
FIS COMPETITION FACTS

WC Ramsau FIS World Cup Nordic Combined

FIS World Cup Nordic Combined in Ramsau (AUT), December, 15th 2007

Kircheisen wins, Gruber 2nd, Tande 3rd

Björn Kircheisen from Germany could gain his second victory of the season with winning the Mass Start event in Ramsau, Austria. He won in front of Bernhard Gruber from Austria and Petter Tande from Norway.

Leading after the cross country race, Bill Demong from the USA could not hold on to his lead and finished tenth after two jumps of 86,5m and 93m. Kircheisen was fifth after the Mass Start race, Gruber ninth and Tande sixth. Sebastian Haseney (GER) had the fastest race time, but due to the additional bonus sprint, Bill Demong won the race.

This Mass Start event was the first one this winter in which the bonus sprints were awarded. The first sprint was won by Björn Kircheisen in front of Magnus Moan (NOR) and Johnny Spillane (USA). The second sprint went to Magnus Moan before Bill Demong (USA), Sebastian Haseney (GER), David Kreiner (AUT), Johnny Spillane and Tino Edelmann (GER). The third sprint got awarded to Bill Demong then Sebastian Haseney and last to Ronny Ackermann (GER).

In total, both, Moan and Demong got 10 bonus points, Kircheisen 7, Haseney 6, Spillane 3 and both Ackermann and Edelmann 1 bonus point.

With his victory today, Björn Kircheisen could overtake Ronny Ackermann (GER) in the overall World Cup ranking and is now leading it with 334 points in front of Ackermann (291 points) and Christoph Bieler (264 points) who got sixth today.

The Nation Cup ranking is still lead by Germany with now 909 points in front of Austria (784 points) and Finland (430 points).

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Hannu Manninen still has the flue which is why he stays at home this weekend and will compete again in Oberhof. Anssi Koivuranta had some problems with a stomach virus at the beginning of the week and had also to resign from the competition. He hopes to be able to compete tomorrow.

The next competition (Hurricane Sprint) will be tomorrow at the same place (12:00 jumping, 14.30 cross country).

Number of participants/ participating nations: 40/12

Spectators: 1.000 (XC), 1.000 (SJ)

Number of Media/TV on site and HBC: 50 media (print (22) and photo (28)), 3TV, HBC: ORF

Weather: cloudy, -8°C (SJ); -5 (XC)

Snow Conditions: compact

Special Remarks:

DNS: Koivuranta (FIN), Dvorak (CZE)

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:

Björn Kircheisen (GER): "I was sick during the week and did almost nothing regarding training. I knew that the Mass Start will be a hard event and that the bonus sprint will take even some more energy, but skiing felt quite good so I went for it. I knew that I could win this competition because I know what I am able to show in jumping as well as in cross country

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skiing. I was a bit nervous in the first round and I knew that I had to give everything in the second round in order to win today. I am very happy that I could show it. Having the yellow bib back after five years is fantastic – a dream comes true for me. I hope that I will also have it after tomorrow. It would be a wonderful Christmas present.”

Bernhard Gruber (AUT): “To have the ninth time in a Mass Start was already a great start into the competition today. With this place I had a good starting position in the jumping which I knew was my better part. So I really looked forward to the jumping. The first jump was on the limit and a bit too flat so I had to work hard to get the jump in the air and fly far. The second jump was gigantic! I made a Telemark landing which the jury obviously didn't see, I. However, I am really satisfied and hope that I can show such a good competition again tomorrow!”

Petter Tande (NOR): “I didn't do much regarding training before I came here. I just needed to relax and seemingly it worked out. Already the race worked really well. It was a tight race and also the jumping became very tight so that it was a fantastic and very interesting competition. I hoped for a podium and am therefore even happier that it worked out! I didn't really have a tactic in the Mass Start. Of course the bonus sprints are interesting but I just wanted to race in my own speed which I did. I guess it was the best way that worked for me.”

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

Contact for further information:

Christina Fritz
PR and Media Coordinator FIS World Cup Nordic Combined
Mobile: + 49-179-2156756
E-Mail: fritz@fisski.ch, nkpresse@gmx.net