

coverstory

BY GEORGE DICKIE

Elana Meyers Taylor is among the athletes expected to compete in the 2022 Winter Olympics Monday on NBC and NBCUniversal networks.



There are a number of stories to watch, with several athletes seeking multiple hardware, as the 2022 Winter Olympics goes into its second full week of action in Beijing. All events air on NBC, Peacock, USA Network, CNBC, NBCOlympics.com and NBC Sports app.

One involves women's bobsledding on Monday, Feb. 14, as Elana Meyers Taylor of the United States will team with Kaillie Humphries, who previously competed for Canada, in the monobob, which makes its debut at these games. Meyers Taylor owns three Olympic medals in the two-woman bobsled but has never won gold, while Humphries topped the monobob podium at the 2021 IBSF World Championships. Meyers Taylor and Humphries are also expected to be in the mix for hardware in the two-woman bobsled, which has its gold medal run on Saturday, Feb. 19.

Also on Monday in women's snowboarding, two-time defending Olympic gold medalist Jamie Anderson of the U.S. will duke it out with two international athletes – 2021 World Champion Eileen Gu of China and Estonia's Kelly Sildaru, the four-time X Games champ – in the slopestyle final. The next night, Anderson will go for gold in the big air event while on Friday, Feb. 18, Sildaru and Gu will vie for podium space with defending Olympic gold medalist Cassie Sharpe of Canada in the halfpipe.

In men's snowboarding on Saturday, American David Wise will face a stalwart field including fellow countryman Alex Ferreira, Canada's Brendan Mackay and Nico Porteous of New Zealand in the halfpipe, an event in which he's won gold in the past two Olympics.

The eyes of the world will no doubt turn to women's hockey on Thursday, Feb. 17, with the gold medal game. Barring any major upsets, the United States and Canada should once again be the opponents here. These countries have met in the last three Olympic finals (with Canada winning twice) and have dominated World Championship play since its inception in 1990.

And who can forget Mikaela Shiffrin? Depending on how she did in her previous events, she could be going for her fourth gold medal of these games in the women's downhill on Tuesday. But she'll face stiff competition from fellow countrywoman Breezy Johnson, the two-time world champion. Shiffrin will then enter her fifth and final race of the Olympics on Thursday with the alpine combined, in which she won silver in 2018.

In women's short track speed skating on Wednesday, Feb. 16, Canada's Kim Boutin will defend her 2018 Olympic gold medal from a field including American Kristen Santos in the 1,500m final. And in women's figure skating on Thursday, look for Russian teenagers Kamila Valiyeva and Alexandra Trusova to vie for hardware with Alysa Liu of the U.S. in the conclusion of the short program.

The quest for hardware continues at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing

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