



Olympic Season for the Nordic disciplines

successfully opened

Despite the unseasonably warm weather, the Nordic Opening at Ruka, Kuusamo (FIN) successfully opened the 2005-2006 season. Thanks to the excellent infrastructure and immense work by the organizers, athletes in the three Nordic disciplines enjoyed winter-like conditions. "The organizers have invested greatly in the event and this year, their efforts really paid off since the weather did not cooperate," commented Jürg Capol, FIS Race Director Cross-Country and added: "The Nordic Opening at Ruka has established itself as one of the main pillars in the World Cup schedule."

Due to inclement weather, this season's first two Ski Jumping competitions also made World Cup history. For the third time since Iron Mountain (USA) in 1996 and Vikersund (NOR) in 1998, two competitions were held on a single day after Friday's competition was moved to Saturday and reduced to a single round. "Obviously such schedule changes are not ideal but it was very important for the jury to guarantee the athletes' security, given that many jumpers have had little chance to train on snow so far. Saturday was hectic but successful," said Walter Hofer, FIS Race Director Ski Jumping.

The season's opening for the Nordic Combined also exhibited a novelty. Several athletes skied with heart rate monitors connected to the race timing system and TV production. To provide exciting additional details for the TV spectators, representatives of WIGE Data, the Finnish Ski Association and FIS have been working with Suunto to create a robust infrastructure for this measurement. The system will be further developed and will extend to include Cross-Country later in the season.

You may find the complete results from the Nordic Opening on the FIS Website.

FIS World Cup Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined competitions rescheduled for Lillehammer

Due to the extremely mild weather conditions in parts of Scandinavia which have haunted the first Nordic FIS World Cup events and Alpine European Cup races of the 2005/2006 season, the FIS World Cup Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined competitions in Trondheim (NOR), set to take place on 3rd and 4th December have been cancelled and instead rescheduled for Lillehammer. The dates and the program for the events stay the same. Some areas of Norway's northwest coast have experienced summer-like temperatures during November and as continued mild weather was predicted in the build up for the event in Trondheim making the production of artificial snow impossible, it was decided to reschedule the event for Lillehammer, host of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games.

You may find the program for the Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined events on the FIS website.

Ladies take over from where men left off in Lake Louise (CAN)

The ladies will take over from where the men left off when Lake Louise, after staging the first speed events of the season for men in the past weekend, once more steals the current limelight of alpine skiing when the Canadian ski resort hosts two FIS Ladies World Cup Downhills and one Super-G competition on December 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Organizers of the mens' events in Lake Louise, which holds the most expansive and environmentally progressive snow-making

system in Canada, were praised for their skills in preparing the pistes for Saturday and Sunday's competitions which were televised live by CBC in Canada with an additional six international networks carrying the Lake Louise races to more than 140 million viewers worldwide.

While parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland are experiencing very mild weather conditions for this time of year, athletes, organizers and spectators may "look forward" to an extremely cold weekend on the Eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies with temperatures expected to drop to minus -20°C (at 1630 metres) for the weekend's competitions. You may find the program for the weekend's competition here: http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=19500

Final Coordination Meetings get underway in Turin (ITA)

With less than 75 days to go until the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games in Turin, the IOC's Coordination Commission will pay its tenth and final visit to Turin this week. The members of the Commission, including FIS President and IOC member Gian Franco Kasper will have a chance to inspect the sites as well as examining the final details of Games preparations.

The Coordination Commission meetings will look at subjects such as sponsor services, media operations, Olympic Family services, NOC relations, and communications, as well as other areas related to Games preparations. While in Turin, the Commission's Chairman Jean-Claude Killy, who was himself President of the Organising Committee for the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville (FRA) and the other Commission members will hear more details from the Organising Committee (TOROC) about the long-term plans for the financial and infrastructure legacy which the Games are expected to leave to the City of Turin and the surrounding mountain areas.

Häkkinen lands prestigious award

The Chairman of the FIS Speed Skiing Committee, Kalevi Häkkinen (FIN), has been awarded the "Hannu Koskivuori" medal for his long-time work for the benefit of ski sports in Finland. The medal has been handed out every year since 1985 and "Häkä" is the 21st on the list of individuals and organisations who have received the award. The medal, the most prestigious in Finnish Skiing, has never before been given to a skier representing Alpine and Speed Skiing - all previous recipients have been Nordic athletes and organizers.

The 77-year old Häkkinen was a keen alpine skier in his early years and his talent allowed him to compete in the 1956 Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA). Gradually Speed Skiing became his passion and the charismatic Finn, who set a number of unofficial Speed Skiing world records during his career, was still racing at around 200 km/per hour only ten years ago at the age of 67. Häkkinen became member of the FIS Speed Skiing Committee in 1988 and was elected Chairman of the Committee in 1997.

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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