



FIS NEWSFLASH

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Fédération Internationale de Ski
Internationaler Ski Verband

International Ski Federation

FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf - an event to remember!!

"The next organizers will have a real job on their hands trying to better this!" FIS President Gian Franco Kasper made no attempt of hiding his satisfaction with the organization of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf (GER) following the last competition on Sunday 27 February. "I can only congratulate the local organizers and the German Ski Association with this event. The publicity that skiing has received through these 12 days in Oberstdorf cannot be underestimated", said Kasper in his conclusion of an event that saw no less than 360'000 spectators pass through the gates to witness 50 nations compete for 57 medals.

Thousands of Norwegians having made the journey down from the north were awarded for their persistent support as Norway won the overall race for medals having 19 pieces of silverware to show for their achievements over the 12-day period. With two gold and five silver-medals Germany gave their local fans plenty to cheer about while Russia also went home with seven medals mainly thanks to their strength in the Cross-Country team events.

In terms of infrastructure the reconstructed Ski Jumping arena with a capacity of 25'000 spectators) and the Cross Country stadium with a capacity: 14'000 spectators - whereby thousands of fans lined the courses and particularly the spectacular entrance to the stadium - created fascinating settings throughout the championships, which were outstandingly covered by host broadcasters ARD and ZDF (TRIO Television Radio International Organization). 58 cameras were installed to display all angles of the Cross-Country competitions while 29

cameras were in position to capture all the action of the Ski Jumping competitions. In total around 1500 journalists from the written and spoken press took part in covering the prestigious event.

Fanchini sisters grab headlines at FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships

Judging from the results of the FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships, Italy could be heading for a bright future within Ladies' alpine skiing thanks to the talents of the Fanchini sisters, Nadia and Elena. Both already made an impact at the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in Bormio and Santa Caterina with Elena capturing a silver-medal in the Ladies' Downhill competition and Nadja 4th place in the Super G. In Bardonecchia they won five medals between them, with three for the younger Nadia proving good enough for Italy to take second spot behind Austria in the overall race for medals. Austria went home with seven medals to show for their achievements in the Mens' and Ladies' competitions.

It was once again apparent that on the ladies' side some of the very young athletes are capable of making an impact in an event which is usually dominated by 18 and 19 year old performers. As such Eva-Maria Brem's (AUT) and Camilla Borsotti's (ITA) 10th and 11th position in the Ladies' Downhill as well as Katja Jazbec's (SLO) 11th position in the Ladies' Slalom - all girls born in 1988 - could be new names to look out for. In the Mens' competitions all competitions were won by athletes born in 1985, the oldest eligible to participate as juniors and with a "harvest" of five medals Austria revealed that they have plenty of talents ready to take over from their current stars to try and preserve their dominance in the Mens' senior alpine competitions. Indeed Austria

also ran away with the “Marc Hodler trophy” ahead of USA and Italy. The “Marc Hodler Trophy is a competition where nations are awarded points according to the competitors position in the individual races and team placing in the team events, whereby a maximum of two competitors per nations may score points in the individual races.

The FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships are held every year and Canada will host the 2006 championships in the Quebec City followed by Austria with Altenmarkt-Zauchensee and Flachau in 2007.

This season the FIS Nordic Junior World Championships are taking place in the spring, in Rovaniemi (FIN) from 16th – 26th March – the FIS Newsflash will report!

Nordic Tournament to start in Lahti (FIN)

When the 80th edition of the Lahti Ski Games begin on 4th March, it will also signal the start of the Nordic Tournament within the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup. One of Scandinavia's biggest sporting events, the tournament is an annual series organized by Finland and Norway in close co-operation with FIS. The prestigious tournament was launched already back in 1997 when Japan's Kazuyoshi Funaki became the inaugural overall winner. The Ski Jumpers commence the Nordic Tournament with a team competition on the HS 130 hill in Lahti on 5th March. The day after the athletes are in individual action in Lahti before they move on to Kuopio (FIN) on Wednesday 9th March to battle it out on the impressive HS 127 Ski Jumping hill. Two days later Lillehammer (NOR) will provide the setting for the third stage of the Nordic Tournament which at the same time will mark the last night jumping event of the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup season. Finally the legendary HS 128 hill at Holmenkollen (NOR) will Sunday 13th March bring the curtain down on a competition which is set to attract huge interest from the media and public.

The Nordic Tournament will offer some of Ski Jumping' finest athletes a chance to

rekindle their rivalry that made up such fascinating competitions during the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships. In familiar surroundings everyone will expect World Cup leader Janne Ahonen (FIN) to do well. But the Finn will no doubt have his hands full trying to cope with the challenges of the Norwegians Roar Ljoekelsoey and Bjorn Einar Romoeren, who pushed him hard in Oberstdorf, Martin Hoellwarth, Thomas Morgenstern from the Austrian team, Adam Malysz who disappointed at the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships as he was unable to defend his titles from 2003, and newcomers Rok Benkovic (SLO) and Jacob Janda (CZE) who showed such blistering form in Oberstdorf.