



FIS NEWSFLASH

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Fédération Internationale de Ski

International Ski Federation

Internationaler Ski Verband

Kasper pleased with progress before FIS Alpine World Ski Championships

Around three weeks before the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships gets under way in Bormio (ITA), FIS President Gian Franco Kasper is very optimistic that the much anticipated event might well live up to all expectations from the tremendous strides made by the Local Organizing Committee to get the infrastructure in place for the competitions in Bormio (ITA) and Santa Caterina (ITA). "I did have one or two sleepless nights about the competitions in Santa Caterina but the people on the Committee have considerable experience and between June and October they created a small miracle in the city", says Kasper following the last FIS World Cup of 2004 in Bormio. The Organisers have a final opportunity to fine-tune their preparations and thoroughly test the challenging new Ladies Course in Santa Caterina with rescheduled FIS Audi Ski World Cup races including two Downhills, a Giant Slalom and a Slalom taking place from 6th-9th January.

The traffic scenario during the competition might still be a cause of concern for the FIS president but Kasper at the same time recognizes "the Italians' great abilities to improvise in difficult situations" and at the same time local organizers are not expecting quite the same crowds which attended the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in St. Anton (AUT) during 2001.

Impressive TV ratings for Four Hills Tournament

Despite the fact that the German ski jumpers Sven Hannawald and Martin Schmitt is struggling to find the form of previous seasons, German host broadcaster RTL

could report on impressive TV ratings for the first two legs of the 53rd edition of the Four Hills tournament which took place in Oberstdorf and Garmisch-Partenkirchen. No less than 4,97 million spectators (23,8 % German) watched Janne Ahonen celebrate his 8th win in nine FIS World Cup Ski Jumping competitions in Oberstdorf while 6,90 million people (34,9 % German) turned on their televisions on January 1st 2005 for the event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Stenmark survives Tsunami

Skiing legend Ingemar Stenmark was among a number of famous athletes and sports figures on vacation in Southern Asia when earthquake-driven tidal waves swept the region. Stenmark was sunbathing on a beach in Thailand when he saw an immense wave roaring to shore and consequently ran for his life. "The water from the first wave disappeared, but then it came back with terrifying speed," Stenmark told Swedish media. Stenmark, who won two gold medals at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid and claimed all the honors in no less than 86 FIS Alpine World Cup races, was with friends in Khok Kloi, about 30 miles from Phuket, the popular tourist spot. Neither Stenmark nor girlfriend Christina Sylvan were injured. With more than 1000 Swedish tourists in Thailand still unaccounted for, Sweden is the Western country hardest-hit by the massive tragedy in Asia.

Dear Friends of FIS,

I hope you have enjoyed the fourth edition of the "FIS Newsflash". Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: frandsen@fisski.ch. "FIS Newsflash" will not only be distributed via e-mail but also be published in the News section of the FIS Website.

Best regards

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