



Steve Holcomb

Bobsledder fights drunk driving charge

A gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic bobsledder is fighting a drunken-driving charge in Utah that his lawyer says could keep him from competing in Canada.

Steve Holcomb's trial was scheduled for March 17 in Park City by a judge for Summit County's justice court Tuesday.

Holcomb, a 30-year-old Park City native, is the pilot for the U.S. champion four-man team. The team captured a gold medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, America's first gold in the sport since 1948.

"Steve understands the seriousness of the situation and apologizes to his fans and teammates," his lawyer, **Jason Schatz**, told The Associated Press.

Schatz said Canada won't issue visas to people with drunken-driving convictions or pending charges.

He said he was trying to negotiate an exception from Canadian immigration officials for Holcomb but "unfortunately, the process is not that speedy."

The attorney said Holcomb will contest the Utah charge at trial if Canada doesn't relent.

"If Canada turns down our request for a visa, we'll have no choice but to litigate the case," Schatz told the judge.