
FIS COMPETITION FACTS

WC Kuusamo FIS World Cup Nordic Combined

FIS World Cup Nordic Combined in Kuusamo (FIN), December, 1st 2007

Kircheisen wins, Manninen 2nd, Demong 3rd

Björn Kircheisen from Germany could gain first place in the second competition of this year's World Cup. He followed his team mate Ronny Ackermann, who won yesterday and got fourth today, onto the podium. Behind Kircheisen, Hannu Manninen from Finland, who could only take an unfortunate 18th place yesterday, became second. Bill Demong from the USA concluded the trio on the podium.

Leading after the jumping, Bernhard Gruber from Austria could not hold on to his lead and finished seventh in the end. Kircheisen was eighth after jumping, Manninen 17th and Demong tenth. With the fastest cross country skiing time, Manninen could place himself in the very top.

Despite his fourth place today, Ronny Ackermann is still leading the overall World Cup with now 150 points in front of Johnny Spillane (USA, 120 points) and Björn Kircheisen (GER, 118 points).

The Nation Cup ranking is still lead by Germany with now 372 points in front of Finland (259 points) and Austria (226 points).

The next competition (IG) will be on Saturday, 8th of December in Trondheim (NOR). Please find more information on the competition on the FIS webpage.

Number of participants/ participating nations: 45/11

Spectators: 5.000

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

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Weather: clear sky, -12°C (Cross Country); -8 (SJ)

Snow Conditions: compact

Special Remarks:

DNS: Kokslien (NOR, SJ), Tallus (FIN, XC)

DNF: Thompson (CAN)

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): "This was a really great day for me! Yesterday it was not so easy especially because I had some problems with my jumping. But today I think I could show the best jump I had during the last two weeks here in Finland. I felt pretty confident before the race, but when my coaches told me that Hannu was just only 10seconds behind me before the last uphill I started working really really to fight him off and luckily it worked out. The last round had been very fast so I had to take all the energy out of me which I had left. Before Ruka I had the goal to get under the top 10 both times and that I am now on the top spot of the podium is even better! Next weekend is Trondheim and I really like the hill there. I could already win at that place a couple of times and it would of course be nice to win there again. But firstly I hope to be able to show such a good competition as I did today. The season is long so it is hard to tell where I will stand at the end."

Hannu Manninen (FIN): "I am so happy to be on the podium again, especially after yesterday's competition which was pretty bad. I could find out what was the fault with my jumping yesterday and I could change my technique in that way today, that I had a much better jump. I think it was the best I had in Ruka this winter. I knew from yesterday that I am

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in a good cross country shape, but because I had some cramps during the race yesterday and could not go full speed the whole time I also knew that I could do better than this. So I was pretty confident that I could make it on the podium if nothing happens. When I caught the first ones, I lost my rhythm for a moment and there was a gap again, but I could make it back again. Maybe, if the track would have been some hundred meters longer, I might have been first, but this is just a speculation. I am very happy about the second place and I am looking forward to Trondheim next weekend where we will come back to after some years of absence due to the lack of snow.”

Bill Demong (USA): “That was a really good race today. Unfortunately my legs didn’t let me stay with Hannu und Björn in the end, because they were too tired. However, I am happy about the third place. With Johnny being second yesterday and me third today, I think we also made a very good performance for our small team from the US. I hope it motivates the others at home to make it up to here and compete with us. I am especially happy because it is just my fifth podium ever, so it is still special for me to be there. Johnny and me, we did a lot of cross country training as well as cycling during the summer as well as some races which was a very good preparation for the winter. The opening of the season was unbelievable good for us two and I know that I still have some minor things to work on so I hope to get even better throughout the season. Where I will end up I don’t know yet, but I hope somewhere in the top!”

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

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