
FIS COMPETITION FACTS – Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country

Viessmann FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Rybinsk (RUS) on 16th December, 2007

First World Cup victory for Randall and Gloersen

The winners of the Sprint World Cup race in free technique in Rybinsk (RUS) were Kikkan Randall from the United States and the 21-year-old Anders Gloersen (NOR).

Kikkan Randall claim victory in the today's sprint race in the free technique and won with that the first ever victory for the US Team in the women Cross-Country World Cup. She finished just ahead of Astrid Jacobsen, the winner of the yesterday's mass start race and the home favourite Natalia Korosteleva. Also in the final were Magda Genuin (ITA, 4th place), Vesna Fabjan (SLO, 5th place) and Anna Dahlberg (SWE, 6th place).

In the last World Cup Sprint in Rybinsk (February 2007), Randall made her first podium with finishing third. Today she won her first World Cup race. Genuin and Fabjan skied for the first time in their career in the Final and reached with that their best place ever in a single World Cup race.

New leader in the overall World Cup is Astrid Jacobsen with 380 points ahead of her team mates Marit Bjoergen (312 points) and Vibeke Skofterud (234 points). In the sprint World Cup ranking, Natalia Matveeva is still in the lead with 182 points ahead of Astrid Jacobsen (160 points) and the winner of today's race, Kikkan Randall (115 points).

In the men's race, there was a surprise. The youngster and winner of the qualification round Anders Gloersen from Norway took the victory ahead of his team mates Ola Vigen Hattestad and Oystein Pettersen. The Final heat consisted of five Norwegians and one Swede but unfortunately there were two false starts. Emil Joensson (SWE) was responsible for the second false start and was placed according the rules on the last position of this heat, which means in this case the 6th place. Tor Arne Hetland finished 4th and Johan Kjoelstad 5th (both NOR).

For Gloersen, it was the first victory in a World Cup race on his third World Cup start. Ola Vigen Hattestad finished for the first time second in his career while Oystein Pettersen made his second podium place ever in a World Cup race.

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In the overall World Cup, Axel Teichmann is still in the lead with 260 points. On second place is Tor Arne Hetland with 234 points followed by Lukas Bauer with 230 points. In the sprint World Cup, the leader is Johan Kjoelstad with 169 points ahead of Emil Joensson (134 points) and Bjoern Lind (131 points).

The next World Cup competitions will be on 28th of December with the start of the second Viessmann FIS Tour de Ski performance by Craft Sportswear.

Number of participants/ participating nations: 62 ladies/18 nations and 79/21 nations

Spectators: 15,000

HBC: Ugra was the HBC

Weather: cloudy, -0,5°C

Snow Conditions: hard

Special remarks:

Course : Height difference: 27m; Maximum climb: 27m; Total climb: 35m, Length of laps: 1265m;

Quotes:

Kikkan Randall (USA): It's amazing! The US has been getting stronger in the last years and a lot of my team mates are doing well. So it was a great team effort today to get the first women's victory. For the athletes it's always exciting when there are a lot of fans outside and cheering. The Russians are the loudest crowd I ever heard, so it was fun to come back and ski here on a really good race track.

Astrid Jacobsen (NOR): The qualification today was the toughest as I was a little bit tired from the yesterday's race. In the final heats, it was getting better and better but I hadn't really a chance against Kikkan in the final climb. I'm really satisfied with my second place. I will now go home and celebrate Christmas with the yellow bib and enjoy the feeling to be the overall leader.

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Natalia Korosteleva (RUS): I'm very happy today with my second podium in this day's. I had very good ski's and the race was great. I hope that my coach let me go home now that I have a little bit time from my family as I didn't see my son for two month now. After that, I will go to the Tour de Ski and hope to ski well.

Anders Gloersen (NOR): It was my first World Cup out of Norway and it was great to win the race. I trained hard in the last few years and now it's pays out. I tried to ski intelligent during the heats and was hoping for the best. I already reached my goal for this season, it was to go outside of Norway and ski a World Cup race. For sure now, I hope to get the chance to go for more.

Ola Vigen Hattestad (NOR): The false starts didn't influence me – I concentrate me on my own and looked that I made no false start. The Norwegian team had very good ski's today – that was the most part of our success. I tried to be on second or third position on the top of the last uphill and I did it. I was not surprised about Anders, when you are good enough in Norway for a World Cup start than you are good enough to win a World Cup – that's a hard life in Norway. My next race will be in Canada, so I will have a long Christmas break.

Oystein Pettersen (NOR): We had no special team tactic, it was just to race. It's my first time in Russia and my first time in Rybinsk and I hope I will have the chance to come back. It is a great atmosphere here and I really enjoyed it.

For complete results, please visit www.fis-ski.com

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