

The toughest year

The Olympic Games in 1994 was a huge success. The question was: how would “life” be after 1994? Svein Mundal, who was sitting at the centre of the Alpine Executive Board in FIS, had made sure the World Cup in Kvitfjell was on the map in 1995 as well. The loud cheers of joy from 1994 were gone, and “everyday life” had returned in the Lillehammer area.



► 25 years later (2020) the winner of the DH Kyle Rasmussen (USA, left), the chief of race Svein Mundal and the winner of the 2DH in Kvitfjell in 2000, meet in Wengen (SUI). Photo Stine Mundal. Small picture: Atle Skårdal in action. Foto: Tor Richardsen / NTBscanpix

The World Cup event in 1995, was tough and challenging. Athletically speaking, everything was good, but if you compare the Olympics with the World Cup, the frameworks surrounding the events are like night and day. Consequently, the World Cup in 1995 was quite the Blue Monday.

Leading up to the World Cup in 1995, the media were characterized by a lot of arguing. Arguing about the use of the remaining funds and the future of Kvitfjell. To paint a picture of the arguments at the time, we will quote the words of mayor of Ringebu, Erik S. Winther, on 28th of January 1995: “Kvitfjell appears as a partly plucked arena after the Olympics. We thought we would get alpine facilities at the highest World Cup level. Now, we have to invest an additional 500.000 kr to be able to host the World Cup in March”

In other words: not the best lead-up to the World Cup event in Kvitfjell this year. However, organizers were prepared for the athletic challenges. Because of cancellations earlier in the season, FIS wanted 4 races to be organized the prevailing weekend. Super-G on Friday, 2X Downhill on Saturday, and Super-G again on Sunday. On Friday, the Super-G went according to plan, and the Italian Werner Perathoner won the race. Atle Skårdal, who came in 12th, was the best Norwegian

racer. On Saturday, the first Downhill race was stopped after 37 racers, and was annulled by FIS. The other race went according to the plan. Kyle Rasmussen from the USA won. The best Norwegian racer was Atle Skårdal, who came in 12th. The Super-G on Sunday was cancelled due to difficult weather conditions. The number of spectators was far from the year before. When the weather gods failed to cooperate as well, it was tough. Talk about a downturn compared to the amazing days of 1994.

In addition to the prior arguments, disappointing numbers of spectators, and cancelled races, a financial downturn was also at hand in 1995: a deficit of almost a million kroner! After the races in 1995 there was a gathering at the lowest point. Optimism among the organizers and owners was still there, but it was now important to focus on the future and the experience gained in 1995.

- We learned a lot from this event, the head of the organizing committee, Thor Erik Taraldsen, sums it up. Already on the 1st of June the same year, there was a positive boost. It became clear that both Hafjell Alpine Centre and Kvitfjell Alpine Resort was awarded the World Cup finals in 1996. There was no way but up from there...

Results, 1995 men

SG: Werner Perathoner, Italy. Kristian Ghedina, Italy. Kyle Rasmussen, USA

DH: Kyle Rasmussen, USA. Kristian Ghedina, Italy. Patrick Ortlieb, Austria