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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 Drammen (NOR)  
on March 14th, 2007

### **Winner in Drammen: Kuitunen and Naess**

**The overall World Cup winner Virpi Kuitunen from Finland and the home favourite Boerre Naess (NOR) took the victory in today's classic style Sprint in Drammen (NOR), where today for the fifth time a World Cup Sprint in Cross-Country skiing took place.**

Virpi Kuitunen took here second World Cup victory in a classical Sprint this season on the 1,265 km course of Drammen, ahead of the last years winner Petra Majdic (SLO) and her team mate Aino Kaisa Saarinen. On fourth place finished Anna Dahlberg (SWE). Also in the final: Mona-Lisa Malvalehto (5<sup>th</sup> place, FIN) and Lina Andersson (6<sup>th</sup> place, SWE).

For Majdic it was the third podium place in this season and Saarinen could manage her first podium in a Sprint race this season.

In the World Cup ranking, Virpi Kuitunen (FIN), which have already won this Cup, has now 1397 points and the second Marit Bjoergen (NOR) follows with 803 points. On third place is still the Czech Katerina Neumannova with 778 points. Bjoergen and Neumannova were both not at the start in the today's race.

In the Sprint World Cup standing is now also won by Kuitunen with 452 points. On second place is Petra Majdic with 285 points and on third follows Natalia Matveeva with 284 points. Only one Sprint is left in this category – the classical Sprint next week on Wednesday in Stockholm.

In the men's race Boerre Naess could celebrate his second World Cup victory ever. Naess finished first, narrowly ahead of Mats Larsson from Sweden and his team mate Trond Iversen. The fourth place took Emil Joensson (SWE), Yunichi Onda (JPN) finished fifth, and also in the A-Final was Krister Trondsen from Norway.

Larsson and Iversen could celebrate their results their first podium in this season.

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The overall World Cup on the men's side is now won by Tobias Angerer from Germany. He could repeat this victory from last year even when he was not competing in the today's race. Alexander Legkov (RUS) who is 378 points behind was also not competing today and now only three competitions are left. On the third place at the moment is Eldar Roenning (NOR) with 556 points, only 17 points behind Legkov.

In the Sprint ranking, there is a triple lead of Norway with Jens-Arne Svartedal (319 points) in the lead, who finished today on 18<sup>th</sup> place followed by Trond Iversen (257 points) and Tor Arne Hetland (234 points).

Number of participants/ participating nations: 53 ladies, 61 men/ 17 nations

Spectators: 30,000

Number of Media/TV on site and HBC: 87 Media / 4 TV on-site / NRK was the HBC

Weather: cloudy, + 9°C

Snow Conditions: wet

Special remarks:

Course: Height difference: 25m; Maximum climb: 25m; Total climb: 46m, Length of laps: 1265m;

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 was a great, great fight between me and Petra. It was so exciting. I started the final not so fast than the earlier heats where I was shortly after the start so meters in front of all others. At the end I needed this power for the fight against Petra. I will now race

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all races and my goal is it to win the overall nations cup on the ladies side together with my team mates. That was never happened before that the Finnish ladies could reach that.”

**Petra Majdic (SLO):** “It was amazing this fight on the last uphill – and really tough. At the end Virpi was a little bit stronger. I like this kind of ‘fights’ – it was so fair and the strongest won. My skies were very great today and I was afraid that the Swedish and the Finnish girls will try to make a tactical race. So that’s why I was using on the first uphill the slower track. I will now go to all World Cup races, make afterwards a hard training session and than finally I will rest some days.”

**Aino Kaisa Saarinen (FIN):** “It is my first podium in this season in a Sprint race, so I’m satisfied. I fought hard for the podium and finally I got it but the other two ladies (Kuitunen and Majdic) were too strong today for me. After the season I will make holidays together with my friend and rest some time in Middle Europe.”

**Boerre Naess (NOR):** “It was a good race for me today here in Drammen. I’m at the moment in a good shape. It is a pity that I was not before in this shape and that’s why I couldn’t compete in Sapporo. My series here was place 3 in 2005, place 2 last year and now the victory. Hopefully I could continue on this level. The race was tough and I found at the end some power from my ‘home crowd’ so I could manage my second victory in my career.”

**Mats Larsson (SWE):** “Skiing in Drammen in front of such a crowd is always fun. On the last uphill I try to be the strongest but Boerre made it. After the second place at the World Championships it was good for me to manage again a podium place. I’m now going home and prepare me for the Sprint in Stockholm – there I would also be on the podium – that’s my big goal now.”

**Trond Iversen (NOR):** “The race today was amazing. The atmosphere here in Drammen is great especially for us (Naess & Iversen) as the home favorites. The crowd helped me also to find power where normally no power is anymore.”

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

**Contact for further information:**



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