



Hockey

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acceptable for us now, other than gold."

The U.S. team lost the final to Canada in Salt Lake City in 2002 and again in Vancouver. Two silver medals in three Olympics are undeniably impressive, but not what the Americans are aiming for when they begin play on Thursday against Slovakia.

"A lot of us were on the team in Vancouver," defenseman Ryan Suter said. "We felt how close we really were. We all learned a lot from that experience, and I think we're just excited to be here and have another shot at this."

The Americans got another reason to work hard Monday night



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USA defenseman Ryan McDonagh, right, and forward Ryan Callahan run through a drill during a training session.

when they learned they won't be joined in Sochi by the man who led the committee that picked them for the Olympic team. General manager David Poile must stay home in Nashville for further

medical treatment after getting hit by a puck last week in Minnesota.

Yet Poile already assembled a team that seems capable of competing against everything it will see in Sochi. The Americans feature

balanced offense from a slew of 20-goal NHL scorers, a gritty two-way approach to the flashy international game, and elite goaltending from Buffalo's Ryan Miller or Los Angeles' Jonathan Quick.

Dan Bylsma already has decided on his goalie strategy for the first three games, but he hasn't told Miller or Quick.

Even with elite goaltending, the Americans' fate could be tied to the success of their defensemen. Poile and his committee chose a defense that emphasized skill and youth over size and experience, hoping to match the world's best forwards on the wider international ice surface with swift puck movement and skating.

"To win it in a short tournament like this, it's about who comes together and plays not only the best hockey, but who gets better as the

tournament goes along," said Dustin Brown, a two-time Olympian and the Los Angeles Kings' captain. "I think that was a big part of our success in Vancouver. Each and every game, we got better."

While the Americans have sky-high internal expectations for Sochi, they won't be under the microscope faced by Russia and Canada. The U.S. team is free to grow through the three group-stage games before the elimination portion of the tournament, where the Americans are confident they can be trouble.

"There's so many teams that play the international style well, and we have to try to match it with the things we do the best," forward Paul Stastny said. "You've just got to be ready to peak at that quarter-final stage, and then anything can happen."

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Boys

AP State Poll

DIVISION I	
1. Lakewood St. Edward (15)	16-1 228
2. Cin. Moeller (5)	17-1 208
3. Zanesville (4)	18-0 199
4. Massillon Jackson	15-2 132
5. Trotwood-Madison	17-2 121
6. Perrysburg	17-1 112
7. Cols. Northland	16-3 82
8. Berea-Midpark	16-2 69
9. Uniontown Lake	16-2 36
10. Bowsher	16-2 26

Others receiving 12 or more points: 11, Shaker Hts. 17.

DIVISION II

1. Cols. Waterson (15)	16-1 224
2. Mansfield Ontario (6)	19-0 196
3. Day. Dunbar (3)	6-3 187
4. Norwalk	17-1 155
5. Circleville Logan Elm	17-1 122
6. Day. Thurgood Marshall	14-4 86
7. Franklin	16-3 80
8. Lake	17-1 73
9. Cle. Cent. Cath.	13-4 43
10. Defiance	15-3 40

Others receiving 12 or more points: 11, Athens 22, 12, Akr. SVS 18.

DIVISION III

1. Belmont Union Local (18)	19-0 229
2. Beachwood (1)	16-2 188
3. St. Bernard Roger Bacon (2)	15-3 150
4. Cio. VASA (3)	12-3 132
5. Chillicothe Zane Trace	16-2 125
6. Lucasville Valley	18-2 112
7. Gates Mills Gilmore	15-2 100
8. Lima Cent. Cath.	14-2 97
9. Cols. Ready	13-5 46
10. Warrensville Hts.	10-7 21

Others receiving 12 or more points: 11, Creston Norway 19, 12, Portsmouth 17, 13, Archbold 16.

DIVISION IV

1. Convoy Crestview (21)	18-0 225
2. New Madison Tri-Village	18-1 196
3. Berlin Island 6	17-2 186
4. Canal Winchester Harvest Prep (120-1145)	
5. Ottawa Hills	14-1 134
6. Troy Christian	17-2 95
7. Tipp City Bethel	14-3 79
8. New Washington Buckeye Cent.16-2	78
9. Hawland Wayne Trace	14-2 31
10. Peebles	16-2 23

Others receiving 12 or more points: 11, Maria Stein Marion Local 16.

Steve Junga's vote

DIVISION I	
1. Lakewood St. Edward; 2. Cincinnati Moeller; 3. Zanesville; 4. Perrysburg; 5. Bowsher; 6. Berea-Midpark; 7. Central Catholic; 8. Trotwood-Madison; 9. Uniontown Lake; 10. Columbus Northland	

DIVISION II

1. Columbus Waterson; 2. Ontario; 3. Norwalk; 4. Circleville Logan Elm; 5. Lake; 6. Dayton Dunbar; 7. Dayton Thurgood Marshall; 8. Scott; 9. Franklin; 10. Cleveland Central Catholic.	
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DIVISION III

1. Belmont Union Local; 2. Beachwood; 3. Chillicothe Zane Trace; 4. Lucasville Valley; 5. Gates Mills Gilmore; 6. St. Bernard Roger Bacon; 7. Lima Central Catholic; 8. Columbus Ready; 9. Archbold; 10. Liberty-Benton.	
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Tuesday

City League

Bowsher at Rogers
Scott at Waite
Woodward at Start

Three Rivers Athletic Conf.

Fremont Ross at Central Catholic

Northern Lakes League

Anthony Wayne at Perrysburg
Napoleon at Bowling Green
Maumee at Springfield
Northview at Southview

Northern Buckeye Conf.

Woodmore at Eastwood
Genoa at Elmwood
Otsego at Fostoria
Rossford at Lake

Toledo Area Athletic Conf.

Cardinal Stritch at Emmanuel Christian
Northwood at Danbury
Gibsonburg at Toledo Christian
Maumee Valley at Ottawa Hills

Other Northwest Ohio

Ottoville at McComb
Berea Baptist at Monclova Christian
North Baltimore at Clinton
Adrian at Bedford

Southeast Michigan

Blissfield at Erie Mason
Summerfield at Whiteford

Friday

City League

Start at Bowsher
Rogers at Scott
Walke at Woodward

Three Rivers Athletic Conf.

Central Catholic at St. John's
Clay at Lima Senior
Whitmer at Findlay
Fremont Ross at St. Francis

Northern Lakes League

Anthony Wayne at Springfield
Maumee at Bowling Green
Northview at Napoleon
Southview at Perrysburg

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Elmwood at Eastwood
Fostoria at Woodmore
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Lake at Otsego

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Ottawa Hills at Cardinal Stritch
Gibsonburg at Danbury
Emmanuel Christian at Northwood
Toledo Christian at Maumee Valley

Northwest Ohio Athletic League

Patrick Henry at Delta
Evergreen at Wauson
Montpelier at Swanton

Other Northwest Ohio

Arcadia at McComb
Fayette at Hilltop
Fostoria at Seneca East
Fremont St. Joseph at Hopewell-Loudon

Holgate at Fairview

Leipsic at Sandusky
Sandusky Perkins at Oak Harbor
Pettisville at Stryker
Port Clinton at Clyde

Southeast Michigan

Ann Arbor Skyline at Bedford
Summerfield at Clinton
Whiteford at Adrian Madison

Saturday

City League

Rogers at Huber Heights Wayne

Three Rivers Athletic Conf.

Anthony Wayne at Whitmer

Northern Lakes League

Archbold at Napoleon

Northern Buckeye Conf.

Port Clinton at Fostoria
Hopewell-Loudon at Woodmore

Toledo Area Athletic Conf.

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