

## CANADIAN ROUNDUP



Canadian Press

Canada's Beckie Scott celebrates winning a bronze medal in cross-country skiing Friday.

# Great Scott! Beckie gets bronze

From L-P WIRE SERVICES

Her Olympic bronze medal in cross-country skiing is not only a victory for perseverance, it also proves you can ski clean and still be on the podium, Beckie Scott said Friday.

Scott became the first North American woman to win an Olympic cross-country medal when she finished third in the five-kilometre pursuit race at the 2002 Winter Games.

An outspoken anti-doping advocate, Scott has campaigned for tighter controls in the sport.

"I can stand on the podium and wear my medal with pride knowing I did this on my own," said the 28-year-old from Vermilion, Alta.

"I'm burning natural gas in my engine."

Scott suggested not everyone in the race at Soldier Hollow in the Wasatch Mountain State Park was clean.

"I feel I didn't compete on an entirely clean field," she said.

"I think we are a long ways from that. We have seen some changes in the doping control protocol but I don't think enough to make a significant impact on the amount of athletes that are doping."

A pair of Russians took the gold and silver. Olga Danilova won the race and Larissa Lazutina placed second.

Asked if they were clean, Scott said: "No comment."

It's up to cross-country skiing's governing body to clean up the sport, Scott said.

"I feel the FIS either has to do a complete change over of people or somehow have the law laid down on them," she said.

"I really don't believe they are making the effort they need to be to prevent doping in sport."

The race is run in two stages. First there's a five-kilometre classic race followed by a five-kilometre freestyle.

Danilova finished the freestyle race in 11 minutes 54.1 seconds. Lazutina came in 6.9 seconds later to take silver and Scott won the bronze, 17.8 seconds back.

Sare Renner, of Golden, B.C., was 19th and Milaine Theriault, of Moncton, N.B., was 35th. Amanda Fortier, of Edmonton, failed to advance to the final race.

Scott is an eight-year veteran of the national cross-country team. She finished 15th in the World Cup overall ranking the last two seasons.

Back in 2001 she won a bronze sprint medal at

Soldier Hollow, making her only the second Canadian woman to stand on a World Cup podium in cross-country.

She began this season winning the sprint at the Continental Cup in Fairbanks, Alaska. She then challenged fellow skiers to donate their prize money to UNICEF's Afghanistan Relief Fund, raising a total of \$2,200.

"As an athlete we sometimes tend to live a little bit in bubbles and try to isolate ourselves from distractions and not let anything bother us," she said.

"Watching the going-ons in Afghanistan bothered me a lot. I felt we had to try and do something."

Scott lives in Bend, Ore., with Justin Wadsworth, a member of the U.S. cross-country team.

Wadsworth said half of the U.S. team was travelling into Salt Lake for Friday night's medal ceremony.

"It's as exciting for me as it is for her," he said.

"We're both on top of the world. When a person has trained as hard as Beckie, it even means more. To be a clean athlete, it's even more on top of that, so its huge."

In men's curling, Kevin Martin and his Edmonton rink improved to 5-1 with a 9-7 win over Germany. Canada also played Switzerland in Friday's late draw.

Kelley Law's B.C. team continues to lead the women's curling competition with a 6-0 record after an 8-4 victory over Germany's Natalie Nesser.

In doubles luge, Chris Moffat of Calgary and Eric Pothier of Airdrie, Alta., battled their nerves en route to a fifth-place finish in a combined time of 1:26.501.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say I was nervous. I was downright terrified," said Moffat. "Me and Eric talked before we went down, and we said, 'let's have fun and be light.' And we just started bopping around to the music and had a blast. We lit up on the last run."

Patric-Fritz Leitner and Alexander Resch of Germany won the gold medal with a two-run combined time of 1:26.062. Mark Grimmette and Brian Martin of the United States won the silver in 1:26.216, and Americans Chris Thorpe and Clay Ives — a native of Bancroft, Ont., who now competes for the U.S. — won the bronze in 1:26.220.

Grant Albrecht and Mike Moffat, both from Calgary, were 12th in a time of 1:27.366.

Snowboarder Jerome Sylvestre of Bromont, Que., was 12th in the men's parallel giant slalom.