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## **Luge World Cup Tour Resumes in Calgary this Weekend**

*U.S. Luge Women's Team Looks to Fill World Championship Roster*

**CALGARY, Canada** --- Friday and Saturday's luge World Cup stop in Calgary, Canada is an important one for the U.S. women's singles luge team. It's either qualify for February's world championships, in Igls, Austria, or miss the last World Cup race of the fall in order to return to Lake Placid, N.Y. to race off for a roster spot on the winter 2007 World Cup squad, thereby allowing the winners of the race-off another opportunity to qualify for Worlds during the second half of the nine-race series campaign.

Heading into Friday's women's singles event, only Erin Hamlin (Remsen, N.Y.) has qualified for Worlds.

"To get that out of the way after just two races is a big relief," stated the 2006 Olympian after last weekend's stop in Park City, Utah. Hamlin grabbed the first of four roster spots available following her fifth place finish.

Ashley Hayden (Westborough, Mass.) is eying another top-eight (Tier-B) result in Friday's race. The finish would allow the 2002 Olympian to compete in her sixth-career world championship competition. In the first two races of the season, Hayden has slid to 13<sup>th</sup> and eighth place results.

Meanwhile, Courtney Zablocki (Highlands Ranch, Colo.), a two-time Olympian, and Samantha Retrosi (Saranac Lake, N.Y.), a 2006 Olympian, both need top-five (Tier-A) results in Calgary to both earn a trip to Worlds and avoid racing off for a spot on the winter squad.

Hamlin was not the only U.S. athlete to punch their ticket to the Feb. 2-4 world championships, based on their Park City race results. The doubles teams of Mark Grimmette (Muskegon, Mich.) and Brian Martin (Palo Alto, Calif.), and Preston Griffall (Salt Lake City, Utah) and Dan Joye (Carmel, N.Y.) are also heading to Worlds.

Grimmette and Martin, who have already raced to four world championship bronze medals, earned their spot following their fourth place World Cup finish in Park City, while Griffall and Joye are looking forward to their second-career trip to Worlds following their back-to-back seventh place World Cup results to open the 2006-07 season. Both teams, as well as USA Luge's third duo of Matt Mortensen (Huntington Station, N.Y.) and Garon Thorne (Orem, Utah), are scheduled to race on Friday. The men's singles race, with U.S. team veteran Tony Benshoof (White Bear Lake, Minn.), and the team event are both slated for Saturday on the 1988 Olympic course.

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