



Half of tickets for Turin Olympics already sold

Over half of the one million tickets on sale for the forthcoming Olympic Winter Games in Turin (ITA) have been sold, committee officials have announced. The Olympic Winter Games will be held in Turin from 10th to 26th February 2006 and comprise seven different sports with 15 different disciplines, which will be staged in eight different competition sites. Around 2,500 athletes, 650 judges and umpires and 1.5 million spectators are expected to participate in this 20th edition of the Olympic Winter Games. Ticket prices vary from €20 to €600.

FIS Nordic Combined Summer Grand Prix opener in Oberstdorf (GER) cancelled

Due to the floods which have recently swept across central Europe, the FIS Nordic Combined Summer Grand Prix opener in Oberstdorf (GER) on 27th and 28th of August has been cancelled. FIS is currently in discussions with various other organizing committees concerning the replacement of this competition during the Summer Grand Prix. Instead of Oberstdorf, Berchtesgarden (GER) will kick off the FIS Nordic Combined Summer Grand Prix on 31st August.

The Summer Grand Prix should provide athletes with a clear signal of how their own preparations are proceeding for the 2005/2006 FIS Nordic Combined World Cup set to start on 25th November in Kuusamo (FIN). Instead of skiing on snow the second part of the competitions will be completed on inline skates. In total there are two Team Sprints, two Individual Gundersen competitions and a Mass start event. Todd Lodwick (USA) captured last year's overall trophy finishing on top of the podium on

three individual occasions. Christoph Bieler (AUT) was second and Johnny Spillane (USA) came in third in the overall rankings.

You may find the complete program for the Summer Grand Prix here: http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/disciplines/nordiccombined/fiscalendar.html?cal_date=&cal_suchseason=2006&cal_oldsector=&cal_codex=&cal_suchgender=&cal_suchcategory=GP&cal_suchplace=&cal_suchnation=&cal_search=Search

Previous overall winners:

1998 Mathias Looss (GER)
1999 Ronny Ackermann (GER)
2000 Felix Gottwald (AUT)
2001 Samppa Lajunen (FIN)
2002 Mario Stecher (AUT)
2003 Jens Gaiser (GER)
2004 Todd Lodwick (USA)

Norwegian Ski Association agrees TV-contract with NRK

The Norwegian Ski Association has signed an agreement with the national Norwegian TV-broadcaster NRK for the broadcasting rights to skiing competitions in Norway.

NRK have via this agreement secured the rights to cover all FIS World Cup competitions in Norway for Cross-Country Skiing, Alpine Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing and Telemark Skiing competitions. In addition NRK will also be in charge of showing the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships. The agreement includes the rights for radio, television, internet and mobile phones.

"The most important thing for us is that our competitions reach the highest possible number of viewers and therefore NRK is an extremely important partner for us", says President of the Norwegian Ski Association, Sverre K. Seeberg.

Downpour puts Alpine regions on flood alert

A number of European athletes have spent a great deal of their summer preparing for their winter competitions on the Swiss and Austrian glaciers which have recently been blessed with snowfall down to 1800 metres. But with temperatures on the rise causing snow on the glaciers to melt there has been speculation that this could add to the floods which have recently put parts of Switzerland, Austrian and Germany in a state of emergency due to extremely heavy rainfall. However, experts claim that the major floods are primarily caused by precipitation and not by melting snow. Four days of heavy rain have caused landslides and floods in central Switzerland, cutting off villages, disrupting the traffic network and polluting a number of ground water reservoirs. Reports from Austria and southern Germany are similar, with many towns badly hit by flooding.

There have been concerns that Switzerland could be in for a flood disaster similar to the one which in May 1999 affected most regions in the northern part of the Alps. Back then the floods were caused by incessant heavy rainfall, preceded by a considerable snowmelt in the Bernese Alps due to particularly mild weather conditions at the end of an extremely snow-rich winter.

The situation is critical in Austria, where Graz, the capital of the province of Styria, is partially underwater. The river Mur is threatening to burst its banks, endangering the population of a quarter of a million. In the southern Austrian province of Carinthia, some 100 litres of precipitation per square metre fell from Saturday to Monday, the most intense rains since 1948 there, meteorologists said. Germany who experienced severe floods back in 2002 has also been tormented by the torrential rain as water levels of the river Rhine rose to hamper efforts to clear debris and shore up flood defenses.

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

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