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U.S. WOMEN CLOSE IPC ALPINE SKIING WORLD CUP FINALS WITH OVERALL NATIONS CUP

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U.S. Women Close IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals With Overall Nations Cup



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BY **BRIANNA TAMMARO** | **MARCH 04, 2016,** 6:10 P.M. (ET)



Team USA women accept their globes for the overall women's world cup title at the 2016 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in Aspen, Colo. on March 4.

ASPEN, Colo. — U.S. women sealed the overall Nations Cup, putting the punctuation on the closing day of competition on Friday at the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in Aspen, Colorado. With silver medals won by Stephanie Jallen (Harding, Pennsylvania) and Laurie Stephens (Wenham, Massachusetts), Team USA's overall medal count tallied to 22 for both technical and speed events—four gold, 13 silver and five bronze.

Team USA had its strongest performance in speed events with 13 of its medals coming from downhill and super-G disciplines. However, the team's sole individual globe came in tech events with Danelle Umstead (Park City, Utah) and guide Rob Umstead (Park City, Utah) capturing the world cup season title.

"I think it's awesome," Jallen exclaimed. "I know us girls—me, Melanie [Schwartz], Laurie and Danelle—work really, really hard and we're very close as a family. We've done a lot to earn it and I'm really excited [to win the title]."

Jallen started the medal run for the U.S. in the women's standing class, grabbing her third consecutive silver in 1:31.99 behind globe winner Marie Bochet of France (1:26.53) who capped off an unprecedented, unbeaten world cup season.

Stephens shined with silver in the women's sitting race to win her sixth medal, leading Team USA for the most medals in Aspen. The six-time Paralympic medalist took second (1:31.30) as Germany's Anna Schaffelhuber (1:29.08) went undefeated in speed events. Japan's Momoka Muraoka was third (1:31.87).

Three U.S. skiers finished just shy of the podium in fourth. In the women's visually impaired race, the Umsteads (1:34.46)





were less than two seconds from the third place spot as Great Britain swept the podium.

In the men's race, Paralympians Mark Bathum (Mercer Island, Washington) and guide Cade Yamamoto (Quincy, Washington) crossed the finish line in 1:24.15, as Canada's Mac Marcoux and guide BJ Marcoux took their second consecutive win in 1:19.36. Jon Santacana Maiztegui and guide Miguel Galindo-Garces (1:22.85) were second with Russia's Ivan Frantsev and guide German Agranovskii (1:23.27) in third.

It was a dramatic finish in the men's sitting division as Andrew Kurka (Palmer, Alaska), who came into the final day of competition as the overall points leader in super-G, suffered a crash towards the end of the race. Corey Peters (1:22.61), the world champion from New Zealand, took the win and the trophy for the world cup season. Austria's Roman Rabl (1:22.89) finished a tight second with Japan's Akira Kano (1:24.07) rounding out the podium in third. Kurka's U.S. teammate, Josh Elliott (Yakima, Washington) finished fourth in his first world cup of the season.

After securing the overall globe on Thursday, Austria's Markus Salcher (1:21.09) was victories again in the men's standing class followed by second place Martin France of Slovakia (1:22.91) and Mitchell Gourley of Australia (1:23.68) in third.

Team USA will stay on home snow to cap off the season at the U.S. Paralympics Alpine Skiing National Championships for tech events at Loon Mountain in New Hampshire held March 21-23. For results from the world cup finals, visit the IPC website.

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