



Ruka, Kuusamo (FIN) to stage official FIS World Cup Nordic Opening

No less than 20.000 spectators are expected to gather in Ruka, Kuusamo (FIN) when the Finnish ski resort hosts the FIS World Cup Nordic Opening from November 25th - 27th 2005. It's the fourth successive season that Ruka, Kuusamo stages the FIS World Cup Nordic Opening offering spectators a chance to catch all the action from eight competitions (4 Cross-Country, 2 Ski Jumping and 2 Nordic Combined).

Around 350 athletes and another 300 team staff members (trainers, coaches, service staff) will make their way towards Ruka, Kuusamo for the prestigious competitions while 600-700 organisers, volunteers, race directors, technical delegates, etc.. will be hard at work to organize the event which will be covered live by 17 TV and radio channels. In total approx. 350 journalists have been accredited for the event which presents the last chance to experience FIS Cross-Country, Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined World Cup competitions taking place at the same site before the Olympic Winter Games in Turin.

Most of Finland has experienced little snowfall in the month of November but forecasts predict more snow and lower temperatures enabling the production of artificial snow in the days leading up to and during the competitions putting concerns of organisers to rest. You may find the complete program for the event on the FIS Website.

Toni Sailer celebrates 70th Birthday

One of the true legends of alpine skiing, Toni Sailer, today Chairman of the FIS Alpine Committee, celebrated his 70th

birthday on Thursday 18th November. Sailer already celebrated the occasion in September when the charismatic Austrian was the central figure in an organised weekend of festivities including a celebrity golf tournament and gala dinner. The "Blitz from Kitz" was the first skier at the Olympic Winter Games to win all three Alpine skiing events (downhill, slalom and giant slalom), at the 1956 Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA) and was the fifth athlete to win three gold medals in the same Winter Olympics. He won four additional FIS Alpine World Championship gold medals before he brought down the curtain on a glorious career in 1959. FIS wishes to extend best wishes to Toni on his 70th birthday.

Inspired organisers' effort saves Beitostoelen event

Thanks to immense efforts from the organisers the "VIESSMANN" FIS World Cup Cross-Country competitions in Beitostoelen (NOR) were able to take place as scheduled on 19th-20th November despite warm weather, rain and lack of snow during the build up to the event. However a combination of colder weather in the final days of preparation which enabled the production of artificial snow along with an inspired effort from the organisers to bring down large quantities of snow from the Fagerness mountain pass, the competitions went ahead as scheduled. 200 trucks carrying around 7000-8000 m² of snow provided the foundation for a 3.3 km track around the Beitostoelen ski stadium.

With fast snow and tracks well prepared, athletes were certainly pleased with the efforts of the organisers who were thrilled to host FIS Cross-Country World Cup competitions for the fourth time since 1997. 3000 spectators passed through the gates for both Saturday's and Sunday's

competitions which were broadcast on 9 TV channels. 200 athletes from 24 nations travelled to Beitostoelen, located at the foot of the Jotunheimen National Park. You may find the complete results of the competitions here: http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=17898

Lake Louise (CAN) ready to write next FIS Alpine World Cup chapter

After Sölden (AUT) presented a stirring appetizer to the excitement which the FIS Alpine World Cup will bring this season, Lake Louise (USA) will provide the next chapter in the story of the 2005/2006 FIS Alpine World Cup when the Canadian ski resort on 26th-27th November stages the first speed events of the season for men. Numerous activities and new events designed to create a magical winter festival atmosphere are planned as Lake Louise gets set to welcome athletes and spectators for the men's races which will be followed by the first three ladies' speed World Cup races on December 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Due to the lack of snow on the upper parts of the course, FIS Race Director for the men's World Cup, Günther Hujara and the local organizing committee have been forced to shorten the slope for the men's downhill competition by 300 metres.

This will be the 23rd time since 1980 that the popular Canadian ski resort features as one of the sites for the FIS Alpine World Cup. The first men's downhill of the World Cup season will be televised live by CBC in Canada with an additional six international networks on site set to carry the Lake Louise races to more than 140 million viewers worldwide. You may find the program for the weekend's competition here: http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=19499

Flattach/Mölltal (AUT) organizes FIS SBX Builder Clinic

"How to construct a Snowboardcross slope" was the main item on the agenda when 26 participants from 12 nations participated in a FIS SBX Builder Clinic in Flattach/Mölltal

(AUT) from 18th-19th November.

The clinic was divided into two parts in which the participants on the first day were introduced to working with snow cats and given practical guidance in safety measures, course setting, etc.. On the following day participants went back to the classroom where Austrian SBX course specialist Christoph Vonbank and FIS Snowboard Race Director Alex Höller offered a number of presentations while participants had the chance to discuss various course settings and course designs. Throughout the clinic FIS enjoyed an excellent cooperation with the ÖSV Snowboard Department as well as with the Mölltal Glacier administration which provided significant support for the course including the provision of snow cats (plus the services of a snowcat driver).

WADA Executive and Foundation Board meets

FIS President Gian Franco Kasper was re-elected as a member of the WADA Executive Committee and Foundation Boards during the World Anti-Doping Agency meetings on November 20-21, 2005, in Montreal (CAN). The WADA Foundation Board selected Madrid to host the 2007 World Conference on Doping in Sport and also approved US\$ 23.8 million for WADA's 2006 budget, representing a minor increase of three percent over the 2005 budget. Other subjects addressed by the Foundation Board and Executive Committee included the appointment of the Executive Committee for 2006 including the re-election of Danish Minister of Sport, Brian Mikkelsen, to the position of vice-chair to serve through the end of 2006, updates on the International Convention against Doping in Sport adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in October and progress of the implementation of the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System (ADAMS).

Riikka Rakic appointed as new FIS Newsflash Editor / Communications Manager

Riikka Rakic has been appointed as the FIS Newsflash Editor / Communications

Manager initially for the winter season until 31st March 2005. She will combine this task with coordinating administrative preparations for the Cross-Country Tour de Ski. She hails from Finland and has lived in several countries working amongst other for an American IT consulting company before arriving in Switzerland three years ago. Riikka will shortly graduate from the Masters in Sports Management in Lausanne and knows the FIS well having undertaken her project assignment with FIS developing the Cross-Country Tour de Ski project.

Svend Frandsen steps down from the position of FIS Communications Manager in the end of December to take up a job as Media Manager of the International Table Tennis Federation in Lausanne. (Riikka can be contacted at rakic@fisski.ch)

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