



FIS NEWSFLASH

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International Ski Federation

Internationaler Ski Verband

Nations Team event - A successful debut at FIS Alpine World Ski Championships

Alpine Skiing's answer to the Davis and Ryder Cups of tennis and golf!! This is how well the Nations Team event was received when the highly anticipated competition on 13th February brought the curtain down on the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in Bormio and Santa Caterina. Indeed first impressions suggested that the competition certainly has a future, with skiers, spectators and members of the media all responding warmly to what proved an exciting finale.

The Nations Team Event was comprised of a Super G run and one slalom run. Teams were comprised of 6 athletes, each of whom must run at least once. There were four heats in each discipline, two men's and two ladies'. Scoring was by points with the heat winner awarded one point, 2nd two, etc. The team with the lowest score took the gold. At the end, the four athletes' rankings were added up and determined the overall position for the nations, thereby deciding the medal winners. The new competition was labeled as a "brilliant initiative" by Austrian skier Benjamin Raich, who along with Renate Goetschl, Kathrin Zettel, Rainer Schoenfelder, Michael Waldchofer and Nicole Hosp took silver in the new event. "I was really excited to take part in the competition which got the team spirit going and made us all fight for each other", said the talented Raich.

Facts and Figures from FIS Alpine World Ski Championships

With the Nations Team event having brought a terrific finale to the FIS Alpine World

Championships, the local organizers could look back at an event and be satisfied with the media interest. As such 625 members of the "written press" and 1208 TV/Radio journalists conveyed their impressions of the championships which saw 543 athletes from 60 nations display their skills on the slopes of Bormio and Santa Caterina. With 2000 media guides and 1600 press reviews distributed as well as 60 press releases produced on a daily basis the journalists were no short of information to produce their stories while around 32.000 visitors on the official website www.bormio2005.com bore testimony to the interest surrounding the championships.

300'000 m3 artificial snow was produced to make the slopes even better while 29.700 m protection nets were installed to increase security measures for the athletes, with 600 people working on the slopes to try and ensure the best possible conditions on the courses. In terms of transportation no less than 45'000 persons were served by the outstanding service provided by AUDI who were one the official sponsors of the championships while around 30 buses were in operation throughout the championships driving around 80'000 km to provide transportation for 100'000 people.

Turin (ITA) working towards for Olympic preparation

The clock flashed the numbers: 365 days, 9 hours, 5 minutes and 52 seconds. Fifty-one, 50, 49 ... So began the year-to-go countdown Thursday 10 February 2005 for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin (ITA). Concerns have been expressed in the FIAT dominated city over the Games' budget, accommodation and transportation problems, but a series of test events has brightened the mood over the state of preparations for the 10th-26th February

Olympic Winter Games. After revealing its promise for the Nordic Skiing competitions by staging four competitions within the Men's and Ladies' FIS Cross Country World Cup calendar on January 22nd and 23rd, the newly-constructed Ski Jumping hills in Pragelato (ITA) were given a thorough test on 11-12th February with the arrival of the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup circuit. Snowboarders then also got a chance to test the conditions when Bardonecchia (ITA), staged two PGS (Parallel Giant Slalom) and two HP (Half-Pipe) competitions within the FIS Snowboard World Cup on 9th, 10th and 11th February. Later this month Bardonecchia plays host to the 2005 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships,

Norwegians in driving seat before Oberstdorf

Who can beat the Norwegians? This was the key question before the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf (GER) kicked off on 16th February. During the last championships in Val di Fiemme (ITA), the proud Scandinavians captured no less than 18 medals which were more than twice as much as any other nation participating in the championships.

Six nations (Norway, Russia, Finland, Italy, Germany and Austria) have distributed more than 90% of the medals between themselves during the last three FIS Nordic World Ski Championships, but with Nordic skiing gradually gaining more and more support and appeal outside of greater Europe, countries like Japan, USA and Canada seem destined to play a greater role in the fight for medals at future FIS Nordic World Ski Championships. In any case the special atmosphere surrounding the World Championships might go some way to motivate some of the lesser names to excel at the expense of some of the favorites who are struggling to keep their nerves in check during the prestigious competitions.

German perfection should ensure successful FIS Nordic World Ski Championships

With only one day to go before the action starts at the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf (GER), all

measures have been taken to make these championships as successful as when the small German village paid host to the same event back in 1987. No less than 51 nations will participate in Oberstdorf as compared to 41 during the 2003 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Val di Fiemme (ITA) and in total 1127 athletes, coaches and other official team-members will be present in Oberstdorf. 57 medals will be up for grabs in 19 Cross-Country, Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping competitions overall during the championships.

As a sign of the typical German flair for perfection, host broadcasters ARD and ZDF have left nothing up to chance in their production of the championships. As such 58 cameras have been installed to cover all angles of the Cross-Country competitions while 29 cameras will be in position to capture all the action of the Ski Jumping competitions. 220.000 tickets have already been sold for the championships and yet another 80.000 people are expected to pass through the gates during the 12 days of intense action in Oberstdorf.

Dear Friends of FIS,

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

Svend Frandsen
INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
Communications Manager