

# The Shinano Mainichi Shimbun

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## 1998 Nagano Olympic Winter Games Day 7

# German duo wins luge doubles



Luge doubles gold medalists Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt

Germany swept the gold medals in the Nagano Olympic luge competition as Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt beat Americans Chris Thorpe and Gordy Sheer in the doubles event Friday.

Krausse and Behrendt, the 1992 Albertville Olympic champions, amassed a combined time of 1 minute, 41.105 over two runs down the Spiral track in northern Nagano for a 0.022-second win over Thorpe and Sheer, last season's World Cup overall leaders.

The Americans broke the track record they set here last year on the way to a third-place finish in the World Cup finale on Friday's first run and then posted the day's best time of 50.493 seconds in the second race to reclaim the track record that had been broken three more times during the one-day competition.

Mark Grimmette and Brian Martin of the United States came in third with a time of 1:41.217 as the top seven finishers after the first run ended in the

exact same order in the final.

Austrian pair Tobias Schiegl and Markus Schiegl finished fourth, followed by Italy's Kurt Brugger and Wilfried Huber.

Silke Kraushaar and German teammate Barbara Niedernhuber finished 1-2 in the women's singles contest on Wednesday while countryman Georg Hackl claimed his third straight Olympic gold medal in the men's singles last Monday.

## LeMay Doan sets pace in speed skating 500 meters

Canada's Catriona LeMay Doan shattered Bonnie Blair's 10-year-old Olympic record with ease Friday to take a slim lead after the first day of races in the speed skating women's 500 meters.

The world record holder, who fell in this race at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, crossed the line in 38.39 seconds on the fast M-Wave Olympic indoor oval to slice 0.71 second off the old Olympic mark set in Calgary, Canada.

Her compatriot and Olympic silver medalist Susan Auch was only an eye's blink behind, posting

a time of 38.42 seconds while Japan's Tomomi Okazaki is third with 38.55 seconds, a Japanese national record.

Three-time Japanese Olympic team member Kyoko Shimazaki also renewed her personal best with a 38.75 for fourth place with Saturday's races left to go.

LeMay Doan's speed skating career has soared to unprecedented levels this season thanks to slap skates, and she once again demonstrated her prowess Friday.

She posted the second fastest 100-meter split of

10.42 seconds and looked sharp over the rest of the 400-meter track to put herself in good position for the gold medal.

Austrian Emese Hunyady, the reigning women's 1,500-meter Olympic champion, was disqualified for obstructing the path of her race partner during the crossing zone.

(Kyodo News)

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