



► No one has more victories in Kvitfjell than Hermann Maier. Foto: Cornelius Poppe og Tor Richardsen / SCANPIX

Maier the greatest

Throughout 25 years in Kvitfjell, there are two alpine skiers who stand out athletically: Kjetil Jansrud and Hermann Maier. Maier is listed with a total of five victories. And in 2005, it was all about Maier. Both on Saturday and on Sunday.

Maier has on several occasions proclaimed that he loves it in Kvitfjell. In his home country everybody wanted a piece of the Herminator, in Kvitfjell he could enjoy the peace and quiet. During the press conference he was named the King of Kvitfjell after winning his 5th victory. Nobody else could show off that many victories 15 years ago (later, Jansrud has taken over this throne). Maier didn't want to talk too much about this himself. He thought that if he was the King of Kvitfjell, it would have to be at the afterski. But that he once again was beamingly happy about both the skiing and the stay in Kvitfjell, there was no doubt.

There was a lot of talk about Kvitfjell the following year. In 2006, Kvitfjell was off the calendar. The reason behind this, was that the WC circus "had to" go to Japan and Korea, and that after the Olympics in Torino there was no room for Kvitfjell in the calendar. This was accepted by the Norwegian Ski Federation and Hafjell-Kvitfjell Alpin AS, on one condition: a race for the ladies in Hafjell in 2006 and back to Kvitfjell in 2007. And that's what happened.

So, what about the Norwegian achievements? Not quite at the top. We will quote the Alpine chief of the Norwegian Ski Federation, from the local paper GD:

- This has been a great weekend in Kvitfjell, with a nice atmosphere and immaculate course. The achievements of the Norwegian alpine team were like the rest of the season, a little below average. But there are also bright spots. Aksel Lund Svindal has been strong this season and delivered a lot of strong results. Kjetil Jansrud won the European Cup in SL and GS, in addition to the total in the 2003/2004 season. So that's a positive sign for the future! Something is definitely happening behind Kjus and Aamodt!

For Norwegian alpine sports new names are important. Both Kjetil André Aamodt and Lasse Kjus were present in 2005. They ended up with modest results, which resulted in severe speculations on whether this was the last time in Kvitfjell for the two. And it was. Lasse retired after the World Cup finals in Åre in 2006. Kjetil André, who took the Olympic gold medal in Super-G in 2006, announced his decision to retire during the Sports Gala in Hamar in January 2007.

Results, 2005 men

DH: Hermann Maier, Austria. Mario Scheiber, Austria. Ambrosi Hoffmann, Switzerland.
SG: Hermann Maier, Austria. Didier Defago, Switzerland. Daron Rahlves, USA.