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## **FIS COMPETITION FACTS**

### **WC Zakopane FIS World Cup Nordic Combined**

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FIS World Cup Nordic Combined in Zakopane (POL), February, 24th 2008

**Gruber wins, Schmid, T. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Demong 3<sup>rd</sup>**

After yesterday's cancellation of the Mass Start event, Bernhard Gruber was the happy first in the Sprint today. He won his first World Cup in front of Tommy Schmid (SUI), for whom it was the first podium in his young career – he will compete in the Junior World Ski Championships which are held next weekend also in Zakopane – and Bill Demong (USA) who could close the gap a little bit between him and World Cup leader Ronny Ackermann (GER). Schmid, who in contrast to his brother Jan, who is now starting for Norway, is still competition for Switzerland. Both his parents are Swiss, but the family lives in Norway and both brothers were born in Norway.

Leading after the jumping, David Zauner from Austria was not able to hold on to his lead and finished twelfth in the end. Gruber was second after jumping, Schmid seventh and Demong 21<sup>st</sup>. With the best racing time of the day, the American made a huge move when skiing from 21 to third.

Ronny Ackermann, who got eleventh today, is still leading the overall World Cup with now 1040 points in front of Bill Demong (841 points) and Petter Tande (NOR, 733 points).

The overall Sprint Cup is still lead by Jason Lamy Chappuis (FRA, 495 points) despite his 34<sup>th</sup> place today. Only one point behind is Ronny Ackermann (494 points) and the winner of today, Bernhard Gruber, can be found on the third position with 437 points.

The Nation Cup ranking is still lead by Germany with now 2940 points in front of Austria (2321 points) and Norway (1847 points).

The next competition (IG) will be in Lahti (FIN) next Friday (29<sup>th</sup> Feb.).

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Number of participants/ participating nations: 47/12

Spectators: 500 (SJ), 1000 (XC)

Number of Media/TV on site and HBC: 10 media (print (5) and photo (5)), 2TV, HBC: Polish TV

Weather: cloudy +5°C (SJ) , +9°C , sunny (XC)

Snow Conditions: powder

Special Remarks:

DNS (XC): Beetz, T. (GER), Kircheisen (GER), Haseney (GER)

DNF: Koivuranta (FIN)

#### **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](http://www.nordicfocus.com).

#### **Quotes:**

**Bernhard Gruber (AUT):** "It is an amazing day for me! Finally I made my first World Cup victory! I had a very good jump on the hill which was really god prepared for the conditions we had here. I felt very good in the cross country skiing race. I didn't start very fast into the race but got faster and faster by each round. I had to race alone for most of the time but I tried hard to keep the distance between me and the other racers behind me. The track was very soft and sometimes you sunk in quite a bit, but I could win my first World Cup and I am very happy!"

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**Tommy Schmid (SUI):** “I have never dreamed that I could get onto the podium here! I had fantastic jump on the hill which brought me into seventh place after jumping. The OC worked pretty hard on the cross country track and it looked much better than yesterday when it was impossible to hold a competition on it. It seems to have been my day. I tried to always ski behind someone which worked pretty well. When I then saw my chance in the last lap, I thought ‘Why not – just go for it’ and I went. Bill and Petter were in front of me and I know they are really good skiers, but I felt good and made the move. It was the best move I could have made and I ended up on the podium for the first time in my life! It’s incredible!”

**Bill Demong (USA):** “I woke up this morning feeling sick so I didn’t hope for much today. I went to the hill and thought about just having a look how it goes. I ended up 21<sup>st</sup> after jumping but felt better so I decided to ski. I felt better and better during the race therefore I got faster after a very slow start. In the whole it was a very good competition with fair wind for everyone and I am pretty satisfied and of course happy to be on the podium again. I have also gained some valuable points in the overall World Cup and could close the gap between me and Ronny a bit!”

For complete results please visit [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)

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