

Swiss Double: Ammann wins ahead of Kuettel

The Swiss Simon Ammann won the "e.on-Ruhrgas" FIS World Cup Ski Jumping competition in Lillehammer (Nor) ahead of his teammate Andreas Kuettel and the Austrian Double Olympic Champion Thomas Morgenstern.

Ammann, the Double Olympic Champion from Salt Lake City 2002, jumped on 128,5 and 138 m and got the total score of 265,9 points. Kuettel, the last year's winner in Lillehammer, got 260,6 points (129,5/133,5 m). Morgenstern, who fell the day before in the qualification, got 258,0 points (126,5/134,5 m).

Ammann won for the second time a World Cup competition in his career. The first one was more than four and a half years ago in Oslo/Holmenkollen 2002. It was the 11th World Cup victory for a Swiss jumper. Kuettel claimed for the 9th time the podium. After 3 first places and 5 third places this was the first second place for him. Ammann and Kuettel did the first Swiss Double victory in the World Cup history. Morgenstern stood for the 17th time on an individual World Cup podium, the 6th time on the 3rd position.

On the newly renovated hill, the K-point changed from 120 to 123 m and the Hill Size from 134 to 138 m, the Junior World Champion Gregor Schlierenzauer, 4th place in his second World Cup competition, improved the hill record on 141 m in the final round; then the Norwegian Anders Jacobsen (10th) jumped on 142 m but touched the snow with the hands after the landing.

There were quite difficult tail wind conditions. Therefore the competition had to be interrupted from time to time to provide for all jumpers fair conditions. The audience was approx. 1000.

Statements of the top three athletes

Simon Ammann: "I did only my 10th and 11th snow jump here in Lillehammer. But this didn't matter because we had a really good last training on plastic at the hill of Einsiedeln three weeks ago. Therefore I knew that I was in good shape. I didn't jump the day before in training and qualification because I preferred to do a physical training to get the right muscle tension for the competition. Andreas and me wrote history here in Lillehammer because we did the first Swiss double victory in World Cup."

Andreas Kuettel: "We have a strong team and even when we have only two coaches with us we can do a good work. We knew before the season that we are on the good side from the technical point of view and also from the equipment. We did a good job during the whole summer and we have for seven years now a good co-operation with our coach Berni Schoedler. I didn't jump so many jumps on snow because often the conditions were bad. It makes more sense to do two good jumps in training than six bad ones. Already in summer we were talking about if it would be possible to be together on the podium. And Simon and me planned to do some funny things. That we did here in Lillehammer. I like this hill. When I can find the right position in the inrun then I know that I can do long jumps."

Thomas Morgenstern: "I like the hill but I know it as a really perfect hill. I don't want to complain even when I fell the day before. The whole organising staff did a good job to prepare the hill for this competition. It was difficult for me because I was little bit unsure after my crash. I didn't know exactly how to handle the landing. I was too much thinking."

Results: www.fis-ski.com

Best regards

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