

## Busy FIS World Cup weekend

The Christmas holidays are right around the corner but there was no time for the FIS athletes to rest on their laurels as the past weekend (16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December) threw up another exhilarating series of FIS World Cup events. Athletes were in action in all FIS disciplines that will feature in the Olympic Programme in Turin as 7 nations (Canada, Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, China and Germany) hosted no less than 22 competitions.



*(Italy's Pietro Piller Cottrer tries out his luck in the Canadian national sport)*

Athletes from 13 different national teams had the pleasure of securing prestigious wins while 16 nations were able to claim a spot on the podium.

Spectators in Canmore, Canada were not only treated to a series of thrilling cross-country competitions but they were also entertained by the Calgary Stampede featuring Canada's best cowboys. Italy's Pietro Piller Cottrer, FIS World Champion from Oberstdorf, and his team mates also got a chance to try out their luck in rodeo, the Canadian national sport (see picture).

In Ski Jumping, Austria finally managed to claim their first podium spot in the season's 7<sup>th</sup> World Cup event when Andreas Kofler came in third in Engelberg (SUI) whilst

Jakob Janda (CZE) continued his outstanding form as he claimed victory.

At Nordic Combined in Ramsau, Norway was the dominant force claiming 4 of the 6 podium spots in the Individual and Sprint events. France's Jason Lamy Chappuis finished a brilliant 3rd in Sunday's Sprint for his first ever podium position.

In Val d'Isère (FRA), Lindsay Kildow surprised everyone by choosing a cow over its value in cash when she claimed her second downhill win of the season. The alpine men were in action in Val Gardena and Alta Badia where after wins in Friday's Super G for Hans Grugger (AUT) and Saturday's downhill for Marco Buechel (LIE), Sunday's giant slalom belonged to Italy with Massimiliano Blardone and Davide Simoncelli finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and providing the home favourites with another boost six weeks before the Olympic Winter Games.

In Freestyle, the Oberstdorf crowd braved the elements for Sunday's Moguls competition to see Marina Kafka's 11<sup>th</sup> place finish which will assist her quest for a spot in Turin.

Finally, the Swiss Snowboard team should be especially content with the weekend's "podium-harvest" as the alpine nation produced a near clean-sweep during the competitions in Canada (Whistler 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December and Le Relais 17-18<sup>th</sup> December) by claiming 9 out of a possible 12 podium spots.

Canmore concludes first period of Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country:

A round-up

The return of the World Cup Cross-Country sidelined all other sports coverage in

Canada last weekend; CBC alone broadcast eight hours from Canmore, Alberta. Key to media interest: the amazing success of the Canadian women's team that won six podium places in the five races, with Becky Scott doubling her career podium total to ten.

The races in Canada also concluded the first period of the Cross-Country season—time for a brief review:

In the first period, the World Cup with its return overseas became a "world" series again. John Aalberg (USA), FIS Technical Delegate in Vernon, commented: "We had two well-organized events at beautiful locations with huge media interest. The new sprint rules also proved their worth: when did we last have both World Cup leaders, for Sprint (Tor Arne Hetland) and Distance (Tobias Angerer), in the same quarterfinal?" In anticipation of the FIS Tour de Ski, the first period of the season also marked the return of the sprinters in distance races, including Hetland's 15km victory in Beitostoelen, and the introduction of the sprint start gates in Vernon.

The excitement of the Olympic season is evident otherwise too: Up to 27 nations participated per World Cup weekend. So far, 25 nations have scored World Cup points, compared with 22 last year. "We can be very pleased with the first period. The quality of World Cup organization has increased significantly. Thanks to the substantial efforts of the organizers, all competitions were staged as scheduled despite the least amount of snow in the north of Europe in fifty years," concluded Jürg Capol, FIS Race Director Cross-Country.

### FIS Marathon Cup opens with La Sgambeda

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, La Sgambeda kicked off this year's FIS Marathon Cup in Livigno, Italy on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005. First of the eight races in the FIS Marathon Cup this season, the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of La Sgambeda attracted more than 1200 participants to the region known as the "Little Tibet". The race was again dominated by the Italian long-distance team. The victory of the men's

35km freestyle race, 7km shorter than planned due to acute avalanche danger, was shared between Biagio di Santo and Tullio Grandelis (both ITA) as even the photo finish camera could not set them apart. Cristina Paluselli (ITA) won the women's race, followed by the winner of 2004 and 2003, Lara Peyrot (ITA).

The FIS Marathon Cup, a Worldloppet series for elite skiers, was launched as of the 1999/2000 season. Most of the FIS Marathon Cup races also belong to the Worldloppet series of 14 cross-country skiing marathons that annually attract over 80 000 participants. Vasaloppet, one of the most traditional FIS Marathon Cup and Worldloppet races, will debut as part of the FIS World Cup Cross-Country this season. The FIS Marathon Cup will continue with the Jizerská Padesátka, a 50K classical style race in Liberec, the Czech Republic, on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### FIS Appeals Commission rejects appeal from Swiss Ski Association

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005, the Alpine Appeals Commissions rejected the appeal from the Swiss Ski Association against the disqualification of Didier Defago from the FIS Alpine World Cup Men's Super Combined race in Val d'Isere (FRA) on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2005 for an infringement of the equipment regulations due to the height of the binding-plate combination exceeding the limit of 55mm. The commission for the appeal, composed of Enrico Valle (Chairman) Jarl Forsmark and Walter Trilling, rejected the appeal of the Swiss Ski Association after examining the report in regard to the measurement of the ski of the athlete from Mike Kertesz, FIS Equipment Controller, and the 19 points in his additional report. Based on the above decision, the results of the FIS Alpine World Cup Men's Super Combined race in Val d'Isere (FRA) on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2005 will stand and are calculated accordingly in the FIS Alpine World Cup Men's standings.

Demetz named honorary citizen in Wolkenstein

Another distinguished member of the FIS family, Erich Demetz, Chairman of the FIS Alpine World Cup Sub-Committee, was named honorary citizen in Wolkenstein on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. Demetz was given the prestigious title for the work he has undertaken to boost the city's tourism and economy.

For many years, Demetz has been an instrumental figure behind the scenes of alpine skiing where he has occupied prestigious positions as Vice President of the local organising committee for the 1970 FIS Alpine World Championships in Val Gardena (ITA), and subsequently as President of the organising committee for World Cup races, Vice President of the Italian Winter Sports Federation, FIS Council Member from 1975 to 1994 and Chairman of the FIS Alpine World Cup Sub-Committee for the past 19 years.

FIS Secretary General collects prestigious award

An honour was bestowed upon FIS and its Secretary General Sarah Lewis when she collected the "2006 Femme Internationale de l'année" (international lady of the year) award in Courchevel (FRA). Lewis was handed the award in recognition of her role as Secretary General (the only lady to occupy this position within the 35 International Olympic Winter and Summer Sports Federations). "It's an honour in itself to be Secretary General of FIS, but to receive an award in the prestigious company of leading personalities from sport, the arts, research, business and humanitarian work I accept as recognition of the work we strive to do at FIS", says Sarah Lewis. The "Femmes en Or" awards have been handed out every year since 1993 in eight different categories ([www.femmesenor.fr](http://www.femmesenor.fr)).

Merry Christmas!

With the Christmas holidays approaching rapidly, may we at FIS take the opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas. Hopefully this picture might go some way to putting

you in the right Christmas spirit.



Dear Friends of FIS,

Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: [frandsen@fisski.ch](mailto: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