



MEDALS TO THE YOUNG

VAIL,
COLORADO
HOSTS THE
2014
BURTON U.S.
OPEN



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Zhang Yiwei in his first run of the men's halfpipe competition.

TOP LEFT: Taku Hiraoka, Taylor Gold and David Habluetzel at a press conference after their halfpipe runs at Golden Peak.

LEFT: Scotty Lago, Danny Davis, and Terje Håkonsen starting a train through the pipe, raising the loudest cheers of the day

Listening to the cheers from the crowds and the sound of snowboards gliding along the slopes, Vail residents knew that the Burton U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships was in town. The riders were spectacular and the crowds were electrifying.

For the week of March 3rd through the 8th Golden Peak became the home of men and women slopestyle and halfpipe events, hosting both the semi-finals and the final events. One hundred of the best snowboarders came from around the world to compete the Burton U.S. Open title.

"It was amazing," said David Habluetzel, a rider in the halfpipe finals. "I came here to just have fun and ride and I made it into the finals and won a medal. I am just so stoked."

"I NEVER EXPECTED TO WIN GOLD COMING INTO THIS CONTEST."

TAYLOR GOLD

Taylor Gold took the gold medal in the men's halfpipe completion. Taku Hiraoka took the silver medal and Habluetzel took bronze. Mark McMorris, Stale Sandbech and Maxence Parrot took the medals for the men's slopestyle competition. The women's halfpipe gold, silver and bronze medals went to Kelly Clark, Queralt Castellet and Chloe Kim. The medalists from the women's slopestyle were Jamie Anderson, Spencer O'Brien and Isabel Derungs.

"I never expected to win gold coming into this contest," said Taylor Gold, the gold medalist winner in the men's halfpipe completion. "I was going to go ride and have fun and try to put down my best run and know what ever happens, happens. So to put it down and have a victory lap was way more than I could even hope for really."

