown with Canada is Thursday and the Americans know exactly what this moment means.

Canada has won 24 consecutive Olympic games and four straight gold medals. Only the United States in basketball has dominated a women’s team sport more thoroughly with a streak of six straight golds.

The Canadians haven’t lost even a single Olympic game since the 1998 Nagano final — won by the United States. Their streak stands at 24 consecutive games, including a 2-1 win over the United States to cap pool play a week ago. They’ve also won five straight over the Americans including four exhibition victories in December prepping for the Olympics.

“It’s awesome, on the world’s biggest stage, to have two powerhouses going for it at the end,”



United States’ Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson (17) celebrates with her teammates after scoring a goal against Finland during the women’s hockey semifinal in Gangneung, South Korea on Monday.

Canada coach Laura Schuler said.

Yet the Americans have owned the world championships, winning the last four and eight of the last 10. That has only made the U.S. drought at the Olympics all the

more noticeable and making this game even more special.

“It’s been something I’ve been dreaming about since I was little, Cameranesi said. “So it means a lot, and to be here with this group

of girls and to be with them all year has really been an honor.

She is one of 13 players on the U.S. roster who know the Sochi loss only as history, not something they lived through.

Defenseman Kacey Bellamy, among the 10 Americans who did, thinks the newcomers will be key in keeping the Canadians from a fifth straight gold medal.

“They don’t know the heart-break, Bellamy said. “We’ve tried to explain to them what it felt like, but think it’s great that they haven’t felt that. And they bring us a lot of energy to the team, and we trust every single one of them.”

Two-time U.S. captain Meghan Duggan said the Americans looked at themselves in the mirror after the Sochi loss to learn what they needed to take away from it. She sees Sochi as a long time ago.

“We’re focused on this Olympics,” she said. “It’s four years later. We got a new team. We got ... a lot of youth, excitement, energy, fresh blood, and we’re ready to go.”

Under U.S. coach Robb Stauber, the Americans studiously have avoided looking at the big picture of chasing gold. Instead, they’ve focused on the old cliché of one day, one practice, one shift on the ice at a time. They’ve also made sure to enjoy the experience of being at the Winter Games more, too.

Monique Lamoureux-Morando said the Americans tried to act like they had been there before in Sochi. This time around, they’ve made sure to enjoy the games as if this was their first Olympics.

“There’s that balance of knowing when to shut it down, take it in and go see events and enjoy being a spectator at the Olympics, Lamoureux-Morando said.

Winter Olympics

Czechs eliminate US in shootout in quarterfinals

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Pavel Francouz stopped all five shooters and Petr Koukal scored the shootout winner as the Czech Republic eliminated the United States from the Olympics with a 3-2 victory in the quarterfinals Wednesday.

Jan Kovar and Tomas Kundratek scored in regulation for the Czech Republic, which was fresher after winning its group and getting a bye into the quarterfinals. The U.S. looked fatigued after facing Slovakia in the qualification round a day earlier and was outshot 29-20.

Ryan Donato and Jim Slater scored for the U.S., which again was led by its youngest players, including speedster Troy Terry. U.S. goaltender Ryan Zapolski allowed three goals on 29 shots and one in the shootout, while Francouz stopped 18 in regulation and overtime.

“It’s tough when it comes down to the shootout,” U.S. captain Brian Gionta said. “It’s tough to swallow.”

Koukal was the only player to score in overtime. Chris Bourque, Ryan Donato, Marc Arcobello, Terry and Bobby Butler couldn’t beat Francouz. Just before the shootout, Sochi Olympics shootout hero T.J. Oshie of



Brian O’Neill (9), of the United States, and Adam Polasek (61), of the Czech Republic, battle for the puck during the third period of the quarterfinal round of the men’s hockey game at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea on Wednesday.

the U.S. tweeted his support for Terry, but Francouz was able to save a multiple-fake try by the University of Denver player.

“Sorry to let him down on that on,” Terry said. “But the goalie made a good save.”

Said Francouz: “He kind of lost the puck so I got lucky.”

Terry continued skating around opponents as he has done all tournament, and 6:20 in gave the U.S. a 1-0 lead. Terry sliced down the left wing and dished it to Donato, who used a double Czech screen to beat Francouz.

“He’s always been someone

that can raise his game in the big games,” Chuck Terry, Troy’s father, said. “That part’s not that surprising. Just the overwhelming thing of him being at the Olympics, it’s pretty cool.”

The goal was Donato’s fifth in five games, passing his father and Harvard coach, Ted, who scored four for the U.S. at the 1992 Olympics.

The Czechs tied it at 1 at 15:12 after 39-year-old U.S. captain — and natural winger — Brian Gionta lost the faceoff clean and Jan Kolar got it back to Kovar, who beat Zapolski from long

range with a screen in front for the kind of goal that been common at this tournament.

A parade to the penalty box by the U.S. beginning with a boarding call on John McCarthy at the end of the first made the opening half the second a one-sided game. On the power play and at even strength, the Czechs tilted the ice on the Americans and hemmed them in the zone, scoring a goal from Kundratek 8:14 in to go up 2-1.

Just over two minutes later with the U.S. on another penalty kill and looking in serious trouble, Brian O’Neill flashed his speed once again and found Slater on the rush for the former Atlanta Thrashers forward’s first goal of the tournament. The short-handed tying goal 10:23 in was the Americans’ first shot of the second period.

The teams traded chances in the third period, none better than O’Neill clanking a shot off the cross bar with just under three minutes left on an odd-man rush. The U.S. got a power play at the end of regulation and into overtime but never got a shot on net.

With 35 seconds left in overtime, U.S. defenseman Bobby Sanguinetti’s shot hit Francouz and sat in the crease, but the goalie was able to cover up.

“We couldn’t get the bounces,” Donato said.

MLB

Mariners’ Healy making best of delayed start

By JOSE M. ROMERO
Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Ryon Healy joined his new teammates Tuesday for the Seattle Mariners’ first scheduled full-squad workout of spring training. But all he could do was stand around and watch.

Healy had surgery last Wednesday to remove a bone spur in his right hand and cannot take part in drills. His prognosis for recovery is four to six weeks before the Mariners hope he can get into games.

That wasn’t the plan when the Mariners acquired the 26-year-old Healy in a trade with the Oakland Athletics last November. He is Seattle’s projected starting first baseman after batting .271 with 25 home runs and 78 RBIs last year, his first full major league season.

But the start to his Mariners tenure has been delayed.

“I can’t sit here and dwell on the negativity about it. I really have to find a positive, and that’s that my body is going to get some rest and I get an opportunity to meet

some teammates and form some relationships before I even step on the field,” Healy said.

Healy has a bandage on the top of his hand to cover stitches from the surgery. Last December when he commenced offseason hitting, he felt discomfort in his hand.

He informed the Mariners, took a five-week break and upon hitting again, the pain returned.

“I kind of just expected it to go away and it never did,” Healy said. “That was the most frustrating part. There was no initial thing that I did that really irritated it. I didn’t fall on it. I didn’t lift or drop a weight on it, it was literally just picking up a bat and hitting. ... It wasn’t even something I felt last season.”

Healy said he has regained some strength and range of motion. Mariners manager Scott Servais said last week that surgery and the relatively short recovery time was the best-case scenario for the team.

Daniel Vogelbach and Mike Ford will get long looks at first base in spring training.



BLAZERS: Went into All-Star Break last year 10 games under .500, still made playoffs

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three games is the best such run in franchise history.

Afterward, Lillard sounded like he was taking it upon himself to improve the Blazers’ playoff position.

“Each season, it’s always a few teams that fall by the wayside and we’ve just got to make sure we’re not one of them,” he said. “As a

leader, I’ve got to be the guy to lead that charge.”

In 2015-16, Portland was 27-27 at the All-Star break after winning eight of nine games going into it. The Blazers finished the regular season 44-38 and in fifth place in the West. They got past the Clippers in the first round of the playoffs before falling to the Warriors in the conference semifinals.

Last season, Portland lost three straight games to go into the break at 23-33. Shortly thereafter, an overtime loss at Detroit put them 11 games under .500.

But in March, Portland caught fire and went 13-3, best in the NBA. Lillard was named the conference’s Player of the Month, averaging 29.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, 6.0 assists and

1.4 steals in 16 games. Terry Stotts was named Coach of the Month.

Center Jusuf Nurkic, who came to Portland in a trade a handful of days before the All-Star break, went on to average 15.2 points, 10.4 rebounds and 1.9 blocks in 20 games with the Blazers. Portland was 14-5 with the 7-footer in the starting lineup.

Portland made the playoffs for the fourth straight season, but fell in the opening round to the Warriors.

This season, Portland is in the thick of the race. Lillard leads the team with 26.1 points per game, sixth in the league, while also averaging 6.6 assists. Backcourt teammate CJ McCollum is averaging 21.7 points, and

Nurkic is at 14.1 points and 8.2 rebounds.

Stotts was asked just before the break whether he was happy with the team’s position.

“We’ve got a lot of work ahead of us. We’ve got a lot of teams out there fighting for playoff spots,” the coach said. “It’s not about where we are. It’s about where we’re headed.”

SCOREBOARD

Local slate	Basketball	Hockey	PGA TOUR	Golf	Olympics
<p>PREP BOYS BASKETBALL Wednesday Joseph at Condon/Wheeler (1A First Round), 5:30 p.m. Arlington at Grand View Christian (1A First Round), 5:30 p.m. Saturday No. 16 Stanfield at No. 1 Western Menno-nite (2A First Round), 2:30 p.m. No. 12 Umattilla at No. 5 Horizon Christian (3A First Round), 4 p.m. No. 10 Kennedy at No. 7 Pilot Rock, 4:30 p.m. (2A First Round), 4:30 p.m. No. 9 Catlin Gabel at No. 8 Irigon (3A First Round), 6 p.m. No. 5 Nixyaavii vs. TBD (1A Second Round), TBD</p> <p>PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL Friday No. 13 Weston-McEwen at No. 4 Grant Union (2A First Round), 6 p.m. No. 2 Nixyaavii vs. TBD (1A Second Round), TBD Saturday No. 9 Central Linn at No. 8 Heppner, 1 p.m.</p> <p>MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday EOU at Southern Oregon (CCC Tournament), 7 p.m. North Idaho at BMCC, 8 p.m.</p> <p>WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday North Idaho at BMCC, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>NBA Tuesday’s Games No games scheduled. Wednesday’s Games No games scheduled. Thursday’s Games Brooklyn at Charlotte, 4 p.m. New York at Orlando, 4 p.m. Philadelphia at Chicago, 5 p.m. Washington at Cleveland, 5 p.m. Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 7 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>NCAA Men’s Basketball Top 25 Schedule Tuesday No. 2 Michigan St 81, Illinois 61 No. 16 Ohio St 79, Rutgers 52 No. 18 Rhode Island 95, LaSalle 93, OT No. 21 West Virginia 71, Baylor 60 Wednesday No. 4 Xavier at Georgetown, 3:30 p.m. Georgia Tech at No. 1 UVA, 4 p.m. (ESPN2) No. 15 Clemson at Virginia Tech, 4 p.m. (ACCNE) No. 10 UNC at Syracuse, 4 p.m. (ESPN) No. 17 Michigan at Penn State, 4 p.m. (BTN) No. 6 Texas Tech at Oklahoma State, 4 p.m. (ESPNU) Tulane at No. 13 Wichita State, 4:30 p.m. (CBSN) Alabama at No. 12 Auburn, 5:30 p.m. (SECN) DePaul at No. 3 Villanova, 5:30 p.m. (FS1) Louisville at No. 5 Duke, 6 p.m. (ESPN)</p>	<p>Florida at No. 19 Tennessee, 6 p.m. (ESPN2) San Jose State at No. 20 Nevada, 7 p.m. (ESPN3) Pac-12 Schedule Tuesday No games scheduled. Wednesday USC at Colorado, 7:30 p.m. (FS1) NCAA Women’s Basketball Top 25 Schedule Tuesday No games scheduled. Wednesday Northwestern at No. 14 OSU, 4 p.m. Houston at No. 18 USE 4 p.m. No. 23 Belmont at Jacksonville St., 4 p.m. No. 25 Oklahoma State at Kanas, 5 p.m. (ESPN3) No. 1 UConn at Tulane, 5 p.m. (ESPN3) Pac-12 Schedule Tuesday No games scheduled. Wednesday No games scheduled. Thursday Utah at USC, 6 p.m. Colorado at No. 10 UCLA, 8 p.m.</p> <p>NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division Tampa Bay 60 40 17 3 83 215 161 Boston 58 37 13 8 82 191 142 Toronto 62 37 20 5 79 205 172 Florida 57 26 25 6 58 166 186 Detroit 59 24 26 9 57 157 177 Montreal 59 22 29 8 52 151 188 Ottawa 58 21 28 9 51 158 204 Buffalo 60 17 32 11 45 143 198 Metropolitan Division Washington 60 34 19 7 75 187 180 Pittsburgh 61 35 22 4 74 195 180 Philadelphia 60 31 19 10 72 181 174 New Jersey 60 31 21 8 70 181 183 Columbus 60 30 25 5 65 159 170 Carolina 60 27 23 10 64 162 190 N.Y. Islanders 61 29 26 6 64 203 219 N.Y. Rangers 60 27 28 5 59 173 191 WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division Nashville 59 36 14 9 81 185 154 Winnipeg 60 35 16 9 79 199 161 Dallas 59 34 21 4 72 179 157 St. Louis 61 34 23 4 72 173 156 Minnesota 59 32 20 7 71 177 169 Colorado 59 32 23 4 68 184 177 Chicago 60 25 27 8 58 170 173 Pacific Division Vegas 59 39 16 4 82 202 160 San Jose 60 33 19 8 74 178 163 Los Angeles 60 33 22 5 71 174 149 Anaheim 61 30 20 11 71 169 170 Calgary 60 30 21 9 69 169 175 Vancouver 60 23 30 7 53 161 194 Edmonton 59 24 31 4 52 164 194 Arizona 59 17 32 10 44 143 197 Tuesday’s Games Philadelphia 3, Montreal 2, OT</p>	<p>Tampa Bay 4, Washington 2 Columbus 2, New Jersey 1 Toronto 1, Florida 0 Nashville 3, Detroit 2 San Jose 3, St. Louis 2 Los Angeles 4, Winnipeg 3 Boston 3, Edmonton 2 Colorado 5, Vancouver 4, OT Wednesday’s Games Ottawa at Chicago, 5 p.m. Dallas at Anaheim, 7 p.m. Calgary at Vegas, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>HONDA CLASSIC Site: Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Course: PGA National. Yardage: 7,110. Par: 70. Purse: \$6.6 million. Winner’s share: \$1,188,000. Television: Thursday-Friday, 2-6 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 1-2:45 p.m. (Golf Channel); 3-6 p.m. (CBS Sports). Defending champion: Rickie Fowler.</p>	<p>Pyeongchang Winter Olympics Wednesday TV Schedule NBC 12 p.m. — Speedskating: Team Pursuit Gold Medal Finals; Cross Country Skiing: Men’s Team Sprint Gold Medal Final NBCSN 2 p.m. — Alpine Skiing: Women’s Slalom, Downhill (LIVE); Men’s Slalom, Downhill (LIVE) CBSN 2 a.m. — Men’s Curling: United States vs. Britain; Medal Ceremonies 4 a.m. — Ice Hockey: Men’s Quarterfinal (LIVE), Canada vs. Finland; Bobsled: Women’s Gold Medal Final Run 7:45 a.m. — Speedskating: Men’s & Women’s Team Pursuit Gold Medal Finals; Cross Country: Men’s & Women’s Team Sprint Gold Medal Finals 10:30 a.m. — Men’s Curling: United States vs. Britain; Medal Ceremonies 2 p.m. — Hockey Game of the Day (replay) 4 p.m. — Olympic Ice; Women’s Curling: Canada vs. Olympic Athletes from Russia 7:45 p.m. — Ice Hockey: Women’s Gold Medal Final 11 p.m. — Snowboarding: Men’s & Women’s Parallel Giant Slalom; Nordic Combined: Men’s Team Large Hill Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Curling: Men’s & Women’s Tiebreaker USA 2 a.m. — Men’s Curling: Sweden vs. Norway 4 a.m. — Ice Hockey: Men’s Quarterfinal (LIVE), Sweden vs. Germany CNBC 2 p.m. — Women’s Curling: United States vs. Sweden</p>