



Driver Lyndon Rush and teammates Chris LeBihan, Dan Humphries and Lascelles Brown celebrate their bobsleigh World Cup win on Saturday in Utah.

Photograph by: Doug Pensinger, Getty Images, Vancouver Sun

With a flashy new Singer to pilot and a fair bit of good fortune, Lyndon Rush drove to the first win of his four-man bobsleigh career Saturday night in Park City, Utah.

In his first World Cup start in a year-old \$100,000 German-made Singer sled, the native of Humboldt, Sask., and his crew of Chris LeBihan of Kelowna and Dan Humphries and Lascelles Brown, both of Calgary, finished two runs on a snowy, blustery night in one minute 36.43 seconds.

That was 0.02 seconds faster than Janis Minins of Latvia and Dmitry Abramovitch, who tied for second on the 2002 Olympic track.

"Yeah, we were pretty happy," said Rush, 29. "I'd never even won in [the second tier] Europa Cup before. It's definitely more fun to win."

Rush was sixth after the first run and, then, after "a decent [second] run, but not the greatest by any means," watched as other sleds "messed up, one by one."

Reigning world champion Steven Holcomb, racing in his hometown, slipped getting into his sled on the second run, smashed into a wall and settled for seventh. Veteran U.S. driver Todd Hayes, who led after the first run, injured his hamstring at the start of the second and finished sixth.

Two-time Olympic gold medallist Andre Lange of Germany could do no better than 17th after he injured his groin so badly in Friday's two-man that he had to start the four-man in his sled, with his three pushers doing all the work at the start.

"We were just hoping to get into the top 10," said Rush, who finished 15th overall last season. "Other guys made mistakes and we'll take it. That's racing."

Rush, who was seventh in Friday night's two-man race, had never cracked the top five in World Cup four-man before and made a public plea at the end of last season for better equipment to replace his "cheaper, generic, cookie-cutter" four-man sled and his 17-year-old two-man sled.

With help from Own the Podium, B2Ten, a group of Canadian businessmen dedicated to helping athletes, and law firm Borden Ladner Gervais, Rush got two new sleds, including the Singer, which he describes as like driving a Cadillac.

"We've been doing this the last few years without the last piece of the puzzle," said Rush. "It's funny. We're not doing anything different, but I see my times when I come down now and I almost feel like I'm cheating."

Canada's top driver, Pierre Lueders of Edmonton, was 10th on Saturday after a ninth-place finish in Friday's two-man.

- Shawn Sawyer of Edmunston, N.B., finished second to world champion Evan Lysacek of the U.S. Saturday night at Skate America in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Lysacek hit seven triple jumps in his free skate and scored 237.72 points, 29 more than Sawyer.

Two-time Olympic bronze medallists Shen Zue and Zhao Hongbo of China won the pairs title that was marred by a nasty fall during the free skate by Meaghan Duhamel of Lively, Ont. She reinjured her right leg and she and partner Craig Buntin of Kelowna were forced to pull out.

Michael Janyk of Whistler was 14th in alpine skiing's opening World Cup slalom of the season on Sunday in Levi, Finland. His two-run time of one minute 51.46 seconds was just under two seconds back of the winner, Reinfried Herbst of Austria.

"I had a great second run, I was just two far off after the first run to make up too many places," said Janyk. "But it feels good to be racing again."

Maria Riesch of Germany won the women's slalom on Saturday, with 2009 overall World Cup champ Lindsey Vonn of the U.S. second. Marie-Michele Gagnon of Lac Etchemin, Que., was 14th, Montreal's Anna Goodman and Brigitte Acton 16th and 17th.

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