



FIS COMPETITION FACTS – Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country

VISSMANN FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Rybinsk (RUS), 15 km (ladies) and 30 km (men) mass start race in free technique, 15th of December 2007

Jacobsen and Hetland win the mass start race in Rybinsk

The winners of the World Cup race in Rybinsk over 15 km (women) and 30 km (men) in free technique are the youngster Astrid Jacobsen and Tor Arne Hetland (both NOR).

The 20-year-old Astrid Jacobsen from Norway claim victory in a very tight race just 0,7 seconds ahead of the home favorite Natalia Korosteleva (RUS). Riitta-Liisa Roponen from Finland took the third place 1,1 seconds behind the winner.

The race was very tight and two kilometers before the finish 15 women were in the leading group. After the second last downhill Astrid Jacobsen made her final attack and went in front.

The World Champion from Sapporo, Astrid Jacobsen won her first World Cup victory in her career. Korosteleva finished for the first time on a podium place in the World Cup victory.

The overall World Cup is still led by Marit Bjoergen with 312 points followed by her team mates Astrid Jacobsen (300 points) and Vibeke Skofterud (234 points), who finished in the today's race on 12th place. The distance World Cup is led by three Norwegians: Vibeke Skofterud (232 points), Astrid Jacobsen (220 points) and Marit Bjoergen (200 points), who was not competing in the today's race.

In the exciting and tight men's race, the ski veteran Tor Arne Hetland (NOR) showed again this strength in the finish sprint. He won 0,5 seconds ahead of Ville Nousianen from Finland. The 32-year-old Pietro Piller Cottler (ITA) finished third, 1,3 seconds behind the winner.

21 athletes were before the last uphill still together in the 30 km mass start race. Ville Nousianen tries to take his chance and attacked on the last uphill. He went first into the downhill before the finish but on the finish straight Tor Arne Hetland was stronger and claim victory.



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For Hetland, it was the 11th World Cup victory in his career. Ville Nousianen finished for the first time ever on the podium, after already being 6th in Kuusamo, two weeks ago.

Axel Teichmann, who is not competing this weekend in Russia, is still in the lead of the overall World Cup with 260 points. On second place is Lukas Bauer (230 points) and on third place is now the winner of the today's race, Tor Arne Hetland (184 points). This top three are also the top three in the distance World Cup ranking.

The first trial of the pit stop in a mass start race where the racer could change the ski in the stadium was a success. Some of the top athlete like Vincent Vittoz (FRA) and Giorgio Di Centa (ITA) tried it and changed the ski's, at the end they were not on the podium but in the leading group. The men started already after the first round with the change of ski's while in the women's competition nobody did it.

The next competitions will be in Rybinsk on Sunday, 16th of December 2007 – Sprint competitions women and men.

Number of participants/ participating nations: 46 ladies/16 nations; 68 men/20 nations

Spectators: 20'000

HBC: Ugra TV was the HBC

Weather: cloudy, -1,0°C

Snow Conditions: hard packed

Special remarks:

Course women: Height difference: 35m; Maximum climb: 32m; Total climb: 496m, Length of lap: 3,8 km;

Course men: Height difference: 35m; Maximum climb: 32m; Total climb: 992m, Length of lap: 3,8 km;

Pictures:



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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.nordicfocus.com

Quotes:

Astrid Jacobsen (NOR): I am very satisfied with my victory today. It's my first World Cup victory and it means even more than my gold medal from Sapporo. The atmosphere in Rybinsk is great – I love it to ski here. I didn't expect to be in such a good shape in a distance race, I was more a sprinter before this season. I skipped out the World Cup in Davos and prepared myself well for this World Cup and the Tour de Ski.

Natalia Korosteleva (RUS): It is amazing to be on the podium in Rybinsk. It's my first one and here in the home country that means a lot for me. I was a long time a part of the team in Rybinsk (Saturn team), they supported me and I'm very happy that I can give something back.

Riitta-Liisa Roponen (FIN): It was great to ski here – I'm very satisfied because my season so far was not optimal. I'm now back in shape and looking forward to the Tour de Ski where I would like to finish under the top sixth. For the overall World Cup I would just be better than last season.

Tor Arne Hetland (NOR): I'm very, very satisfied with my victory today. To ski and win in front of this crowd makes fun. I didn't use the pit stop possibility because I have good ski's and I didn't had time for that. I was just skiing as fast as I can. In the last downhill when I was just behind the two leaders I said to myself that I have to take my chance.

Ville Nousiainen (FIN): I'm very happy today. I finished on the podium for the first time after a great result in Kuusamo. The atmosphere is unbelievably great – I'd enjoyed skiing here. I'm planning to be in the top 20 in the Tour de Ski.

Pietro Piller Cottrer (ITA): It is always hard to ski a 30 km mass start race, it is always a big fight. I like Russia, I was often on the podium or top ten when we had World Cup competitions in Russia. Last year I finished in Rybinsk fourth and this year I manage the podium. My ski's were good and our technician's did a great job, so I was not using the chance to change the ski's.



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

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