

Slider Pain cries foul over German sleds

BY TERRY BELL, CANWEST OLYMPIC TEAM, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE FEBRUARY 10, 2010



Canadian skeleton racer Jeff Pain (file photo).

Photograph by: Arnd Wiegmann, Reuters

WHISTLER, B.C. — Canadian skeleton pilot Jeff Pain has a bone to pick with his German rivals.

Pain, a 39-year-old Calgarian who won the silver medal at the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy, says he and his Canadian teammates are at a distinct disadvantage at the Vancouver Games because he says the Germans using illegal magnetic components in their sleds.

"I know for a fact they have a magnetic component in their sleds and I do question whether that's legal or not," Pain said Wednesday. "The way I read the rules, it's not legal. Obviously, the FIBT (International Bobsleigh and Toboggan Federation) disagrees with me or they haven't found it, but there's a magnetic component in their sleds that does something (to improve performance) and it would be nice to have that investigated.

"I don't know 100 per cent how they use it, but my belief is that they're creating a magnetic component in their sleds that provides a damper, like a shock absorber," he continued. "I don't know what it's there for, but it's there for a reason or they wouldn't put it there if it wasn't. If you read the rules it says no magnetic fields."

The Germans have been dominate all three sliding sports — bobsled, skeleton and luge.

Martins Dukars of Latvia leads the 2009-10 World Cup skeleton standings, with Germans Frank

