
FIS COMPETITION FACTS

WC Kuusamo FIS World Cup Nordic Combined

FIS World Cup Nordic Combined in Kuusamo (FIN), November, 30th 2007

Ackermann wins, Spillane 2nd, Bieler 3rd

Ronny Ackermann from Germany could gain the victory in the first competition of the new World Cup season in Kuusamo, Finland. The German won in front of Johnny Spillane from the US and Christoph Bieler of Austria.

Leading after the jumping, Daito Takahashi, who badly crashed during the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships last year in Sapporo and was injured for the rest of the season, could not hold on to his lead and finished eleventh in the end. Ackermann was sixth after jumping, Spillane 13th and Bieler tenth.

With his victory today, Ronny Ackermann is also now leading the overall World Cup ranking with 100 points in front of Johnny Spillane (80points) and Christoph Bieler (60points)

The Nation Cup ranking is now lead by Germany with 180 points in front of Austria (135 points) and the USA (116 points).

The next competition (Sprint) will be tomorrow at the same place (10.00 jumping, 14.00 cross country, Finnish time).

Number of participants/ participating nations: 45/11

Spectators: 3.000

Number of Media/TV on site and HBC: 110 media (print (52) and photo (57)), 9TV, HBC: Yle

Weather: cloudy, -7°C (Cross Country); -5 (SJ)

Snow Conditions: compact

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Special Remarks:

DNS: Thampson (CAN), Kokslien (NOR)

DSQ: Klapfer (AUT)

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.menzipics.ch/info/indexfisevents.html

Quotes:

Ronny Ackermann (GER): "I am really really happy to have been able to become first today. I definitely didn't expect it. Over the last two years I tried to change my jumping technique and this year I also changes my skiing technique and I wasn't sure how it will work out. My jumps were already pretty good and skiing felt great so I just went for it. I hope I can show this kind of performance more often during the season and get consistent into the top 10. I don't want to say that for example the yellow bib is my main goal this season. The season is very long and we have many competitions. Of course I like the feeling of wearing yellow again, but if I can stay consistent in the top, I might also be able to still wear it at the end the season! Now I am looking forward to the competition tomorrow and we will see how it goes then."

Johnny Spillane (USA): "I am happy and satisfied. Yes, maybe you can say it is a great comeback. Over the last years I had many injuries to fight and if I jumped well, I skied bad or the other way round. I knew that I am in a good jumping shape at the moment and that also my cross country preparation in summer was really good, but I didn't expect to get straight back on the podium! It is a really nice feeling and gives me a lot of confidence and motivation. My team mate Billy's silver medal in Sapporo last year was a great motivation for both of us and because he is a really good skier and also a good jumper it is great to train

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with him – we are pushing each other and that is what is needed to get better and better. I hope that I can show good jumps and a great race tomorrow again!”

Christoph Bieler (GER): “After my second jump which was pretty bad, I thought that was it. But the race went so well for me that I ended up on the podium and therefore I am really really happy. All the years before, I thought I need to be on the top in jumping to be capable of a podium place but now I know that I can also come over skiing if my jumps weren’t that good. That gives me a lot of confidence. I trained a little bit different in cross country this year and I think it pays off. I hope I can stay on top in jumping again this season but also that I can keep this level of skiing up until the end of the season. After Felix retired last year, many people asked who will be the new leader of the team and some might think that after today that would be me, but our team is together in this formation more or less for 10 years and there are many guys who are able to come on the podium so I think we do not need a leader, we are good as a team!”

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

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