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## Swiss broadcaster removes footage of host criticizing Israeli bobsled team during its first Milan runs

“Anyone can say anything about us, but you know what? They can only say it because we’re here,” said the team’s founder, A.J. Edelman.

By [Philissa Cramer](#) February 17, 2026



Israel's Adam Edelman and Menachem Chen during the Men's 2-man Bobsleigh, Heat 1, at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics, Italy, Feb. 16, 2026. (Andrew Milligan/PA Images via Getty Images)

A Swiss sportscaster spent the 57 seconds of the Israeli bobsled team’s first run in Milan denouncing Israel and the team’s captain, drawing criticism from U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee and casting a shadow over the historic outing.

The team came in last in its first efforts in the Winter Olympics, finishing 26th of 26 teams in two two-men heats on Monday. A third heat is scheduled for Monday afternoon, while the four-man event takes place next weekend.

It has been a disappointing showing so far for the team, which is making its first appearance in the Olympics following a years-long journey propelled by A.J. Edelman, an American observant Jew who [has sought to do for Israel's winter sports profile what the unlikely "Cool Runnings" bobsled team did for Jamaica in the 1990s.](#)

The Swiss sportscaster, Sebastian Renna, used the run to detail allegations against Edelman, whom he referred to as "a first-time Olympian and self-described 'Zionist to the core' who has posted several messages on social media in support of the genocide in Gaza." He listed comments allegedly made by Edelman and questioned why he should be allowed to compete given the International Olympic Committee's rules barring athletes from making political statements.

The Swiss national broadcaster, RTS, issued a statement about the footage, which it removed from its website, on Tuesday. "Our journalist wanted to question the IOC's policy regarding the athlete's statements," it said. "However, such information, while factual, is inappropriate for sports commentary due to its length. Therefore, we removed the segment from our website last night."

The clip had drawn praise from critics of Israel and excoriating comments from its defenders. "Beyond disgusting that the Jew-hating Swiss 'sportscaster' spewed bigotry & bile at @Israel Olympic Bobsled team & its captain @realajedelman as they competed," Huckabee tweeted.

Edelman, who posts frequently on social media in support of Israel and against antisemitism, did not dispute any of Renna's allegations but rejected their thrust.

"I am aware of the diatribe the commentator directed towards the Israeli Bobsled Team on the Swiss Olympics broadcast today," he [tweeted](#) on Monday. "I can't help but notice the contrast: Shul Runnings is a team of 6 proud Israelis who've made it to the Olympic stage. No coach with us. No big program. Just a dream, grit, and unyielding pride in who we represent. Working together towards an incredible goal and crushing it. Because that's what Israelis do. I don't think it's possible to witness that and give any credence to the commentary."

On Tuesday morning, Edelman was sanguine as he prepared to take the ice again.

"Today I take the final 2man run of my career, with the Shul Runnings team that is making history," he [tweeted on Tuesday morning](#) from Milan. "What an honor it is to wear this flag.

What a blessing to be one of our people. Anyone can say anything about us, but you know what? They can only say it because we're here. Because Israel makes the impossible possible. Victors, never victims."