



FIS COMPETITION FACTS – Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country

VISSMANN FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Davos (SUI), ladies 10 km and men 15 km individual start race, 8th of December 2007

Amazing victory for Kuitunen and Teichmann

The winners of the traditional World Cup race in Davos (SUI) over 10 km (women) and 15 km km (men) in the classical style are Virpi Kuitunen (FIN) and the German Axel Teichmann.

After a sickness, Virpi Kuitunen is back in the FIS World Cup Cross-Country and also back on the top position on the podium. The athlete from Finland claim victory 10,9 seconds ahead of Vibeke Skofterud (NOR). Aino-Kaisa Saarinen and Kristin Steira (NOR) shared the third place, both were 23,5 seconds behind the winner.

In absence of the World Cup leader Marit Bjoergen, Skofterud started strong and was at the first two intermediate times at kilometer 3,3 and 6,8 in the lead but Kuitunen had a stronger finish.

The overall World Cup is still led by Marit Bjoergen with 312 points followed by her team mate Vibeke Skofterud (212 points) and Petra Majdic (SLO, 209 points), who finished in the today's race on 6th place. The distance World Cup is led by three Norwegians: Vibeke Skofterud (210 points), Marit Bjoergen (200 points) and Astrid Jacobsen (120 points).

In the exciting and tight men's race, Alex Teichmann (GER) showed again this strength. He finished 8,8 seconds ahead of the ski veteran Odd-Bjoern Hjelmeset (NOR). The 26-year-old Sami Jauhojaervi (FIN) took the third place 11,3 seconds behind the winner, that is his first podium place ever in his career. For Teichmann, it was the second World Cup victory in this season after his success at the freestyle race over 15 km in Beitostoelen (NOR) two weeks ago.

Teichmann took with this victory the yellow shirt for the leader of the overall World Cup from Lukas Bauer (CZE), who finished in the today's race fourth. Teichmann is leading with 30 points ahead of Bauer. On third position is Eldar Roenning (NOR) 116 points behind the winner.



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This top three are also the top three in the distance World Cup ranking.

The next competitions will be in Davos on Sunday, 9th of December 2007 – relay competitions women and men.

Number of participants/ participating nations: 59 ladies/19 nations

Spectators: 4,500

HBC: SF was the HBC

Weather: cloudy, snowfall, -2,0°C

Snow Conditions: powder

Special remarks:

Course women : Height difference: 58m; Maximum climb: 37m; Total climb: 357m, Length of lap: 3,3 km;

Course men: Height difference: 85m; Maximum climb: 41m; Total climb: 564m, Length of lap: 5 km;

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:

Virpi Kuitunen (FIN): I started slow into the race but I felt good during it. I'm very, very satisfied with my victory in the today's race because I didn't know at the moment where I am after my illness. It is amazing to come back with a victory.

Vibeke Skofterud (NOR): I felt that I started slow but I had a good technique. That was my goal to have continuously a good technique. The last kilometer, I think, it was more mental that I lost so many seconds to Virpi. But I'm very happy to be the leader of the distance World Cup ranking.



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Aino-Kaisa Saarinen (FIN): My first two laps went well but in the last lap it was too tough for me. I'm very happy that I'm back again after my sickness. I'm in a good mood and I'm hoping for the season. I would like to be in the top three of the overall World Cup and the Tour – that are my goals.

Kristin Steira: It was tough in the first round; I didn't feel that I'm going fast but than it went better and better. I had a strong finish and I'm very pleased about that. My goal is now to be in top shape at the Tour de Ski – I'm looking forward to it.

Axel Teichmann (GER): I'm very satisfied with my today's race and my third podium place this season. I started slow but I was able to increase the speed to the end. I will go now to a training camp in the high altitude for eight days to prepare my as good as I can for the Tour de Ski. I will be in top shape there. I hope I will stay healthy.

Odd-Bjoern Hjelmeset (NOR): Two minutes before the start I had not my ski's – I was a little bit afraid of that. But than my ski wax men was coming with it. The first lap was hard because I was stressed, in the second lap I felt better and the third lap was really good. But Axel was really strong. Today, I was number two, Axel was a little bit better, but for the next time I will maybe better... My goal for the season is to win some classical races, today was one of it but I didn't manage it, but Otepää, Lahti and Drammen should fit for me.

Sami Jauhojaervi (FIN): The first three kilometer I was not pushing very hard because I was afraid to get a high lactate, but than I had a good feeling and I start pushing. It was much double poling today and that fit's me well. I had a little bit bad grip on the skis. It was quite much people compare to last season here in Davos that makes a good atmosphere.

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

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