
FIS COMPETITION FACTS – Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country

Viessmann FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Duesseldorf (GER) on 27th October, 2007

Victory for Matveeva and Wenzl

The winner of the World Cup kick off in the Sprint race in Duesseldorf (GER) were the two youngsters, the 21-year-old Natalia Matveeva (RUS) and the 22-year old Josef Wenzl (GER).

Natalia Matveeva, who finished 2005 third and 2006 second in Duesseldorf, could won the today's Sprint race in free technique ahead of Marit Bjoergen (NOR). The Swedish Anna Dahlberg finished third ahead of Arianna Follis (ITA, 4th place), Seraina Mischol (SUI, 5th place) and on 6th place Pirjo Muranen (FIN).

For Matveeva it was the first World Cup victory ever in her career and her 4th podium place since she starts to compete in the World Cup. Bjoergen reached with her second place for the 43 times the podium while Anna Dahlberg could celebrate her 11th podium place. Seraina Mischol had her best ever World cup rank with here 5th place.

The German Josef Wenzl were really strong today. He was trying to race all the final heats from the front – just one time from some seconds in the Final he was not in front of his competitors – and he succeed with this tactic. The current Olympic Champion from Torino 2006, Bjoern Lind (SWE) finished second and the third place took John Kristian Dahl from Norway. In the Final skied as well Petter Northug (NOR, 4th place), Marcus Hellner (SWE, 5th place) and the Russian Nikolay Morilov (6th place).

Like in the women's race Matveeva, Josef Wenzl won also his first World Cup competition. The best result until now was the sixth place in Duesseldorf last year. For Hellner and Morilov it was the first ever participation in the Final heat and the best World Cup place.

After the first World Cup victory the Nations cup is lead by Sweden with 321 points ahead of Norway with 296 point s and Germany 221 points.

Number of participants/ participating nations: 58 ladies/16 nations and 77/19 nations

Spectators: 150,000

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Number of Media/TV on site and HBC: 167 Media/ 5 TV on-site / Tilly TV was the HBC

Weather: cloudy, 10,3°C

Snow Conditions: spring conditions

Special remarks:

Course ladies: Height difference: 8m; Maximum climb: 5m; Total climb: 9m, Length of laps: 830m;

Course men: Height difference: 8m; Maximum climb: 5m; Total climb: 18m, Length of laps: 829m/700m;

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.nordicfocus.com

Quotes:

Natalia Matveeva (RUS): "I'm very happy about my today's victory. I like the track here in Duesseldorf and it is always nice to ski here. We had a good preparation this summer for example in Estonia and Finland but unfortunately, I was sometimes ill. So I didn't expect my victory today."

Marit Bjoergen (NOR): "I was strong today but I think was in the Final not so fast at the start. But I'm for sure satisfied with the second place here in Duesseldorf. The atmosphere here is always amazing and hopefully we can come back next season. My summer training was good, not so much as last year especially less slow training sessions. The goals for this season are for sure the Tour and the overall World Cup."

Anna Dahlberg (SWE): "It was a full speed race and that fits me well. It was for me a good kick off and I like very much the atmosphere here in Duesseldorf. After the summer training

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with up and downs, I'm happy the third place. For this season I will try to be on the top three in the Sprint races."

Josef Wenzl (GER): "It was amazing – a very great race. A dream come truth to could fight with the Olympic Champion Bjoern Lind in the Sprint race for the victory.

The spectators today were as well great – we had a good atmosphere and it makes fun to race. Now I will look forward to the next Sprint World Cup races."

Bjoern Lind (SWE): "I'm satisfied with my race. It was tough especially because Josef changed the speed during the final – fast – slow- again fast. That was difficult. I was thinking that I have maybe a chance to overtake him on the final straight but he was still faster. The tracks were well prepared, especially for this spring conditions.

John Kristian Dahl (NOR): "I was a good start for me into the season and it was a tough race. I tried to be offensive and take on. It was very hard but I had fun during the competition. I like the city sprints and the crowd which push us athletes.

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

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