

Olympic Lesson:

HARD WORK BEATS TALENT, WHEN TALENT DOESN'T WORK HARD!



Only medal for Bode is fool's gold

Failing at the Olympics is forgivable, but getting fatter on beer is not!

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SESTRIERE, Italy - Bode Miller is the biggest disappointment in the Winter Olympics, not because of the way he skied the mountain, but the way he acted at the bottom of it. The fact that he didn't win a medal at these Games, going 0-for-5 in the Alpine events, is beside the point. It's not the winning, it's the trying. The point is that he acted like he didn't try, and didn't care. Failing is forgivable. Getting fatter on beer while you're here is not.

If there has been a weaker performance by an American athlete on the international stage than that of Miller, I'm hard pressed to think of one. What the coaches should tell Miller is this: Everyone can sympathize with his struggle to meet unrealistic expectations. And everyone respects what Miller has done on skis, from his two silvers at the Salt Lake Games, to the overall World Cup title last season. But nobody respects the Bode Miller who showed up here — maybe not even Miller himself — and unless he can compete respectably, he shouldn't return to the team. There are few things less worthy of respect than the athlete who pretends not to care about the outcome. It's a bail out position, a protection, and an excuse. If you pretend not to care, then no one can say you really lost. Miller never committed to these Olympics. He sauntered around the Games as if he was just here to watch. Which is mostly what he did because hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard!