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## **FIS COMPETITION FACTS – Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country**

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Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country presented by Rauch at Lahti (FIN)  
on March 10th, 2007

### **Sprint-Victory for Kuitunen and Northug**

**Virpi Kuitunen (FIN) and Petter Northug (NOR) won the ladies' and mens' free technique Sprint during the Lahti Ski Games.**

Kuitunen could finished the 1.25 km course first in the qualification as well as in the final heat and won her 6<sup>th</sup> World Cup race this season. The second place took Kuitunen's team mate Riitta Liisa Roponen followed by Anna Dahlberg from Sweden. Also in the final skied Petra Majdic from Slovenia (4<sup>th</sup> place), the Italian Arianna Follis (5<sup>th</sup> place) and on sixth place Katerina Neumannova (CZE).

For Roponen it was the first podium place in a sprint race and the third ever in her career. The 30-year-old Dahlberg could celebrate with the today's third place her first podium place in this season.

In the overall World Cup Virpi Kuitunen is leading ahead of Marit Bjoergen with 509 points and with this today's victory she has already won the overall World Cup. On third place follows Katerina Neumannova which is totally 555 points behind Kuitunen.

Kuitunen is also in the lead of the Sprint cup with 352 points. On second place is Natalia Matveeva from Russia with 271 points and Petra Majdic with 205 points.

In the men's race Petter Northug won on the 1,4 km course in the Lahti Ski Stadium his second World Cup. On second place finished his team mate Jens Arne Svartedal and Eldar Roenning made the Norwegian triple victory complete. In final skied also Yuichi Onda (JPA, 4<sup>th</sup> place), Johan Kjoelstad (NOR, 5<sup>th</sup> place) and Dusan Kozisek (CZE).

For Northug it was also his first World Cup victory in a Sprint race. The Sprint World Champion in classic technique Jens Arne Svartedal could celebrate with his 2<sup>nd</sup> place his third podium place in this season.

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In the overall World Cup Tobias Angerer, who finished in the today's on 9<sup>th</sup> place, is still in the lead with 891 points, followed by Alexander Legkov 573 points and on third place Tor Arne Hetland with 521 points.

The Sprint Cup is leading by Jens Arne Svartedal (306 points). On second place is his team mate Tor Arne Hetland (220 points) and on third position Eldar Roenning (206 points).

Number of participants/ participating nations: 50 ladies, 72 men / 20 nations

Spectators: 9.000

Number of Media/TV on site and HBC: 152 Media / 4 TV on-site / YLE was the HBC

Weather: cloudy, +2°C

Snow Conditions: wet

Pictures:

Please note that high quality action and podium pictures from today's competitions are available for purchase through the Internet portal offered by Nordic Focus, FIS Partner for photos from the Nordic Disciplines, at [www.menzipics.ch/info/indexfisevents.html](http://www.menzipics.ch/info/indexfisevents.html)

### Quotes:

**Virpi Kuitunen (FIN):** "It's a great day for us. Our service was very good. Skies were excellent and it was very enjoyable to ski. I would have been very happy even if Riitta-Liisa would have won. This was best place to confirm the WC front of home audience but I was tired between races. My head was still in Japan, but audience yield hard every time I was at start line that pushed me."

**Riitta-Liisa Roponen (FIN):** "It was a great race and it was my first sprint podium place. I'm very satisfied. I had no tactic for race, the first hill I try to 'relax' a little bit because I knew I will reach others later. Double victory for Finland feels very good. It was fun to ski here in Lahti in front of the home audience."

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**Anna Dahlberg (SWE):** “I’m happy. I season started as late as January this year. Race was hard. The course was tuff, but my skies were very good. I hade a good race in finals.”

**Peter Northug (NOR):** “My first sprint victory, so far best was sixth place. In semifinal and in final I stayed in front and could so control the group. It feels very good. My focus now is on the World Cup – I will not compete at the U 23 World Championships in Tarvisio (ITA) which will be in the next week.”

**Jens Arne Svartedal (NOR):** “This was my best performance in this season. I was surprised to be on the podium. I was surprisingly because this was free technique, usually classic is better for me. This slow race fits me very well.”

**Eldar Roenning (NOR):** “I was tired after Sapporo and had problems to come into the “European rhythm”. I was not sure if I come to Lahti at all. Now I am very happy that I decide to compete. My skies were great.”

For complete results please visit [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)

### Contact for further information:

Sandra Spitz  
PR and Media Coordinator FIS World Cup Cross-Country  
Mobile: + 49 (0) 160 90 750 134  
E-Mail: [spitz@fisski.ch](mailto:spitz@fisski.ch)