



FIS COMPETITION FACTS – Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country

VISSMANN FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Kuusamo/Ruka (FIN), Sprint C, 1st of December 2007

Majdic and Kjoelstad won the Sprint

Petra Majdic from Slovenia and the Norwegian Johan Kjoelstad won the today's classical Sprint in Kuusamo/Ruka.

For the 27-year old Majdic, it was the fourth World Cup victory and the second victory in Kuusamo after the victory last year in the same type of race. She finished clearly ahead of Astrid Jacobsen (NOR, 1.9) while the third place was taken by Alena Prochazkova (SVK; 4.9), who made the first podium place for a women Cross-Country skier of Slovakia since the independence of that country. Also in the final skied the young Natalia Matveeva (4th), Madoka Natsumi (JPN, 5th) and Evgenia Shapovalova (RUS, 6th).

Marit Bjoergen is still in the lead of the overall World cup, 62 points ahead of Natalia Matveeva and 88 points ahead of Petra Majdic. In the Sprint World Cup, Natalia Matveeva (150 points) is in the lead followed by Marit Bjoergen (112 points) and Petra Majdic (100 points).

After an exciting race on the challenging classical sprint course, Johan Kjoelstad claimed his second World Cup victory. On the second place finished Emil Joensson (SWE), who made with that his second podium place ever in his career. The third place took the Swedish Mats Larsson. The additional places in the A-final were taken by Andrew Newell (USA, 4th), Nikita Kriukov (RUS, 5th) and the 22-year old Kalle Lassila (FIN, 6th).

In the overall World Cup is in the lead Johan Kjoelstad, the winner of the today's race, but just 19 points ahead of Bjoern Lind (SWE) and 24 points ahead of Axel Teichmann (GER), who missed the Finales today. In the Sprint World Cup, Johan Kjoelstad (124 points) and Bjoern Lind (109 points) are on position one and two while Josef Wenzl (100 points), who is injured, is on third place.

The next competitions will be on Sunday, 2nd of December, Individual start 10 km C (ladies) and 15 km C (men) in Kuusamo.



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Number of participants/ participating nations: 65 ladies/21 nations, 82 men/24 nations

Spectators: 5,000

HBC: YLE was the HBC

Weather: partly cloudy, -4°C

Snow Conditions: packed powder

Special remarks:

Course : Height difference: 24m; Maximum climb: 23m; Total climb: 30m, Length of lap: 1,2km;

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:

Petra Majdic (SLO): I was running in the today's race for my aunt Maria. She passed away two days ago – I dedicate this victory to her. It was a perfect race for me. The qualification didn't worked well, it was very slippery. But afterwards, I started to wake up and come better and better into the race during the heats. In the Final I made the tactic like last year, I stand behind and I didn't pushed to hard before the final climb than I attacked. Tomorrow, I will try to make my best performance in the Individual start race but the course here is very hard. My goal is this year to be on the top three in the overall World Cup.

Astrid Jacobsen (NOR): I tried to ski from the top but at the last uphill I had no chance – Petra was faster. But I'm very satisfied with my today's race. If I have a good day maybe I can manage to be under the top ten but at least I will get some World Cup points. I decided to go for the Tour de Ski and I will skip the next weekend and train at home for this competition series.



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Alena Prochazkova (SWE): I'm very surprised – I didn't expect that. I like the track here in Kuusamo, it fits for my style, especially the tough uphill's. I'm the U23 World Champion from the last year's U23 World Championships and for sure I will try to give my best the whole winter season in the World Cup Sprints but also in the distance races.

Johan Kjoelstad (NOR): It is an amazing day! My last time on the podium was in Nove Mesto 2005 – so it is today almost my birthday. I was not so fast in the start and in the uphill I was just skiing behind Emil, I had a good speed there and saw that Emil was getting tired. I will go to Rybinsk and then my dream is to ski the Tour de Ski. If I couldn't manage the qualification I try to be in top shape for the races in Canada.

Emil Joensson (SWE): It was good today. My tactic today was to go fast, it is a special course here with the uphill's and downhill's and this special the final climb. I had perfect skies and with this basic I could make my second World Cup podium. My main goal for this season is to be on the podium at the sprint races and finish the Sprint World Cup on a top position.

Mats Larsson (SWE): It was a very good start into the season. I trained very well during the whole summer and as well in autumn. We are really strong team and help each other. I think that's the reason for our success. I didn't feel that I was fast at the start and that is usually my strength, but then I got power in the downhill and I could make it. We are planning to do a lot of training during the whole World Cup season.

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

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