

Winter Olympics 2026 guide: All you need to know

The countdown is on for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy.

The torch relay is well underway and some of the top athletes are already making headlines. There are 16 sports in all, including some never seen before, and 116 gold medals are waiting to be awarded when comeptition begins in less than a month.

This will be the most spread-out Winter Games in history: The two primary competition sites are the city of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, the winter resort in the Dolomites that is more than 400 kilometers (250 miles) away by road. Athletes also will compete in three other mountain clusters besides Cortina, while the closing ceremony will be in Verona, 160 km (100 miles) east of Milan.

Get ready for all of the events with this guide of things to know!

Key dates to know

Competition runs Feb. 4-22. Here are some of the dates to mark on your calendar:

- Feb. 4: Competition begins (curling).
- Feb. 6: Opening ceremony.
- Feb. 7: First gold medal events.
- Feb. 8: Gold medal, women's Alpine skiing downhill.
- Feb. 13: Gold medal, men's figure skating.
- Feb. 18: Gold medal, women's



Olympic rings are displayed in the snow at the Stelvio Ski Center, venue for the alpine ski and ski mountaineering disciplines at the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics in Bormio, Italy.

Alpine skiing slalom.

Feb. 19: Gold medal, women's figure skating. Gold medal game, women's ice hockey. First gold medals in ski mountaineering, a new Olympic sport.

Feb. 22: Gold medal game, men's ice hockey. Closing ceremony.

How to watch

Dozens of countries will stream

Top storylines

Athletes to watch: Two of the

most decorated Alpine skiers in history, 41-year-old Lindsey Vonn and Mikaela Shiffrin, opened the World Cup season in dominant form, raising American hopes of a golden run in Cortina. Eileen Gu is back in freestyle skiing, as is Chloe Kim in snowboarding. NHL players are back on Olympic ice for the first time since 2014 so watch for the likes of Sidney Crosby and Connor McDavid.

Venues: All eyes are on the hockey arenas in Milan, which were still under construction in January; the main rink will be about 3 feet shorter than NHL and PWHL players are used to. And the athletes' village in Cortina is a collection of more than 350 mobile homes.

Russian athletes: Some sports federations are deciding whether to let Russians compete as neutral athletes but only after they are cleared by an independent review to ensure that they have not publicly supported the war in Ukraine and are not affiliated with Russia's military or other forces.

What's new: Ski mountaineering will make its Olympic debut while skeleton has added a mixed team event, luge has added women's doubles and large hill ski jumping added women's and men's super team events.

► Olympics

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The post-Shaun White era on the halfpipe starts with a roster full of underdogs. Chase Josey returns for his third Olympics and Jake Pates is back after missing in 2022. Neither has finished higher than sixth.

Freestyle

Nick Goepper, who has two silver medals and a gold in slopestyle, moves over to the halfpipe for his fourth Olympics. He'll be joined there by Alex Ferreira, who has silver and bronze on the halfpipe.

David Wise, who has two gold medals and a silver, didn't make the team after failing to reach the podium over the qualifying period. Also missing is big air silver medalist Colby Stevenson.

In slopestyle, Alex Hall returns to defend his slopestyle title.

Moguls & aeries

Jaelin Kauf is the reigning Olympic silver medalist in moguls, while Chris Lillis will try to add to the gold medal he won with Ashley Caldwell and Justin Schoenefeld in mixed team aeries in China four years ago. Winter Vinecki has a fitting first name as she competes in her second Olympics.

Under Capel, Pitt basketball has hit rock bottom — again

BY PAUL ZEISE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (TNS)

PITTSBURGH — I remember the final few months of the Kevin Stallings era of Pitt basketball and just how awful that was.

It was 2017-18, and in just two seasons Stallings and then-athletic director Scott Barnes managed to destroy the house that Jamie Dixon and Ben Howland built.

Petersen Events Center was a morgue, devoid of atmosphere. And the product on the floor was an absolute embarrassment. Those were hard days for those of us who covered or observed the team during the glory years of Howland and Dixon, when a ticket to men's basketball was the hottest in town.

The Pete and the Oakland Zoo were loud and vibrant prior to the end of the Dixon era. It was one of the toughest places in the country to play and the Panthers almost never lost in that building. And when they were really rolling, they would welcome teams ranked in the top five into the building then punish them possession by possession.

Dixon obviously wanted something different and left for his alma mater and Barnes hired Stallings, a good coach who did a good job at

Vanderbilt but one who was clearly burned out and an incredibly unpopular hire.

In two years under Stallings, the Panthers went from an NCAA tournament team to one that went 0-18 in the ACC and regularly got thumped at home. It was a disaster of a hire and Heather Lyke, who took over for Barnes, quickly rectified the situation by firing Stallings.

Jeff Capel was then hired to take over the program and the joy returned to Mudville, as there were high hopes he would be the guy to get it right. He came highly recommended, had some success at Oklahoma and was the associate head coach of the No. 1 program in the ACC, Duke.

There is no reason Capel shouldn't have succeeded here. But somehow, eight years later, it just has not worked. Something is missing with the Capel era, which is in Year 8, and the Panthers have no chance of making the NCAA tournament, regardless of how well they play in the final two months of the season.

Last Saturday, though, was something different as the Panthers got smoked by Louisville in front of a half-empty Petersen Events Center. Pitt was down 28-7 before most of

the people who did bother to go to the game got into their seats. They ended up losing 100-59.

I don't know what rock bottom is, but I know what it feels like and this was it. The Cardinals embarrassed the Panthers. It wasn't even as close as the score indicated. Worse than being outclassed, the Panthers were outplayed and it was fair to question their effort.

Capel has had modest success — one NCAA tournament in seven seasons and a couple of other competitive teams — which is to say he did actually rebuild the program from the dumpster fire it was when he took over.

He took it from horrific to above average, which is not necessarily easy to do in some cases. But Saturday and really several other times this season — such as losses to Hofstra and Quinnipiac — felt a whole lot like the Stallings era.

That's not a compliment.

I actually don't know what the answer for Pitt is at this point, what will solve everything that ails the program. It is probably time to pull the plug on Capel and his program, and if Pitt is serious about fielding a competitive basketball program his contract won't matter in this decision.

I keep hearing that they cannot

move on from Capel because he has an excellent recruiting class coming in next year. Do people who say that have any clue about how college basketball and college athletics are played these days?

The recruiting class next year is irrelevant to the discussion about Capel and his future. You don't win with a bunch of young players and there is a good chance most, if not all, of them will be gone by their second season as they chase NIL dollars.

It makes no sense to tie Capel's future to his recruiting class, especially since there is an excellent general manager in place who is equally as responsible for getting that class signed. If Capel is fired, the class can still be salvaged. And if it isn't, who cares? The next coach is going to build his first team out of transfers anyway.

Capel is just the first domino, though. The athletic department has to look deeply into how much it is supporting the program, how much in terms of resources the program has and what needs to be done to make the program more attractive to the best coaches and players available.

That means an investment of money — and it might be money the athletic department doesn't have but

certainly needs to find, and quickly.

Rock bottom is where Capel found the program and unfortunately he has run it back down to that level again. It is incredible when you think about the optimism around Capel when he was hired. But here we are.

Pitt should be good in basketball, and over time with the right coach and support has proven it can be good in basketball. But it takes the right coach working with the right commitment from the athletic department to make it work. The program seems to be a long way from that now.

The Panthers have six home games left and 13 games overall and it is going to take a minor miracle for them to finish with a record above .500. The last two seasons Pitt decided to forgo the NIT and end the season after the ACC tournament. But that isn't even in the equation for this team.

A program that once was a fixture in the NCAA tournament has fallen so far that it won't even have the opportunity to compete in the NIT. I am sure there is some joke about the CBI or CB4 or whatever the heck it was called — Pitt actually won that mess once — but the program in this state is no longer a laughing matter.

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NFL PLAYOFFS	
Wild-card Playoffs	
Saturday, Jan. 10	
L.A. Rams 34, Carolina 31	
Chicago 31, Green Bay 27	
Sunday, Jan. 11	
Buffalo 27, Jacksonville 24	
San Francisco 23, Philadelphia 19	
New England 16, L.A. Chargers 3	
Monday, Jan. 12	
Houston 30, Pittsburgh 6	
Divisional Playoffs	
Saturday, Jan. 17	
Denver 33, Buffalo 30, OT	
Seattle 41, San Francisco 6	
Sunday, Jan. 18	
New England 28, Houston 16	
L.A. Rams 20, Chicago 17, OT	
Conference Championships	
Sunday, Jan. 25	
AFC	
New England at Denver, 3 p.m. (CBS/Paramount+)	
NFC	
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)	
Super Bowl LIX	
Sunday, Feb. 8	
At Santa Clara	
Conference Championships winners, 6:30 p.m. (NBC/Peacock)	

NFL INJURY REPORT

The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT: Player will not play; DOUBTFUL: Player is unlikely to play; QUESTIONABLE: Player is not certain to play; DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):

Conference Championships

Sunday

LOS ANGELES RAMS at SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — LOS ANGELES: OUT: T Rob Havenstein (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: LB Byron Young (knee). SEATTLE: OUT: LB Chazz Surratt (ankle). DOUBTFUL: T Amari Knight (knee). QUESTIONABLE: T Josh Jones (knee/ankle). FB Robbie Ouzts (neck). NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS at DENVER BRONCOS — NEW ENGLAND: OUT: DT Joshua Farmer (hamstring). RB Terrell Jennings (concussion). LB Harold Landry III (knee). QUESTIONABLE: WR Mack Hollins (abdomen). LB Marte Mapu (hip). DENVER: OUT: TE Lucas Krull (foot). LB Drew Sanders (ankle). QB Bo Nix (ankle). RB J.K. Dobbins (foot). QUESTIONABLE: C Alex Forsyth (ankle). WR Troy Franklin (hamstring). C Luke Wattenberg (shoulder). S J.L. Skinner (quadriceps).

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1894 — Jim Corbett knocks out Charley Mitchell in the third round to retain the world heavyweight title.
1924 — The first Winter Olympics are held in Cham-onix, France.
1939 — Joe Louis knocks out John Henry Lewis at 2:39 of the first round to retain the world heavyweight title.
1945 — Larry MacPhail, Dan Topping and Del Webb buy the New York Yankees for \$2.8 million.
1960 — Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors sets a record for rookies with 58 points in a 127-117 triumph over the Detroit Pistons. Chamberlain also grabs 42 rebounds.
1968 — Bob Seagen sets an indoor pole vault record in the Millrose Games at New York's Madison Square Garden. Seagen's world record leap is 17 feet, 4 1/4 inches.
1972 — Eddie Woods of Oral Roberts grabs 30 rebounds in a 109-95 victory over Louisiana Tech.
1981 — Jim Plunkett's two first-quarter touchdown passes, including a Super Bowl-record 80-yard strike to running back Kenny King, leads the Oakland Raiders to a 27-10 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.
1987 — The New York Giants win the Super Bowl with a 39-20 of the Denver Broncos. The Giants, trailing 10-9 at halftime, score 30 points in the second half to set a Super Bowl record. Phil Simms completes a record 10 straight passes and 22 of 25 attempts overall.
1988 — Utah guard Ricky Green scores the NBA's 5 millionth point when the Jazz beat Cleveland 119-96.
1991 — Brett Hull scores two goals to become the third player in NHL history to score 50 goals in less than 50 games (49). Hull adds two assists to lead the St. Louis Blues to a 9-4 rout of the Detroit Red Wings.

BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS		
REGION 1		
Team	R1	Overall
Lakeview	7-0	14-2
Greenville	5-2	9-7
Kennedy Catholic	4-3	7-7
West Middlesex	4-3	5-10
Sharpsville	3-4	6-10
Wilmington	1-5	6-10
Reynolds	0-7	2-13
REGION 2		
Team	R2	Overall
Rocky Grove	7-0	11-5
Saegertown	5-1	11-3
Cochran	5-2	8-5
Maplewood	2-4	4-11
Cambridge Springs	2-4	4-11
Commodore Perry	1-6	4-11
Jamestown	1-6	1-15
REGION 3		
Team	R3	Overall
Eisenhower	2-1	11-3
Erie First Christian	2-1	12-4
Mercyhurst Prep	2-1	11-4
Union City	1-1	6-8
Eric Prep Academy	0-3	4-4
REGION 4		
Team	R4	Overall
Grove City	4-0	11-5
Hickory	3-1	11-3
Sharon	3-1	12-4
Mercer	1-3	9-6
Farrell	1-3	5-8
Slippery Rock	0-4	2-13
REGION 5		
Team	R5	Overall
Franklin	7-1	10-6
Oil City	7-1	11-5
Warren	6-2	8-6
Corry	4-3	10-5
Fort LeBoeuf	4-4	9-6
Seneca	2-6	4-12
Conneaut	1-6	4-11
Titusville	0-8	2-14
REGION 6		
Team	R6	Overall
Fairview	6-1	11-4
Harbor Creek	6-1	11-5
Girard	5-2	11-4
North East	4-3	8-7
Iroquois	2-5	4-12
Northwestern	1-5	7-9
General McLane	0-7	2-12
REGION 7		
Team	R7	Overall
Catharap Prep	3-0	17-1
McDowell	2-1	12-3
Erie High	1-2	11-5
Meadville	0-3	6-10

ANNOUNCEMENT

WARM WATER FLY TYING CLASSES

The Keystone Fly Fishers will be offering a warm water fly tying class starting on Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Emerging Technology Center, located at 191 Howard St. in Franklin. Each class will last for about two to two and a half hours each Wednesday night thru March 11.
This is not a beginner class and will move right along at a somewhat accelerated rate. Therefore, all tyers considering this class should have some familiarity with general tying skills (whip finishing/half hitching, pinch wrap, use of dubbing, etc.) and have their own vise and tools.
The class will be limited to 12 individuals and anyone between the ages of 12-17 must be accompanied by an adult. All four classes will be provided at a cost of \$50 total.
Pre-registration is required, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$20. Checks are to be made payable to: Keystone Fly Fishers. The deposit is required to confirm registration as the classes fill up very quickly. Once a deposit is received, confirmation about a participant's registration will be sent via email. For questions, contact the Keystone Fly Fishers by email at Keystonelyfishers1@gmail.com or check them out on Facebook at Keystone Fly Fishers or call 814-673-5478.

GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS		
REGION 1		
Team	R1	Overall
Kennedy Catholic	9-0	14-1
Wilmington	7-1	13-1
Mercer	5-3	10-5
Sharpsville	4-4	11-4
Lakeview	4-4	10-6
Farrell	3-5	8-8
West Middlesex	1-8	4-13
Reynolds	0-8	5-10
REGION 2		
Team	R2	Overall
Cochran	7-0	7-7
Maplewood	6-1	10-6
Commodore Perry	5-2	10-4
Saegertown	4-3	6-8
Jamestown	2-6	5-12
Rocky Grove	1-6	6-9
Cambridge Springs	0-7	2-14
REGION 3		
Team	R3	Overall
Northwestern	8-0	13-3
Seneca	6-1	12-3
Eisenhower	5-2	10-3
Mercyhurst Prep	4-3	5-8
Union City	3-4	7-6
North East	2-5	4-11
Girard	1-7	3-10
Iroquois	0-7	1-13
REGION 4		
Team	R4	Overall
Slippery Rock	3-0	12-3
Greenville	3-0	13-4
Grove City	1-2	6-10
Hickory	1-3	3-14
Sharon	0-3	2-13
REGION 5		
Team	R5	Overall
Oil City	3-0	9-7
Franklin	2-1	10-6
Conneaut	2-1	9-6
Titusville	0-2	5-10
Meadville	0-3	4-11
REGION 6		
Team	R6	Overall
Fairview	2-0	12-3
Corry	2-0	10-4
Harbor Creek	2-1	11-3
General McLane	1-2	5-9
Fort LeBoeuf	0-4	6-8
REGION 7		
Team	R7	Overall
Cathedral Prep	0-0	8-3
McDowell	0-0	7-5
Warren	0-0	2-12
Erie High	0-0	0-12

TRANSACTIONS

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Recalled G Isak Posch from Colorado (AHL).

MINNESOTA WILD — Activated F Matt Boldy from injured reserve.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Assigned D Cole McCard to Bridgeport (AHL). Recalled D Isaiah George from Bridgeport.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled F Jakob Pelletier from Syracuse (AHL).

VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Recalled G Nikita Tolopilo from Abbotsford (AHL). Assigned G Jiri Patera to Abbotsford.

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Assigned F Jakub Demek to Henderson (AHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

LAFC — Signed MF Amin Boudiri to a contract through the 2029 season with a club option through 2030.

BASKETBALL BOXSCORES

VARSITY GIRLS

CLARION (17)

Noukouni 0 0-0 0, Scheftic 2 0-2 5, Best 2 0-0 4, Galan 1 2-3 3, Hoff 1 0-0 2, Spence 0 0-0 0, Diehl 0 0-0 0, Leonard 1 0-0 3, Wright 0 0-2 0. Totals: 7 1-6 17.

KEYSTONE (57)

Brandon 11 1-2 24, McGiffin 3 0-0 6, McElravy 7 2-8 16, Shumaker 5 0-0 10, Henry 0 1-2 1, Nugent 0 0-0 0, Weiser 0 0-2 0, Heller 0 0-0 0, Ernst 0 0-0 0. Totals: 26 4-14 57.

Score by Quarters

Clarion	0	10	2	5	—	17
Keystone	26	21	8	2	—	57

3-point goals — Clarion (Scheftic, Leonard), Keystone (Brandon).

NORTH CLARION (39)

Ky. Freeman 2 1-2 5, Baumcratz 6 1-2 16, Hastings 1 0-0 3, Carl 2 0-2 4, Thompson 1 0-0 2, Resinger 0 1-2 1, Ki. Freeman 3 2-2 8, Griebel 0 0-0 0. Totals: 15 5-10 39.

CLARION-LIMESTONE (51)

Ferguson 3 0-0 6, Love 2 0-0 4, Schwabenbauer 8 5-8 21, Hepli 0 0-4 0, Beggs 5 4-4 15, B. Meals 0 0-0 0, McGinley 0 0-1 0, E. Meals 2 1-2 5. Totals: 20 10-19 51.

Score by Quarters

North Clarion	12	11	7	9	—	39
C-L	17	10	16	8	—	51

3-point goals — NC (Baumcratz 3, Hastings), C-L (Beggs).

VARSITY BOYS

LAUREL (48)

Kunselman 1 0-0 2, Fennick 0 1-2 1, Ziccards 0 0-0 0, Santing 2 2-2 8, Side 1 2-4 4, Manifrang 0 1-2 1, Fedrizzi 0 1-2 1, Jones 1 1-4 3, Stewart 0 3-4 3, Kuth 3 0-0 8, Ernst 2 2-2 7, Gilmore 4 0-0 8, Weisenstein 1 0-0 2. Totals: 15 13-24 48.

COCHRANTON (73)

King 0 0-0 0, Rodax 0 0-0 0, Wright 1 0-2 3, W. Carroll 8 6-9 23, Shorts 4 0-2 11, R. Haskins 0 0-0 0, P. Haskins 0 0-2 0, Rynd 7 9-14 23, Walker 2 0-0 4, N. Carroll 2 0-0 6, Schaeff 0 0-0 0, Counselman 0 0-0 0, Sliker 1 0-0 2, White 0 1-2 1. Totals: 25 16-31 73.

Score by Quarters

Laurel	7	7	21	13	—	48
Cochran	11	21	26	15	—	73

3-point goals — Laurel (Santing 2, Kuth 2, Ernst), Cochran (Shorts 3, N. Carroll 2, Wright, W. Carroll).

8TH GRADE BOYS

OIL CITY (26)

Kelly 4 0-0 11, Labay 3 0-2 6, Martin 3 1-6 7, Minter 1 0-0 2, Lineman 0 0-0 2, Sponenburgh 0 0-0 2. Totals: 11 1-12 26.

MAPLEWOOD (33)

Sciallo 0 0-2 0, Stevenson 2 1-2 7, Shaw 8 1-