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"e.on Ruhrgas" FIS World Cup Ski Jumping Competition Facts Kuusamo (FIN)



First World Cup victory for Arttu Lappi

There were two newcomers on the podium at the start of the "e.on-Ruhrgas" FIS World Cup Ski Jumping season 2006/2007 in Kuusamo (Fin): Arttu Lappi (Fin) won the competition, which was held in only one round, with 154,8 points and a jump on 141 m. Behind the new World Cup winner the Double Olympic champion Simon Ammann (Sui) was second (145,7 points/136,5 m). Third in his first World Cup start ever was the 21-year old Norwegian Anders Jacobsen.

Arttu Lappi (22), who was hurted two seasons before, started for the 30th time in a World Cup. One week after he won his first Finnish Championship gold medal in Vuokatti he claimed the top of the podium. The best result so far for the Team World Champion 2003 in the World Cup was the 8th place 2002 in Lathi (Fin). Simon Ammann stood for the 9th time in his career on a World Cup podium. For the 6th time he was second. The last time he was among the top three was 2004 in Oslo where he was second as well. The 21-year old Anders Jacobsen was the surprising man of the day. But already the day before he did the longest jump in training when he landed on 144,5 m.

Even Jacobsen did so well he was not the best ranked athlete, who wasn't prequalified for the competition (Top 15 of the last World Cup). The new introduced award "Manner Man of the day", went to the winner Arttu Lappi. Beside of 30000 Swiss francs for the victory he got 2000 Euro and big hazelnut waffle as "Man of the day".

There were very difficult weather conditions. The qualification, which was postponed the day before, had to be changed to a trial round. Then the Jury canceled even the trial round and let start the whole field of 67 athletes. In the first round the conditions became worse and worsen. Specifically the last eight jumpers had not only to handle a difficult inrun track they also had stronger tail wind than the others. So it was understandable that the Jury decided to cancel the final round and to count this one round as final result. The World Cup contender Jakub Janda (Cze) was one of the "victims" and was in the end only on the 52nd place.

The audience was approx. 8000

Quotes of the top three athletes:

Arttu Lappi: "I have to thank my coach Jarkko Saapunki, who told the whole time that I'm able to win. Never before I did such a hard training as I did during the last summer. Therefore I didn't compete so much. I was very confident before the qualification jump than I landed already after 60 m. The jump was bad and I was happy that I got a second chance. I had three good jumps here in Kuusamo."

Simon Ammann: "I'm surprised that I'm second after my 6th snow jump only I did in this winter. But I already jumped well the last week on plastic in Einsiedeln. Then I had no problem to adapt on the ice track. But already since I started with the training in spring I was in a good shape. I proved this with my first victory in summer. It was a challenge today because there were so hard weather conditions. But all three athletes, who are on the podium, jumped already well the day before in the training."

Anders Jacobsen: "I came to Kuusamo with a good self-confidence. I did already good jumps at home during the training. Here I came up from zero to everything. Therefore I'm very happy. I had good conditions. I was aware for the take-off because I knew for the trial round that we had a little less speed. Therefore I did well again."

Results: www.fis-ski.com

Best regards

Kurt Henauer

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