
FIS COMPETITION FACTS

e.on Ruhrgas FIS World Cup Ski Jumping

Thomas Morgenstern starts 56th Four-Hills-Tournament with a win **Dec, 30th 2007/hn**

Top favourite Thomas Morgenstern from Austria has won the first competition of the 56th Jack Wolfskin Four-Hill Tournament in Oberstdorf(GER) today.

Morgenstern received 295.9 points for jumps to 136,5 and 141,5 meters. That brought the dominating jumper of the winter the clear win, 15.2 points ahead of the second, Austrian Gregor Schlierenzauer.

Last years winner from Oberstdorf, Schlierenzauer ended with jumps to 136 and 130,5 meters (280.7 points) on a great second place. Janne Ahonen (130.5 and 137 meters / 279 points) from Finland finished third.

Morgenstern now leads not only clear in the e.on Ruhrgas FIS World Cup Ski Jumping overall with 760 points ahead of Gregor Schlierenzauer (509 points) but of course in the overall of the 56. Four-Hills Tournament as well.

Sigurd Pettersen: "I was ill during the last days, it was some kind of virus. So I did not have too many concerns about my performance today. Because of the illness I am not in my best form. But I do not want to complain too much, I just hope that I will make progress during the next competitions."

Manuel Fettner: "This jump was not the best. Obviously it was not supposed to be my day today, but we still have three competitions during this tournament. At one time it will work out in any case."

Michael Uhrmann: "I did not jump well yesterday and this jump also was not good enough to reach the final. Of course I am disappointed, but it can't always work well. I already experienced good things this winter, when it was better than I expected, but now it did not work out. I did not jump well and made some mistakes during take-off, now I have to try and make it better. We still have three competitions left and I try to improve at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. But I am happy, that the other two had good jumps so far."

Severin Freund: "I can be very happy, I got my first point in the world-cup at my first start at the tournament. I was able to build up upon my performances from yesterday's qualification. My second jump today was not so good, so I am where I am."

Georg Späth: "I expected a little bit more. My first jump today was not so good, the second one was quite okay. Of course it was not like the one that I had during practice, and I cannot be totally happy with this competition. Anyway, it could have been worse. I reached the final and could score points. It is important to reach the final even in a competition where you are not so good. I achieved that. With my practice-jump we could see that I can compete with the top. Of course I am a bit upset, but the feeling is not so bad."

Andreas Küttel: "It was a great first competition, but unfortunately I could not take part in the decision. But I think I did a good first step and we still have three competitions with six jumps left. I am really "hot" to jump at this tournament. I did not have perfect jumps and the conditions weren't that good, with that you lose ten meters."

Roar Ljøkelsøy: "The feeling comes back slowly, but this was no tone of my best competition in this season. I think will work soon, because I had the same problems last year and I managed them. I will come back to my top level."

Martin Schmitt: "I am quite satisfied. The competition was quite okay,

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although my second jump was not so good. I have to admit that. I was quite late at the table and that cost me a few meters. I would not mind if I could continue like that. My form is getting more and more stable, I will continue to work on that in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and I am confident, that the results will come."

Simon Amman: "It was not the perfect result. I was quite good at the table, but then the push was missing. I have to keep working. The competition was quite solid, but it was not too convincing."

Adam Malysz: "Somehow I have not been in a good mood today, I don't know why. Yesterday I would have been able to beat the Austrians, but it will not be possible if it goes on like today."

Michael Neumayer: "In the first round I was lucky and I could use the good conditions. My second jump was quite good. I am really very satisfied with 7th place. I had hoped to reach 10th oder 11th place and so I am very happy. It was a good competition. I am realistic, but the topguys are quite far away and I have to see what I can achieve. I am looking forward to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, it is a completely new hill and I don't know it, but my feeling is quite good."

Janne Ahonnen: "My two jumps today were quite okay but I was not on the same level as Morgenstern and Schlierenzauer. But I still hope, that one day I will be as strong again as they are. My second jump was almost the same as the first one, but I was a bit lucky. It was not the perfect jump."

Gregor Schlierenzauer: "I am really happy with second place. In my second jump I did not have the best conditions. But I am really happy to know that I belong to the best jumpers in the world."

Thomas Morgenstern: "That was the perfect jump, the best, that I had this season so far - just great! I was pushed up not only underneath the tops of my skis but over their whole length, and my balance was really good - unbelievable! To win all competitions? A good question. I know that I jump very well, but the most important thing is the next competition in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. After that, we will see."

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

All results in detail can be found on <http://www.fis-ski.com/>

Kind regards

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