



# FIS NEWSFLASH

Edition 6 / January 19th 2005



Fédération Internationale de Ski  
Internationaler Ski Verband

International Ski Federation

## All eyes on Bormio as countdown for FIS Alpine Ski World Championships continues

20 years after the Stelvio course in Bormio (ITA) gained world recognition during the FIS Alpine World Championships in 1985, the prestigious competition returns to the Lombardy region of Italy for 16 days of spectacular action as Bormio and Santa Caterina host the highly anticipated event. Indeed from 29 January to 13 February 2005 358 athletes from 62 nations will gather at one of the sport's most renowned locations to compete for one of the ultimate prizes in world skiing. The participation statistics from the three previous World Championships are as follows.

**Vail (USA) 1999 Men 150 Ladies 118  
Total Nations 52**

**St. Anton (AUT) 2001 Men 179 Ladies 138  
Total Nations 56**

**St. Moritz (SUI) 2003 Men 207 Ladies 127  
Total Nations 58**

Local organisers at Bormio/Santa Caterina have been hard at work readying for the event as thousands of athletes, coaches, sponsors, VIP's, media, volunteers and fans will undoubtedly flock to the area in ten days time. It will be the 5<sup>th</sup> time that Italy has the honor of hosting the championships that began its glorious history in 1931 when Mürren (SUI) set the stage for the inaugural event. The original FIS Alpine World Ski Championships took place annually, from 1931 to 1939, until World War II made such an event impossible. After an 11-year break, the championships were then organized every 4th year which was then changed into

every 2<sup>nd</sup> year from 1985. This year the participants will not only display their skills in Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G and the Combined but also take part for the first time in the new Nations Team Event that will conclude the championships. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is the host broadcaster of the championships with the images to transmit around the world produced by its' Italian member (RAI). Audi, Carlsberg, Rauch, Club Lombardia, Milka Peak Performance and Swatch S.A. feature as the main sponsors for the event. You may access the complete program for the championships here: [http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event\\_id=15839&cal\\_suchsector=AL](http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=15839&cal_suchsector=AL)

### Small nations supported

While the traditional big ski nations are expected to steal most of the limelight at the upcoming World Championships, the small nations have their part to play during the prestigious event. As such, the nearby located city of Aprica will provide hospitality for representatives from 27 "developing ski nations" who will be in Bormio and Santa Caterina to compete in the championships. The nations are all part of the FIS funded Aid & Promotion program which serves to help and thereby promote skiing in countries who have limited resources to develop the sport. As part of this program the qualified nations have taken advantage of the local organisers' obligation to provide them free training days and have consequently been fine-polishing their skills in Aprica as well as on the "Stella Alpina" piste in Bormio and the "Paradiso" slope in Santa Caterina.

## FIS President visits Winter University Games

FIS President Gian Franco Kasper was among a host of prominent guests when the 22<sup>nd</sup> Winter University Games in Innsbruck/Seefeld were declared officially open with a memorable opening ceremony inside the Innsbruck football stadium. As the second largest winter sports event in the world following the Olympic Winter Games, the "Winteruniversade" which takes place in the space of 10 action-packed days from 12-22 January will see no less than around 2000 athletes from 50 countries compete in 69 events during the spectacular celebration of winter sports.

The extensive event which takes place every two years (the next Winter University Games to take place in Turin 2007), has basically been arranged by students for students as the University of Innsbruck and its 23.000 students has played a major part in establishing this years event. Competitors representing their nations aged between ages 17 and 28 are allowed to take part in the Games which thanks to a modernized infrastructural plan in Innsbruck/Seefeld will see all competitions held within short distance of each other.

## TV Boom for FIS Snowboard World Championships

More than 100 hours of television coverage as well as coverage in the US and Canada should make sure that TV viewers across the world will know exactly why Whistler Mountain (CAN) is generally perceived as a virtual "Mecca" for snowboarders when the FIS Snowboard World Championships comes to an end on 23 January. The impressive number of hours is a clear step forward in comparison to previous editions of the championships. Indeed a total of 9 television channels (7 of them European) will broadcast the championships live while 10 channels (7 European and 3 Asian/Australian) will put together a show comprised of an hour's international highlights for their viewers. In total the coverage of the championships will reach no less than 167 countries world-wide.

Dear Friends of FIS,

Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: [frandsen@fisski.ch](mailto: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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