



Olympic Games - Medal contenders - men's singles

Name	Nation	Results	Further information
<p>Benshoof, Tony 07.07.1975 185cm – 91kg PoB: St. Paul, MN Residence: White Bear Lake, MN student</p>	USA	<p>2006 Olympics 4th; 2002 Olympics 17th; 2009 Worlds 18th; 2008 Worlds 14th singles and 5th team; 2004 Worlds 2nd team and 9th singles; 2005 Worlds 2nd team and 7th singles; 2001 Worlds 3rd team and 13th singles; 2003 Worlds 12th; 2007 Worlds 18th; 2005-06 overall World Cup 3rd; 2003-04 overall World Cup 4th; 2008-09 overall World Cup 25th; 2005-06 overall Challenge Cup 2nd; 2004-05 and 2006-07 overall Challenge Cup 3rd.</p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 5th in Cesana; 6th in Calgary; 9th in Lillehammer; 10th in Igls + Altenberg; 11th in Oberhof; 13th in Koenigssee + Winterberg. Overall World Cup 9th. Overall Challenge Cup 7th.</p>	<p>Missed bronze medal by 153 thousandths of a second By just a hair's breadth - 153 thousandths of a second - Tony Benshoof failed to earn a medal four years ago. After four runs Latvia's Martins Rubenis was 153 thousandths of a second faster than the US athlete, who eventually finished on fourth place and thus failed to earn the first ever US luge medal in the men's singles. As a talented photographer he likes to show his team mates in a favourable light in his free time. His photos can be admired on the homepage of the US Federation.</p>
<p>Christie, Jeff 02.02.1983 183cm – 86kg PoB: Vancouver Residence: Calgary, Alberta Student active since: 1995</p>	CAN	<p>2006 Olympics 14th; 2008 Worlds 7th team and 11th singles; 2004 Worlds 7th team and 16th singles; 2001 Worlds 11th team and 16th singles; 2005 Worlds 6th team and 12th singles; 2007 Worlds 22nd; 2009 Worlds 23rd; 2002 Junior Worlds 4th 2002-03 overall junior World Cup 2nd; 2007-08 overall World Cup 20th; 2008-09 overall World Cup 18th.</p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 9th in Calgary; 20th in Winterberg + Cesana; 24th in Oberhof. Overall World Cup 25th. Overall Challenge Cup 13th.</p>	<p>Added quite some muscle mass With an eye on the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, the Canadian Federation relied on German know-how. Wolfgang Staudinger, former coach of former World champion David Moeller, serves as head coach and is supported in his work by Robert Fegg (former junior World champion) and Steffen Skel (former World runner-up in the double-seater). And Jeff Christie is the best example that the fruits of the hard work can now be harvested - the FIL Athlete's Representatives has put on muscle mass considerably.</p>



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<p>Demchenko, Albert 27.11.1971 185cm – 105kg PoB: Chusovoi Residence: Moscow sports instructor active since: 1989</p>	RUS	<p>2006 Olympics 2nd; 2002 Olympics 5th; 1994 Olympics 9th; 2007 and 2009 4th; 2008 Worlds 4th relay and 7th singles; 2010 European champion singles and 4th relay; 2006 European champion; 1996 + 2008 European 2nd; 2004-05 overall World Cup winner; 2007-08 overall World Cup 3rd; 2002-03, 2005-06 and 2006-07 overall World Cup 4th; 2008-09 overall World Cup 7th; 2004-05 overall Challenge Cup 1st; 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 2nd.</p> <p><i>altogether 13 World Cup victories (2002-03: Oberhof; 2004-05: Sigulda, Oberhof, Koenigssee, Winterberg; 2005-06: Sigulda, Calgary; 2006-07: Koenigssee; 2007-08: Koenigssee, Sigulda. 2008-09: Sigulda. 2009-10: Lillehammer, Koenigssee)</i></p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 1st in Lillehammer + Koenigssee; 2nd in Winterberg; 3rd in Calgary + Altenberg; 4th in Oberhof; 9th in Igls; 31st in Cesana. Overall World Cup 2nd. Overall Challenge Cup 3rd.</p>	<p>Relocation to Moscow and new motto His former motto "winning or crashing" is a thing of the past. A new sled boosts his confidence. According to his main opponent Armin Zoeggeler, Demchenko is one of the "top ten favourites" at the Olympic Games. Albert has relocated to Moscow, showed Zoeggeler his new domicile in spring 2009 on the occasion of the homologation of the first Russian artificial track in Paramonova. A heavyweight in every respect - he puts 105kg on the scales.</p>



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<p>Edney, Sam 29.06.1984 187cm – 95kg PoB: Calgary Residence: Calgary student active since: 1993</p>	CAN	<p>2006 Olympics 19th; 2008 Worlds 9th; 2009 Worlds 17th; 2004 Worlds 25th; 2007 Worlds 32nd; 2004 Worlds 13th doubles' (with Gwyn Lewis) ; 2004 Junior Worlds 4th; 2008-09 overall World Cup 21st; 2006-07 overall World Cup 22nd; 2007-08 overall World Cup 23rd; 2002-03 overall junior World Cup winner.</p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 5th in Calgary; 7th in Cesana; 8th in Altenberg; 15th in Koenigssee; 18th in Igls. Overall World Cup 15th.</p>	<p>Carries Canada's hopes So far, Canada has never won an Olympic luge medal. Thus, Sam Edney is one of the athletes who will carry Canada's hopes to put an end to this chapter. He excelled with brilliant times at the International Training Week last autumn. According to Armin Zoeggeler he is one of the medal contenders. "He knows the track better than any of us." Already earned four Canadian national titles.</p>
<p>Hoehener, Stefan 13.06.1980 176cm – 83kg PoB: Baar Residence: Obfelden Brick layer active since: 1992</p>	SUI	<p>2002 Olympic 13th; 2006 Olympic 15th; 2007 Worlds 5th; 2005 and 2008 Worlds 6th; 2009 Worlds 8th; 2004 Worlds 13th; 2008 Europeans 7th; 2002, 2004 and 2006 Europeans 13th; 2003-04, 2005-06 + 2008/09 overall World Cup 14th; 2006-07 overall World Cup 5th; 2007-08 overall World Cup 9th; 2004-05 and 2007-08 Challenge Cup 4th; 2008-09 Challenge Cup 6th.</p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 9th in Winterberg; 11th in Cesana; 12th in Koenigssee; 14th in Lillehammer. Overall World Cup 16th. Overall Challenge Cup 16th.</p>	<p>Qualified for Olympic Games in the very last moment Achieved to qualify for his third Olympic Games in the very last moment. Wrote a chapter of Swiss luge history with his three 3rd places in Park City and Calgary in 2006-07 as well as one year later in Winterberg - the best ever World Cup results for the Swiss in the men's singles.</p>



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<p>Kindl, Wolfgang 18.04.1988 167cm – 79kg Residence: Vill soldier active since: 1999</p>	AUT	<p>2009 and 2008 Worlds 12th; 2007 Worlds 19th; 2010 Europeans 2nd singles and relay; 2008 Europeans 27th; 2008 Junior World champion; 2007 Junior Worlds 3rd; 2008-09 overall World Cup 11th; 2007-09 overall World Cup 19th; 2006-07 overall Junior World Cup winner.</p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 7th in Winterberg; 9th in Oberhof; 11th in Koenigssee; 12th in Cesana; 14th in Calgary + Igls; 15th in Altenberg + Lillehammer. Overall World Cup 14th. Overall Challenge Cup 14th.</p>	<p>Proved Austria's luge legend Prock wrong Earning his 2010 European silver medal in Sigulda, he proved Austria's luge legend Markus Prock wrong. The former two-time World champion once disavowed Kindl the physical requirements to become an international top luge athlete - "arms and legs too short, bad leverage". Since November with the Federal Army. Prior to that he kept his head above water financially with the help of different organisations. Can greatly improve during a competition.</p>
<p>Kneyb, Viktor 19.04.1980 180cm – 86 g PoB: Bratsk Residence: Moscow sports instructor active since: 1992</p>	RUS	<p>2006 Olympics 11th; 2002 Olympics 20th 2007 Worlds 8th; 2005 Worlds 9th; 2009 Worlds 11th; 2010 Europeans 5th; 2006 Europeans 6th, 2004 and 2008 Europeans 15th; 2008-09 overall World Cup 9th; 2005-06 overall World Cup 6th; 2004-05 overall World Cup 10th; 2007-08 Challenge-Cup 10th. 2008-09 Challenge-Cup 7th.</p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 3rd in Igls; 5th in Koenigssee; 8th in Lillehammer + Calgary; 9th in Altenberg; 10th in Cesana; 16th in Oberhof. Overall World Cup 10th. Overall Challenge Cup 4th.</p>	<p>Dreams of a 2014 Olympic medal in Sochi His ancestors have their roots in Germany, he still owns an old cookery book of this "babushka" (grandmother). He is dreaming of an Olympic medal in Sochi in 2014. "But better even now in Vancouver." Quite unobtrusively he is stepping out of the shadow of team-mate Albert Demchenko. Similar to Demchenko Kneyb now lives in Paramonova, where Russia's first artificial ice track was built.</p>



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<p>Langenhan, Andi 01.10.1984 181cm – 80kg PoB: Suhl Residence: Zella-Mehlis police officer, Student active since: 1995</p>	GER	<p>2008 Worlds 3rd, 2009 Worlds 10th; 2005 Worlds 14th; 2006 Europeans 15th; 2008 Europeans 17th; 2010 Europeans no participation; 2008-09 overall World Cup 5th; 2007-08 overall World Cup 8th.</p> <p><i>altogether two World Cup victories (2008-09: Igls; 2009-10: Oberhof)</i></p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 1st in Oberhof; 4th in Koenigssee; 6th in Altenberg; 11th in Igls; 12th in Winterberg; 16th in Calgary; 21st in Cesana. Overall World Cup 8th. Overall Challenge Cup 10th.</p>	<p>Opposite of Loch and Moeller He is something of an opposite to his German team-mates Felix Loch and David Moeller who are occupied with the sport of luge 24/7. "I cannot live and think about luge the whole day long." Loves speed and is the proud owner of a 300hp-strong sports car. Won a team selection event in Whistler. Believes himself to be "an insider tip" at the Olympic Games.</p>
<p>Loch, Felix 24.07.1989 190cm – 90kg PoB: Sonneberg Residence: Schoenau/Koenigssee trainee police officer active since: 1995</p>	GER	<p>2009 World champion + relay; 2008 World champion singles + relay; 2007 Worlds 9th and 3rd team; 2010 Europeans no participation 2008 Europeans 6th singles; 2006 and 2007 junior World champion; 2008 junior Worlds 2nd; 2008-09 overall World Cup 4th; 2007-08 overall World Cup 6th; 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 10th; 2005-06 overall junior World Cup winner.</p> <p><i>altogether one World Cup victory (Altenberg 2009-10)</i></p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 1st in Altenberg; 2nd in Cesana, 3rd in Lillehammer; 4th in Calgary + Igls; 7th in Oberhof; 9th in Koenigssee; 17th in Winterberg. Overall World Cup 3rd. Overall Challenge Cup 6th.</p>	<p>Youngest World champion of all times At the age of 18 years, six months and two days he became the youngest World luge champion of all times. Defended his title successfully in Lake Placid. In December 2009 he celebrated his first World Cup victory in Altenberg. But subsequently lost his strongest asset - being carefree. "Comback" at the last World Cup event in Cesana with place two. His father Norbert is head coach of Germany's lugers in his second year. The Loch family follows a strict law - no talks about luge at home.</p>



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<p>Mair, David 21.08.1984 180cm – 82kg PoB: Vipiteno Residence: Meransen sports soldier active since: 1997</p>	ITA	<p>2009 Worlds 9th; 2008 Worlds 24th; 2010 Europeans no participation; 2006 Europeans 12th; 2008 Europeans 14th; 2004 junior Worlds 7th; 2006-07 and 2008-09 Overall World Cup 15th; 2007-08 overall World Cup 14th; 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 12th; 2007-08 Challenge Cup 13th.</p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 5th in Lillehammer; 6th in Winterberg + Cesana; 11th in Altenberg; 13th in Oberhof; 14th in Koenigssee. Overall World Cup 11th. Overall Challenge Cup 10th.</p>	<p>Destroyed Huber's dream of his 7th Olympic Games Youngest member of the Italian team of head coach Walter Plaikner. He carries the hope of Italy for the times after Armin Zoeggeler and Reinhold Rainer. Won a team selection event against Wilfried Huber and thus, with his own qualification, destroyed Huber's dream of his 7th Olympic Winter Games.</p>
<p>Moeller, David 13.01.1982 188cm – 84kg PoB: Sonneberg Residence: Schalkau Federal police officer active since: 1991</p>	GER	<p>2006 Olympic Games 5th; 2004 and 2007 World champion singles and team; 2008 Worlds 2nd, 2005 Worlds 3rd; 2009 Worlds 7th; 2001 and 2002 junior World champion; 2010 Europeans no participation; 2004 Europeans 2nd; 2006 and 2008 Europeans 3rd; 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 overall World Cup 2nd; 2003-04 and 2004-05 overall World Cup 3rd; 2005-06 overall Challenge Cup winner; 2004-05, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 2nd.</p> <p><i>altogether eight World Cup victories (2003-04: Calgary; 2004-05: Lake Placid, Calgary; 2006-07: Calgary, Oberhof; 2007-08: Calgary, Winterberg; 2008-09: Vancouver)</i></p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 2nd in Calgary; 3rd in Koenigssee + Winterberg; 4th in Altenberg; 5th in Oberhof; 6th in Lillehammer; 7th in Igls, 15th in Cesana. Overall World Cup 4th. Overall Challenge Cup 2nd.</p>	<p>Winner of the Olympic test event in Whistler Celebrated a victory at the 2009 Olympic test event in Whistler but does not believe in the "Olympic curse", predicting that the winner of this event will not become Olympic champion. Is not superstitious, his favourite number: 13. Favourite book: "Art of Happiness" by the Dalai Lama. Studies business economics (correspondence course). Police officer. At the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City participant at the Olympic youth camp.</p>



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<p>Pfister, Daniel 07.12.1986 183cm – 95kg PoB: Schwaz Residence: Fuegen soldier active since: 1996</p>	AUT	<p>2006 Olympics 13th; 2009 Worlds 3rd; 2007 Worlds 12th singles and 3rd team; 2008 Worlds 8th; 2005 Worlds 15th; 2010 Europeans 3rd; 2008 Europeans 4th; 2006 Europeans 18th; 2006 and 2007 junior Worlds 2nd; 2004 junior Worlds 3rd; 2008-09 overall World cup 6th; 2007-08 overall World Cup 5th; 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 3rd; 2003-04 overall junior World Cup 2nd.</p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 6th in Koenigssee; 8th in Igls, 10th in Oberhof; 11th in Winterberg; 12th in Altenberg + Lillehammer; 13th in Cesana; 18th in Calgary. Overall World Cup 12th. Overall Challenge Cup 5th.</p>	<p>Austria's hope Earned a bronze medal at the 2009 Worlds in Lake Placid and thus ended Austria's six-year long "dry spell". The last Austrian luger to win a medal - Rainer Margreiter, who won the 2003 World bronze medal. Since the summer of 2007 with the Federal Army. Since then he greatly improved his starts. His brother Manuel also competes in the World Cup series, his father used to be track chief in Igls.</p>
<p>Pfister, Manuel 04.12.1988 PoB: Schwaz Residence: Fuegen slater active since: 1999</p>	AUT	<p>2008 Worlds 17th; 2009 Worlds 25th; 2010 Europeans 7th; 2008 Europeans 10th; 2005 and 2007 junior Worlds 2nd; 2008 junior Worlds 7th singles and 3rd team; 2008-09 overall World Cup 18th; 2006-07 overall junior World Cup 2nd.</p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 10th in Koenigssee + Winterberg; 13th in Lillehammer; 16th in Altenberg; 17th in Igls. Overall World Cup 17th.</p>	<p>7th place at the Europeans = ticket to the Olympic Games With his 7th place at the European Championships in Sigulda he earned his ticket to compete at the Olympic Winter Games. He is the younger brother of Daniel Pfister. The two brothers seem to have a standing order for silver medals at junior World Championships: Manuel won silver in 2005 and 2007, Daniel finished runner-up in 2006.</p>



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<p>Rainer, Reinhold 29.08.1973 181cm - 84kg PoB: Vipiteno Residence: Ratschings BZ forrester active since: 1989</p>	ITA	<p>1998 + 2006 Olympics 8th; 2002 Olympics 12th; 2004 + 2007 Worlds 6th, 2000 + 2005 Worlds 8th; 2001 Worlds 10th; 2009 Worlds 16th; 2006 Europeans 4th, 2004 Europeans 6th; 2000 + 2002 Europeans 11th; 2010 Europeans no participation; 2008-09 overall World Cup 13th; 2006-07 overall World Cup 3rd; 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 14th.</p> <p><i>altogether one World Cup victory (2003-04: Park City)</i></p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 4th in Lillehammer + Cesana; 5th in Igls + Winterberg; 7th in Koenigssee; 8th in Oberhof; 14th in Altenberg; 15th in Calgary. Overall World Cup 5th. Overall Challenge Cup 9th.</p>	<p>Quite content in Zoeggeler's shadow Best friend and long-time room-mate of Armin Zoeggeler. His so far only World Cup victory was later tarnished by his coach Walter Plaikner who confirmed an "illegal Rainer sled". He is always among the top lugers but still without any individual medal.</p>
<p>Rekis, Guntis 03.11.1974 178cm / 85kg PoB: Riga Residence: Riga police officer active since: 1985</p>	LAT	<p>2006 Olympic Games 21st; 2003 Worlds 17th; 2004 Worlds 18th; 2008 Worlds 20th singles and 3rd relay; 2009 Worlds 22nd singles and 3rd relay; 2010 Europeans 10th; 2006 Europeans 17th; 2008 Europeans 21st singles and 3rd relay 2007-08 overall World Cup 12th; 2008-09 overall World Cup 17th; 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 6th; 2007-08 overall Challenge Cup 11th.</p> <p><u>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10</u> 13th in Calgary; 20th in Igls; 22nd in Cesana. Overall World Cup 27th.</p>	<p>World Championship bronze with Latvia's relay team Lived quite a long time in the shadow of his compatriot Martins Rubenis. He took his first steps out of this shadow when he earned the 2008 World bronze medal with Latvia's relay team and a fourth place-finish at the Europeans in Sigulda this winter - his so far best result in the Luge World Cup.</p>



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<p>Rubenis, Martins 26.09.1978 182cm - 82kg PoB: Riga Residence: Ventspils police officer active since: 1989</p>	<p>LAT</p>	<p>2006 Olympic Games 3rd; 2003 Worlds 2nd singles and team; 2004 Worlds 3rd, 2007 Worlds 7th, 2005 Worlds 11th; 2008 Worlds 21st; 2009 Worlds 24th; 2008 European champion relay + 11th singles; 2010 European champion relay and 4th singles; 2006 Europeans 3rd team and 7th singles; 2008-09 overall World Cup 29th; 2006-07 overall World Cup 6th; 2005-06 overall World Cup 11th; 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 13th.</p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 7th in Lillehammer; 12th in Igls; 18th in Oberhof; 19th in Winterberg. Overall World Cup 24th.</p>	<p>The Phantom from Latvia Claimed the 2006 Olympic bronze medal in Turin, the first ever Olympic medal for his country at Winter Games. At that time State President Vaira Vike-Freiberga and her husband Imants Freiberg charged to the mixed zone in order to congratulate. His 2003 World silver medal was the first individual luge medal for Latvia. Now and then he fails to compete at a World Cup event in order to tinker with his sled. Back home in Latvia he is referred to as an "artist". Unpredictable and with a good sense of humour. FIL Athletes' representative.</p>



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<p>Zoeggeler, Armin 04.01.1974 181cm - 85kg</p> <p>PoB: Meran Residence: Voellan-Lana carabiniere active since: 1988</p>	ITA	<p>2002 and 2006 Olympic champion; 1998 Olympics 2nd; 1994 Olympics 3rd; 1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 World champion; 2000, 2007 and 2009 Worlds 2nd; 2004 Worlds 4th, 2008 Worlds 5th; 2004 and 2008 European champion; 2008 Europeans 3rd relay; 2006 Europeans 2nd singles and team; 1994, 2000 and 2002 Europeans 3rd; 2010 Europeans no participation; nine-times overall World Cup winner: 1997-98, 1990-00, 2000-01, 2003-04, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 + 2009-10; four-times overall Challenge Cup winner: 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 + 2009-10.</p> <p>Record winner with altogether 49 World Cup victories (1994-95: Oberhof, Koenigssee, Sigulda, Altenberg; 1995-96: Koenigssee; 1996-97: Lillehammer; 1997-98: Sigulda, Koenigssee, Calgary; 1998-99: Altenberg, Sigulda; 1999-2000: Lillehammer, Sigulda, Altenberg, Koenigssee, Calgary; 2000-01: Sigulda, La Plagne, Altenberg, Park City; 2001-02: Lake Placid; 2002- 03: Calgary; 2003-04: Sigulda, Altenberg, Lake Placid, Koenigssee; 2005-06: Cesana, Lake Placid, Koenigssee, Igls; 2006-07: Cesana, Park City, Nagano, Altenberg, Winterberg, Sigulda; 2007-08: Lake Placid, Igls, Altenberg, Sigulda; 2008-09: Winterberg, Koenigssee, Cesana, Altenberg, Calgary; 2009-10: Calgary, Igls, Winterberg, Cesana)</p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 1st in Calgary; Igls, Winterberg + Cesana; 2nd in Altenberg, Lillehammer + Koenigssee; 6th in Oberhof.</p> <p>Overall World Cup winner. Overall Challenge Cup winner.</p>	<p>Four Olympic medals at four Olympic Winter Games These will be his fifth Olympic Winter Games - and he always returned home with a medal: gold (2002 and 2006), silver (1998) and bronze (1994). Only Germany's Georg Hackl (3-2- 0) boasts a better Olympic medal collection. Zoeggeler breaks one record after the other: 48 individual victories in the World Cup series, nine-times overall World Cup winner. The luge expert "par excellence" bowed to him: Hackl described his driving style as a "feast for the eyes". "It's great fun to watch him", said World champion Felix Loch and his father Norbert, Germany's head coach added: "He's got it!" In the meantime, Zoeggeler has become a star in Italy and wants to pursue his active career until the 2011 Worlds in Cesana. "But eventually, I'll decide from year-to-year"</p>



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<p>Walden, Bengt 16.04.1973 180cm - 85kg PoB: Nacka, Stockholm Residence: Lake Placid entrepreneur active since: 1983</p>	USA	<p>1994 Olympics 17th singles; 1998 Olympics 19th singles and 12th doubles (with Anders Soederberg); 2002 Olympics 23rd singles; 2009 Worlds 6th singles and relay; 2008 Worlds 12th, 2007 Worlds 13th; 2001 Worlds 13th doubles (Soederberg) and team; 2003 Worlds 22nd singles and 15th doubles (Soederberg); 2004 Worlds 9th team and 20th singles; 2002 Europeans 13th doubles (Soederberg) 2008-09 overall World Cup 12th; 2000-01 overall World Cup 15th doubles (Soederberg); 2007-08 overall World Cup 13th; 2007-08 and 2008-09 overall Challenge Cup 9th.</p> <p>best World Cup results / final standings 2009-10 10th in Calgary; 17th in Cesana; 18th in Altenberg; 19th in Igls; 25th in Oberhof. Overall World Cup 19th. Overall Challenge Cup 8th.</p>	<p>His fifth Games - but he will celebrate a première Will be competing in his fifth Olympic Games but will still celebrate a première – for the first time he will be competing for the US team. Born in Sweden, Walden married US luger Ashley Hayden (fourth at the 2005 Worlds) in summer 2007. His wife, however, failed to qualify for the Olympic Games.</p> <p>Startet until 2007 for Sweden. Since 2008 competing for USA.</p>