

Winning duo for Switzerland!

Newsletter February 10th 2020

Michel Vion, President of the Fédération Française de ski summed up this 20th Kandahar event perfectly. *"If you been asked to imagine the ideal scenario for the return of the World Cup to Chamonix, you would have described exactly what happened this weekend - amazing weather, a perfectly prepared piste despite the recent weather conditions, 40,000 spectators over the last two days, fan clubs and devotees who positively set the finish area alight with emotion and a victory for a Frenchman! A new chapter has now been written in the beautiful story that is the Kandahar. The co-authors of its latest success are many – the investment of the Rhône Alpes and Haute Savoie regions and of the Communauté des Communes, combined with sheer hard work and valley-wide enthusiasm for the event. It is also thanks to the passion of the fans in France and throughout the world and the faith shown by the FIS and the FFS as well as the contributions of so many others. It is a story that first began in 1948 and to which we can now look forward to adding many new chapters in the future."* The next instalment is already planned with the 2021 Kandahar race returning to the valley on the 30 and 31 January 2021.

[>> Watch the highlight of the day](#)

[Download pictures \(copyright required\)](#)

[Official results](#)

[Kandahar official website](#)



It was going to be a long day for the 54 racers taking part in the parallel giant slalom on this piste that had been specially designed for the race. They battled it out in the 9am qualifiers over two identical 320m runs (measured by GPS) reducing the field to the 32 racers who would take part in the finals at 13.15pm.

Just as with the incredibly popular slalom event on Saturday, the 20,000 free places available to the public for Sunday ran out a few days ago. For those supporters who were there from the morning to cheer on the athletes there was plenty to entertain them with performances, a concert and refreshment stands etc.

Two of the much-awaited stars, Daniel Yule (SUI) and Clément Noël (FRA) went out on the very same run in the qualifiers. As for Alexis Pinturault (FRA), after his disappointment on the slalom he made his intentions very clear with a nice third place, whilst Henrik Kristoffersen (NOR) secured his place in the final with a fine second run. To the overwhelming delight of the crowds four French skiers managed to obtain places in the final.

None of them however made it to the top spots, leaving that honour instead to their Swiss 'neighbours'. *"This is a young discipline and a chance for some of the skiers you wouldn't expect to shine and show us their different skills. From a French perspective this includes skiers like Cyprien Sarrazin, Clara Dizez or Thibault Favrot who impressed us again with a fine 6th place today"* explains Fabien Saguez Directeur Technique National du Ski Français.

It was an opportunity seized by **Thomas Tumler (SUI)** even though he already had world cup podium under his belt. *"The piste was magnificent and the crowd unbelievable. I had a difficult start to the season where I really had to find my motivation, but the spectators gave me a great boost which I will certainly carry with me into the next events."*

It was the same for **Alexander Schmid (GER)** who completed the podium line up having won the small final against the excellent Tommy Ford (USA – winner of the Giant Slalom in Beaver Creek) and who delighted a German camp that has been a bit starved of results in the technical events this year. *"I like the parallel, I think it's a really cool discipline. There are different rules, it's a totally different thing, but as long as I can share the podium with Loïc, as we did in the last race, then I'm really proud to be there as well."*

Although much was expected of skier Daniel Yule (SUI) this weekend, the race went to another Swiss skier who is also on top form at the moment and who narrowly missed the top spot in Garmisch last week with a 2nd place in the giant. It was therefore heartening to see **Loïc Meillard (SUI)** who has finished on the podium five times, 'finally' ski to victory in a world cup race. He is the young technical prodigy who was injured last year. He has now secured his place in Kandahar history and will forever remember the Verte at Les Houches as the piste where he had his 'first time'.

A word from Fred Comte, the Director of the Chamonix Sports Club :

"We are really fortunate that all the hard work that was put into the event was rewarded with the opportunity to experience two such exceptional days. We are pleased to see that the size and scale of the works were just right and completely met the needs of the event. We now have an asset that allows us to organise world cup events very efficiently. There is only one thing we want to do now and that is to take all the lessons from this year to help us organise an even more unforgettable world cup event in 2021!"

A word from Fabien Saguez, Directeur Technique National du Ski Français :

"The whole event was a very moving experience for all the staff, the racers and the public. We are all really excited and happy to see Kandahar now ranking amongst the most classic ski races both in terms of the quality of the event and the public's sheer enthusiasm for it."

1st Loic MEILLARD SUI
2nd Thomas TUMLER SUI
3rd Alexander SCHMID GER
4th Tommy FORD USA
5th Zan KRANJEC SLO
6th Thibault FAVROT FRA
7th Aleksander Aamodt KILDE NOR
8th Simon MAURBERGER ITA

[Download the official results](#)

Find all the pictures and videos of the day on:

<https://www.chamonixworldcup.com/fr/photos-videos/2020>

[Download FIS press release](#)

Site web : www.chamonixworldcup.com



Pour toute demande de visuels ou d'informations complémentaires,
n'hésitez pas à nous contacter contact@linkscom.fr ou +334 50 91 41 08.
Ou directement dans l'espace presse de notre site web : [espace presse](#)

