

First victory of Clément on home soil !

Newsletter February 9th 2020

What an amazing atmosphere to welcome the return of the Alpine Skiing World Cup to the Chamonix Valley! A 624 metre-long piste with a totally revamped finish area. All 40,000 of the free tickets allocated to the public over the two days of the races have been snapped up, the skies are blue and the crowds of French, Belgian, Swiss and other spectators are here along with the connoisseurs, lovers and super fans of skiing.

The 67 racers out of the starting gate this morning faced an extremely challenging piste. Recent weather conditions had made it very icy with the additional challenge of a piste prepared using artificial snow.

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The first run was laid out by the Russian J Hladnik, including some difficult lines for speed racing which helped the French racers come away with a 2nd place for Clément Noël and a 4th place for Alexis Pinturault. There was less success for the leader of the individual general classification, Henrik Kirstoffersen (NOR), who had to pull out after he straddled the two final gates of the course. The man on top form at the moment is the Daniel Yule from Switzerland, the current leader in the World Cup Slalom who made his mark on the first run cheered on by a horde of supporters.

The second run turned out to be just as complicated as the first, with the beautifully set course by the Austrian trainer Martin Kroisleitner being much affected by light and shadow, which made it difficult to read and resulted in a large number of skiers crashing out, including the winner of the first run, Daniel Yule.

The young skiers shamelessly seized upon the opportunity that the conditions presented and today the podium spots were reserved for the under 24's. **Adrian Pertl (AUT)** had already made unbelievable improvements at Kitzbühel and the Austrian took 9th place in the first run in bib number 37 and finally slid into a 3rd place in this his 7th World Cup race after a difficult 2019 season. *" I had the fastest time in the 2nd run at Kitzbühel and that was crazy. Today as I crossed the finish line I once again felt like I'd put in a good performance but I didn't realise quite how good it was. I am really happy with the way this month is going and the results are above and beyond what I had hoped for."*

Even more spectacularly, **Timon Haugan (NOR)**, 11th after the first run in bib number 33, took his first world cup podium place with a superb 2nd place, not bad for someone with a track record including 12th place in Kitzbühel and just one victory in the European cup! *"I really attacked both runs and I'm happy with the skiing that I produced. I did just as I do in my training. We have an unbelievable group and we really push ourselves to the limit."*

Long awaited, much in demand and cheered on by the crowd during the whole of his descent was **Clément Noël (FRA)** who gave the spectators just what they wanted by winning, for the first time in his young, but already very full career, a victory on home ground in France! It's a performance that puts him in second place overall, only 2 points behind Henrik Kristoffersen. *" I told myself yesterday that there are only 4 slaloms left and that if I was to win one it was this one. It's a classic and it's in France. It's unusual and difficult to win a world cup race anyway and to win one in France where there are only one or two races a year is a real challenge. To hear the national anthem with all the crowd singing along was completely insane. The public is really behind the whole French team and whilst I would still have been delighted with the win on its own, it made me really happy to have been able to share this moment with all the spectators."*

1st Clément NOEL FRANCE in 1 :41.47

2nd Timon HAUGAN NORVEGE in 1:41.68

3rd Adrian PERTL AUTRICHE in 1 :41.78

A word from Fred Comte, the director of Chamonix Sports Club : *"I am a very happy event director. A successful race means a good sporting result, a sense of public jubilation and a party atmosphere. These objectives were all met. We succeeded in preparing a high quality piste for these events. To see such a huge crowd for the first time in the finish area, all so happy with this superb victory from Clément Noël and to know that the party will continue long into the night and that we can expect another great event tomorrow, means that the weekend is already a success. We can look forward to another day of great skiing and suspense with the parallel tomorrow."*

A word from Michel Vion, president of the French Ski Federation : *“It is a real pleasure to be here on home soil in Chamonix! We all dream of having a day like this when the sun shines and the spectators come out in force! There was an enormous amount of work put into creating the piste and the teams have worked tirelessly to achieve this as the weather conditions over the last few days were not in our favour. It is a wonderful event, for both the organisers here and the French Ski Federation which is a stakeholder in this weekend. Well done to Chamonix for hosting this major event!”*

[Download the official results](#)

All the pictures and videos of the day on <https://www.chamonixworldcup.com/fr/photos-videos/2020>

[Download the FIS press release](#)

Website : www.chamonixworldcup.com



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