

55. Jack Wolfskin Four hills tournament/2<sup>nd</sup> stage

**Kuettel wins 33 years after Walter Steiner**

Andreas Kuettel was the great winner at the traditional New Year's e.on Ruhrgas FIS World Cup Ski Jumping competition in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER). The Swiss won in this one-round-jumping with the total score of 135,9 points with a jump on 125,5 m. Second was the Finn Matti Hautamaeki 133,0 (125 m). On third position was the Japanese athlete Noriaki Kasai 132,9 (128 m).

After two events in the 55th Jack Wolfskin Four hills tournament the Oberstdorf winner Gregor Schlierenzauer (Aut), who was 4th, kept the lead with now 425,4 points ahead of Kuettel, who is 3,0 points behind, and the Norwegian Anders Jacobsen (5th today), who is already 17,6 points behind Schlierenzauer. The Austrian also leads in the World Cup with 460 points. Second is Jacobsen (441) and third Simon Ammann (Sui) with 418. The Double Olympic champion from 2002 was only 18th in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

33 years after Walter Steiner Kuettel is only the second Swiss winner on the old "Olympiaschanze" in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. He won the 4th World Cup in his career. Matti Hautamaeki and Noriaki Kasai were both for the first time on the podium in this winter.

Kuettel wrote history as the last winner on this hill. In February the 55 year old construction will be demolished. The new facility will be ready on 1st January 2008. In the 55-year long history of the Four hills tournament there were only four competitions which were decided in only one round: 1977 in Oberstdorf (winner Mathias Buse/GDR), 1979 (on 2nd January!) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (winner Josef Samek/TCH) and 1987 in Bischofshofen (winner Tuomo Ylipulli/FIN).

The final round had to be cancelled due to the condition of the inrun track, which were getting worse, and the increasing wind. The audience was 22000

Statements of the top three athletes:

Andreas Kuettel: "It's great to win here 33 years after Walter Steiner. I was happy that there were interruptions in the start procedure before me. Then I had good wind conditions. The take-off was perfect but I still had some reserves in the air because my position wasn't perfect. It twisted me a little bit. I was confident to jump the final round. Then I heard in the team cabin that the competition is cancelled. So I'm not going to complain that I won. After Innsbruck we will see, who is going to win the Four hills tournament. I think Gregor Schlierenzauer has a little advantage on his home hill. It was an emotional moment when Walter Steiner was congratulating for this victory."

Matti Hautamaeki: "This competition I handled much better than this one in Oberstdorf. I had a good updrift and for sure I gained some meters. I should be happy with this second place but I was also ready to do a second jump. But the jury decision to cancel the final round wasn't so bad for me....Till now this winter was difficult for me. We had no snow and after the first competition in Kuusamo I had not so much self-confidence. Before the Four hills tournament I could practice three times, in Kuusamo and in Kuopio. But the conditions were bad. No the self-confidence is back but I'm realist enough that it's still difficult to challenge the best six jumpers."

Noriaki Kasai: "I was happy that I had good wind conditions. But I also like this hill here in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. I had updrift when I was jumping. The reason that I had a difficult season start was a knee injury I got in summer. Therefore I couldn't practice as I should to be in a good shape."

Results: [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)

Best regards

Kurt Henauer



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**e.on Ruhrgas FIS World Cup Ski Jumping  
Competition Facts  
Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER)**

