



TEAM USA GAME NOTES

2010 Paralympic Winter Games • Vancouver, B.C.

USA (1-0-0-0) vs. Czech Republic (0-0-0-1)

March 14, 2010 • 5:00 p.m. • Preliminary-Round Game #2

Contact:

Alex Clark
Manager, Communications
USA Hockey
alexcl@usahockey.org

Cell Numbers:

(847) 302-1116
(778) 938-8702

• **TODAY'S CONTEST** -- The 2010 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team will compete in its second game of the X Paralympic Winter Games this afternoon against the Czech Republic. The U.S. is participating in its fourth Paralympic Winter Games, having made its first appearance in Nagano, Japan, in 1998. Meanwhile, the Czech Republic is making its Paralympic debut this year. The U.S. and the Czech Republic most recently squared off on January 20, 2010, in the preliminary round of the 2010 Japan Para Ice Sledge Hockey Championships. The U.S. National Sled Hockey Team edged the Czech Republic, 1-0, as **Joe Howard** notched the game-winning tally with less than two minutes remaining in regulation. Team USA went on to win the event, its third straight IPC-sanctioned tournament title.

• **HOW THEY GOT HERE** -- The U.S. enters the Paralympic Winter Games as the tournament's top seed having captured the 2009 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championship last May in Ostrava, Czech Republic. In fact, the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team has won the last three IPC-sanctioned sled hockey tournaments, including the 2009 World Sledge Hockey Challenge in Charlottetown, P.E.I., last November and the 2010 Japan Para Ice Sledge Hockey Championships in Nagano City, Japan, this past January. Meanwhile, the Czech Republic earned the third seed in Group A after finishing fifth at the 2009 IPC World Championships with a 2-0-0-3 overall record. Despite a fourth-place finish at the four-team Japan Para Championships this past January, the Czech Republic posted a respectable 2-0-1-2 record at that tournament, including logging an upset victory over current Paralympic Winter Games No. 2 seed Norway.

• **THE STORY** -- With a win this afternoon, Team USA would all but punch its ticket to the semifinal round, guaranteeing itself at least a three-way tie for one of the top two spots in Group A. Advancing to the semifinal round insures that you will play for a medal of some kind, a feat the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team accomplished in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2002 (gold) and in Torino, Italy, in 2006 (bronze). Meanwhile, the Czech Republic must win to give itself any chance at grabbing a top-two slot. The Czech Republic dropped a tight 2-1 decision to Japan last night in its first-ever Paralympic appearance. The U.S. might benefit from a bit more rest time, especially since the Czech Republic had five players who logged over 25 minutes of ice time compared to Team USA's one (**Andy Yohe**, 25:05).

• **PLAYERS TO WATCH** -- While the U.S. relies on a balanced attack and rolls its lines on a fairly even basis, keep an eye on these key contributors:

Taylor Lipsett, F -- One of the top scorers for the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team during the 2009-10 season, Lipsett found the back of the net twice in Team USA's first game against South Korea on Saturday. The Mesquite, Texas, native is playing in his second Paralympic Winter Games, and brings a veteran presence despite his age (23). No one on Team USA knows better how to handle gold than Lipsett. He currently works within Bank of America's Private Wealth Management Division and would like to specialize in wealth management for athletes.

Team USA Schedule	
<u>Saturday, March 13</u>	
South Korea	W, 5-0
<u>Sunday, March 14</u>	
Czech Republic	5:00 p.m.
<u>Tuesday, March 16</u>	
Japan	5:00 p.m.
<u>Wednesday, March 17</u>	
Relegation Games	12:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.
<u>Thursday, March 18</u>	
Semifinal Games	12:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m.
<u>Friday, March 19</u>	
Seventh-Place Game	12:00 p.m.
Fifth-Place Game	3:30 p.m.
Bronze-Medal Game	7:00 p.m.
<u>Saturday, March 20</u>	
Gold-Medal Game	12:00 p.m.

Today's Schedule	
Norway vs. Italy	10:00 a.m.
Canada vs. Sweden	1:30 p.m.
USA vs. Czech Republic	5:00 p.m.
Japan vs. South Korea	8:30 p.m.

Nikko Landeros, D -- The only rookie member of the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team during the 2009-10 season, Landeros made the squad thanks to his strong summer camp showing last July. A former high school wrestler and football player, Landeros lost both of his legs after being hit by a car while changing a tire. One of the biggest bodies on Team USA's blue line, Landeros logged his first career point with an assist against South Korea on Saturday.

Greg Shaw, F -- He may look small on the ice, but Shaw's high-energy, high-impact play creates havoc for the opposition. A strong forechecker, Shaw is not afraid to launch his three-foot frame at any target. His collision-course play helped create Team USA's first goal against South Korea on Saturday, as he entered the zone and drew two defenders before leaving the puck for eventual goal scorer **Taylor Chace**.

Preliminary Round, Game 1 • USA vs. South Korea

UBC Thunderbird Arena • Vancouver, B.C. (5,444)
March 13, 2010

South Korea	0	0	0	--	0
United States	1	2	2	--	5

1st: USA-Chace (Shaw, Landeros), 3:45
2nd: USA-Salamone (Howard), 4:45 5x4 PPG
USA-Lipsett (Salamone, Yohe), 14:34 5x4 PPG
3rd: USA-Lipsett (Unassisted), 8:32
USA-Chace (Unassisted), 14:22

Penalties: KOR 5-10; USA 6-12 Power Plays: KOR 0-6; USA 2-5
Shots: KOR 2-2-1--5; USA 10-6-5--21
Saves: KOR-Choi (9-4-3--16); 45:00
USA-Cash (2-2-1--5); 45:00

Notes: Taylor Chace and Taylor Lipsett each scored twice and Steve Cash turned aside all five shots faced as Team USA won its first preliminary-round game, 5-0. The U.S. capitalized on a pair of power-play opportunities in the second period and staved off any comeback attempt by South Korea in the third, allowing only one shot on goal in the final 15 minutes.

• **TEAM USA AND THE PARALYMPICS** -- Team USA brings Paralympic experience to Vancouver, as nine of its 15 players participated in the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. **Joe Howard** is the lone U.S. player to have skated in multiple Paralympics (1998, 2002, 2006).

2006 Paralympians on Team USA

G Steve Cash	D Taylor Chace
D Jimmy Connelly	F Brad Emmerson
F Joe Howard	F Tim Jones
F Taylor Lipsett	F Alexi Salamone
D Andy Yohe	

• **YOUNG GUNS** -- Despite Team USA's lineup being filled with Paralympic veterans, it is the youngest team in the tournament by far. With an average age of just under 24-years-old (23.8), Team USA is, on average, nearly seven years younger than the next closest team. In fact, **Joe Howard** (43), **Mike Blabac** (36) and captain **Andy Yohe** (31) are the only players on the roster over the age of 30. Team USA boasts three players under the age of 20, including 18-year-olds **Adam Page** and **Bubba Torres** and 17-year-old **Josh Pauls**.

Average Ages of Paralympic Sled Teams

United States	23.8	Norway	33.2
Canada	30.7	South Korea	33.7
Sweden	30.9	Italy	36.3
Czech Republic	31.9	Japan	36.9

• **THE HEAD COACH** -- Head coach **Ray Maluta** is coaching his first U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team after recently completing his second season as head coach of the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team. Under his watch, Team USA captured its first-ever IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championship in 2009. He also serves as the general manager of The Sports Centre in Rochester, N.Y., where he has hosted several USA Hockey National Championships and Player Development Camps over the years. The 1974 NHL seventh-round draftee spent some time with the Boston Bruins and played five years (1975-80) in the AHL with the Rochester Americans before finishing his professional career in Europe with HC Salzburg in 1981. Maluta resides in Rochester, N.Y., with his wife, Sandy.

• **U.S. PARALYMPIC SLED TEAM BREAKDOWN:**

Record when (W-OTW-OTL-L) --

Team USA scored first: 1-0-0-0
Opponent scored first: 0-0-0-0
Team USA led after first: 1-0-0-0
Opponent led after first: 0-0-0-0
Tied after first: 0-0-0-0
Team USA led after second: 1-0-0-0
Opponent led after second: 0-0-0-0
Tied after second: 0-0-0-0
Team USA scored two goals or less: 0-0-0-0
Team USA scored three goals: 0-0-0-0
Team USA scored four goals or more: 1-0-0-0
Opponent scored two goals or less: 1-0-0-0
Opponent scored three goals: 0-0-0-0
Opponent scored four goals or more: 0-0-0-0
One-goal games: 0-0-0-0
Two-goal games: 0-0-0-0
Games decided by three or more: 1-0-0-0
Outshot opponent: 1-0-0-0
Opponent outshot Team USA: 0-0-0-0
Shots Even: 0-0-0-0
Team USA had less than 10 shots: 0-0-0-0
Team USA had 10-14 shots: 0-0-0-0
Team USA had 15-19 shots: 0-0-0-0
Team USA had 20 shots or more: 1-0-0-0
Opponent had less than 10 shots: 1-0-0-0
Opponent had 10-14 shots: 0-0-0-0
Opponent had 15-19 shots: 0-0-0-0
Opponent had 20 shots or more: 0-0-0-0
Team USA scored a PPG: 1-0-0-0
Team USA did not score a PPG: 0-0-0-0
Opponent scored a PPG: 0-0-0-0
Opponent did not score a PPG: 1-0-0-0

Tournament Standings

Group A							
Team	W	OTW	OTL	L	PTS	GF	GA
United States	1	0	0	0	3	5	0
Japan	1	0	0	0	3	2	1
Czech Republic	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
South Korea	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Group B							
Team	W	OTW	OTL	L	PTS	GF	GA
Canada	1	0	0	0	3	4	0
Norway	0	1	0	0	2	2	1
Sweden	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
Italy	0	0	0	1	0	0	4

• **"BUFFALO NINE"** -- Leading up to the Paralympic Winter Games, several members of Team USA relocated to Buffalo, N.Y. to practice together. While several of the "Buffalo Nine," including **Mike Blabac**, **Brad Emmerson**, **Adam Page**, **Alexi Salamone** and **Andy Yohe** lived in the Buffalo or Rochester area, others temporarily abandoned their home lives to train with their teammates. Among those who moved were **Steve Cash** (Overland, Mo.), **Taylor Chace** (Hampton Falls, N.H.), **Jimmy Connelly** (Galloway, N.J.) and **Nikko Landeros** (Berthoud, Colo.).

GET TO KNOW TEAM USA

• **WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?** -- The majority of Team USA's players hail from the East, with New Jersey and New York boasting four representatives. The nearby sled hockey club teams benefit from this local talent, as the Buffalo Sabres (4) and Pennsylvania Center-Pedes (3) sled hockey programs lead the way with the most players on Team USA. There are a few players in the U.S. lineup who hail from the Midwest, however. Goalie **Steve Cash** is from Overland, Mo.; **Nikko Landeros** calls Berthoud, Colo., home; **Taylor Lipsett** resides in Mesquite, Texas; **Greg Shaw** represents Park City, Utah; and **Andy Yohe** originally hails from Bettendorf, Iowa.

• **LINE THEM UP** -- Team USA has developed a consistency over its three lines of forwards, hoping to generate chemistry through familiarity. The lines are known by the color of their practice jerseys that are always assigned to them.

The Red Line

Joe Howard, Alexi Salamone and Bubba Torres

The White Line

Taylor Lipsett, Josh Pauls and Greg Shaw

The Blue Line

Brad Emmerson, Tim Jones and Adam Page

• **GOING ON THE DEFENSIVE** -- Of Team USA's four defensemen, two only recently converted to the position after spending years as forwards. **Taylor Chace** and **Andy Yohe** made the transition to defense during the 2009-10 season at the suggestion of the U.S. coaching staff, who hoped the players' speed combined with their veteran hockey sense would bring another dimension to the team's back end.

• **CHACE-ING A DREAM** -- U.S. defenseman **Taylor Chace** attends the University of New Hampshire and frequently practices with players from the UNH men's hockey team. He hopes to coach able-bodied hockey one day, and is a USA Hockey Level 3 Certified coach.

• **FOR THE LOVE AND THE GAME** -- Four-time Paralympian **Joe Howard** proposed to his wife, Carol, following Team USA's victory over Estonia at the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games. The U.S. went on to win gold in Salt Lake City.

• **ON A ROLL** -- Team USA goalie **Steve Cash** also tended net for the University of Missouri-St. Louis' inline hockey team from 2007-09. He plans on returning to UMSL next semester after taking a break to train for these Games.

• **SPEED RACERS** -- Recently, the members of the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team were outfitted for brand new sled buckets designed by the Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail, N.C. NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Joey Lagano became involved in the project when his father, Tom - a partner at the Extreme Ice Center - tipped him off. The reigning Rookie of the Year driver used his status as a member of the Coca-Cola Family of Drivers to help fund the project, which all-told produced 20 new sleds for Team USA.

• **SALAMONE STORY** -- U.S. forward **Alexi Salamone** was born in Briansk, Ukraine, 14 months after the now infamous meltdown of a nuclear reactor in Chernobyl. As a result, he was born with deformed legs and had them amputated at the Children's Institute of Prosthetics in Moscow at the age of four. He was adopted by Susan and Joseph Salamone two years later and moved to the United States.

• **PROUD PAPA** -- U.S. captain **Andy Yohe** and his wife, Katie, are expecting their first child - a baby girl - this June.

• **IN THE OTHER RINK** -- The U.S. took part in a team-building curling excursion to Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver last Tuesday. Video and photos from the outing can be found at USAHockey.com

• **ON THE SEA** -- Team USA took a ride on the B.C. Ferry to Victoria last Monday to enjoy the sea air and beautiful scenery. Photos from the outing can be found at USAHockey.com.

• **DINING OUT** -- The U.S. squad enjoyed a meal at La Piazza Dario Ristorante last Wednesday, the same haunt that hosted the U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team *four* times during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games last month.



• **USA HOCKEY HAPPENINGS** -- Even after the Olympic Winter Games, there is plenty going on at USA Hockey. Below is a list of events currently on USA Hockey's radar.

IIHF WORLD WOMEN'S UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP
Woodridge, Ill., will play host to the 2010 International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's Under-18 Championship March 27-April 3. Team USA will look to capture its third straight gold medal at the event.

USA HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Beginning March 26 and extending through May, USA Hockey National Championships will be held in 16 different sites across the country. National Champions will be crowned at all levels including Youth, Girls, Junior, Women and Adult.

PATTY KAZMAIER MEMORIAL AWARD
An award of The USA Hockey Foundation, the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award annually recognizes the most outstanding player in NCAA Division I women's ice hockey. This year's winner will be announced on March 20 in Minneapolis.

U.S. JUNIOR SLED HOCKEY TEAM EXHIBITIONS
On the heels of its Western Sled Hockey League championship, the U.S. National Junior Sled Hockey Team will take part in a three-game exhibition series against Sledge Team Ontario March 18-20 in nearby Burnaby, B.C.



2010 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team

Name	Ht (cm)	Wt (kg)	Birthdate	Hometown	Club Team
GOALTENDERS (2)					
27 Mike Blabac	5-10 (178)	160 (73)	1/18/74	Buffalo, N.Y.	Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
34 Steve Cash	5-5 (165)	125 (57)	5/9/89	Overland, Mo.	DASA Blues Sled Hockey
DEFENSEMEN (4)					
19 Taylor Chace	6-1 (185)	195 (88)	5/9/86	Hampton Falls, N.H.	Northeast Passage/UNH Wildcats
4 Jimmy Connelly	5-3 (160)	150 (68)	10/27/89	Galloway, N.J.	Pennsylvania Center-Pedes
15 Nikko Landeros	5-9 (175)	190 (86)	4/28/89	Berthoud, Colo.	Colorado Avalanche Sled Hockey
9 Andy Yohe	5-10 (178)	175 (79)	7/21/78	Bettendorf, Iowa	RIC Blackhawks Sled Hockey
FORWARDS (9)					
5 Brad Emmerson	5-11 (180)	160 (73)	12/16/85	Amherst, N.Y.	Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
23 Joe Howard	5-9 (175)	140 (64)	5/22/66	Kingston, Mass.	Northeast Passage/UNH Wildcats
3 Tim Jones	5-7 (170)	148 (67)	12/16/87	Mt. Ephraim, N.J.	Pennsylvania Center-Pedes
7 Taylor Lipsett	5-5 (165)	150 (68)	1/20/87	Mesquite, Texas	Dallas Ice Hawks Sled Hockey
20 Adam Page	5-4 (162)	135 (61)	3/10/92	Lancaster, N.Y.	Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
14 Josh Pauls	5-5 (165)	135 (61)	12/31/92	South Plainfield, N.J.	New York Rangers Sled Hockey
21 Alexi Salamone	5-5 (165)	135 (61)	6/17/87	Grand Island, N.Y.	Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
8 Greg Shaw	3-0 (91)	80 (36)	2/28/90	Park City, Utah	NAC Golden Eagles Sled Hockey
25 Bubba Torres	5-6 (168)	120 (54)	10/31/91	Riverside, N.J.	Pennsylvania Center-Pedes

Team Staff

General Manager: J.J. O'Connor, Mt. Prospect, Ill.
 Team Leader & Director of Player Personnel: Dan Brennan, Colorado Springs, Colo.
 Head Coach: Ray Maluta, Rochester, N.Y.
 Assistant Coach: Bill Corbo, Jr., Merrimack, N.H.
 Athletic Trainer: Brian Brewster, Houghton, Mich.
 Equipment Manager: Bill Sandberg, Parker, Colo.
 Team Doctor: Dr. Peter Donaldson, Detroit, Mich.
 Communications: Alex Clark, Colorado Springs, Colo.

USA Hockey, Inc.

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 Senior Director, Communications: Dave Fischer, Colorado Springs, Colo.



2010 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team • X Paralympic Winter Games

Sat., March 13, 2010 • USA vs. South Korea • Vancouver, B.C.



FORWARD

25 **TORRES, BUBBA**
 5-6, 120 10/31/91
 Riverside, N.J.
 Pennsylvania Center-Pedes
 2009-10: (17GP, 3-5--8)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-0--0)

One of Team USA's fastest skaters

CENTER

23 **HOWARD, JOE**
 5-9, 140 5/22/66
 Kingston, Mass.
 Northeast Passage/UNH Wildcats
 2009-10: (17GP, 5-9--14)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-1--0)

Playing in fourth Paralympics ('98, '02, '06, '10)

FORWARD

21 **SALAMONE, ALEXI**
 5-5, 135 6/17/87
 Grand Island, N.Y.
 Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (16GP, 8-7--15)
 PWG: (1GP, 1-1--2)

Had PPG, PPA vs. South Korea Saturday

FORWARD

3 **JONES, TIM**
 5-7, 148 12/16/87
 Mt. Ephraim, N.J.
 Pennsylvania Center-Pedes
 2009-10: (17GP, 3-3--6)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-0--0)

Won bronze with Team USA at '06 Paralympics

CENTER

5 **EMMERSON, BRAD**
 5-11, 160 12/16/85
 Amherst, N.Y.
 Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (17GP, 2-2--4)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-0--0)

Blogs for multiple Web sites

FORWARD

20 **PAGE, ADAM**
 5-4, 135 3/10/92
 Lancaster, N.Y.
 Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (17GP, 5-1--6)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-0--0)

Celebrated his 18th birthday last Wednesday

FORWARD

14 **PAULS, JOSH**
 5-5, 135 12/31/92
 South Plainfield, N.J.
 New York Rangers Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (12GP, 0-0--0)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-0--0)

Youngest member of Team USA (17)

CENTER

8 **SHAW, GREG**
 3-0, 80 2/28/90
 Park City, Utah
 NAC Golden Eagles
 2009-10: (17GP, 1-2--3)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-1--1)

Avid skier at Utah's National Abilities Center

FORWARD

7 **LIPSETT, TAYLOR**
 5-5, 150 1/20/87
 Mesquite, Texas
 Dallas Ice Hawks Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (17GP, 7-4--9)
 PWG: (1GP, 2-0--2)

Scored two goals vs. South Korea Saturday

DEFENSE

19 **CHACE, TAYLOR**
 6-1, 195 12/16/85
 Hampton Falls, N.H.
 Northeast Passage/UNH Wildcats
 2009-10: (17GP, 7-6--13)
 PWG: (1GP, 2-0--2)

Scored pair of goals vs. South Korea Saturday

DEFENSE

15 **LANDEROS, NIKKO**
 5-9, 190 4/28/89
 Berthoud, Colo.
 Colorado Avalanche Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (17GP, 0-1--0)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-1--1)

Logged first career international assist Saturday

GOALTENDERS

34 **CASH, STEVE**
 5-5, 125 5/9/89
 Overland, Mo.
 DASA Blues Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (16GP, 9-3-1-3, 0.98, .916)
 PWG: (1GP, 1-0-0-0, 0.00, 1.000)

Collected eighth shutout of the year Saturday

DEFENSE

4 **CONNELLY, JIMMY**
 5-3, 150 10/27/89
 Galloway, N.J.
 Pennsylvania Center-Pedes
 2009-10: (17GP, 0-2--2)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-0--0)

Was youngest player on '06 U.S. Paralympic team

DEFENSE

9 **YOHE, ANDY**
 5-10, 175 7/21/78
 Bettendorf, Iowa
 RIC Blackhawks Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (15GP, 3-5--8)
 PWG: (1GP, 0-1--1)

Moved from forward to defense mid-season

GOALTENDERS

27 **BLABAC, MIKE**
 5-10, 160 1/18/74
 Buffalo, N.Y.
 Buffalo Sabres Sled Hockey
 2009-10: (1GP, 1-0-0-0, 1.00, .833)
 PWG: (0GP, 0-0-0-0, 0.00, 1.000)

Allowed one goal in lone start vs. Japan



Team USA Paralympic Stats



Skaters

Name	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Chace, Taylor	1	2	0	2	2
Lipsett, Taylor	1	2	0	2	0
Salamone, Alexi	1	1	1	2	2
Howard, Joe	1	0	1	1	0
Landeros, Nikko	1	0	1	1	2
Shaw, Greg	1	0	1	1	0
Yohe, Andy	1	0	1	1	0
Connolly, Jimmy	1	0	0	0	0
Emmerson, Brad	1	0	0	0	0
Jones, Tim	1	0	0	0	2
Page, Adam	1	0	0	0	0
Pauls, Josh	1	0	0	0	0
Torres, Bubba	1	0	0	0	0

Goalies

Name	GP	REC	GAA	SV%	SO
Cash, Steve	1	1-0-0-0	0.00	1.000	1
Blabac, Mike	0	0-0-0-0	-	-	0



Head Coach: Ray Maluta
Assistant Coach: Bill Corbo, Jr.
General Manager: J.J. O'Connor
Director of Player Personnel: Dan Brennan
Equipment Manager: Bill Sandberg
Team Trainer: Brian Brewster
Team Doctor: Dr. Peter Donaldson
Media Contact: Alex Clark

Pronunciation Guide

Mike BlabacBLAY-back
Taylor ChaceCHASE
Bill Corbo, Jr.CORE-bo
Ray Malutamah-LOO-tuh
Nikko LanderosNEE-koh LAN-dare-ohs
Taylor LipsettLIP-set
Alexi Salamonesal-uh-MOAN-ee
Bubba TorresTORE-ez
Andy YoheYO-ee