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**e.on Ruhrgas FIS World Cup Ski Jumping
Competition Facts
Oberstdorf (GER)**



55. Jack Wolfskin Four hills tournament

Schlierenzauer: First tournament start - first victory

With Gregor Schlierenzauer one of the favourites won the first stage of the 55. Jack Wolfskin Four hills tournament in Oberstdorf (GER). The 16-year old Austrian claimed the top of the podium of this e.on-Ruhrgas FIS World Cup Ski Jumping competition with the total score of 296,0 points with jumps on 135,5 and 142 m. The Swiss Andreas Küttel was second, 9,5 points behind and jumps on 133,5 and 136,5 m. Third was the former Polish tournament winner Adam Malysz 280,3 (132/134 m).

Schlierenzauer started for the first time at the Four hills tournament and won. The last one, who reached this was Toni Nieminen (Fin) in 2001. This was the third World Cup victory in his 6th World Cup start for the Austrian, who won already in Lillehammer and Engelberg in this winter. Kuettel was the first Swiss to be second in Oberstdorf. The last Swiss athlete on the podium in Oberstdorf was the Double Olympic Champion Simon Ammann, who became third in 2001.

This time Ammann was 5th and lost the lead in the current World Cup. The new leader is Schlierenzauer with 410 points, 2nd Ammann (405) and third Anders Jacobsen (Nor/396), who was fourth in his first tournament competition. Adam Malysz, the Four hills tournament overall winner in 2001, was for the third time third after Lillehammer and Engelberg in this winter. In his career he has now 64 podium places.

The audience was 21000. The weather conditions were quite stable. From time to time there was a little bit stronger headwind so that the competition had to be interrupted for a few moments to guarantee a fair competition.

Statements of the top three athletes:

Gregor Schlierenzauer: "I jumped in the same way as I did in all the other competitions. Both jumps were really on a high level. In the final round I felt at once that I stood high in the air and that I will fly long. I missed the hill record, but you can't get all. It was an undescrivable feeling to listen the Austrian national anthem in front of this great public. It was great. Every thing in my jumps works well. It's like a perfect puzzle. I like to jump in tail wind conditions. Already when I began with Ski Jumping on larger hills I had these conditions on my home hill Bergisel in Innsbruck.

Andreas Kuettel: "I had two good jumps. The second one I could really enjoy in the air because I stood so high after the take-off. Therefore I'm very happy after this competition, which was much better than last year on this hill when I was only on 25th position after the first round. I didn't jump for history books. But it's phantastic to be second as the first Swiss in Oberstdorf and to reach the first podium in the Four hills tournament. Especially because I started with Ski Jumping on the very little hill in the same stadium. Now I'm looking forward for Garmisch-Partenkirchen. I like this hill there.

Adam Malysz: "Both of my jumps were good. Much better than these two in the training. They were disastrous. I don't know if I can win the tournament like in 2001, Gregor is actually really strong. I didn't specifically prepare the Four hill tournament. It was the same as for the other competitions. With our coach Hannu Lepistöe we worked well the whole season."

Results: www.fis-ski.com

Best regards

Kurt Henauer