

Standing ovations at the team captains' meeting

Some years are better remembered than others. Sometimes everything just comes together. This happened in 2010. There were two races on the program. Great weather, nice atmosphere, top conditions, and exciting competitions.



► Two happy winners, Didier Cuche og Eric Guay (small picture). Foto: Geir Olsen og Lise Åserud / Scanpix

The athletes arrived directly from the Olympics in Vancouver, where the great success of Kjetil Jansrud (no. 2 in GS) and Aksel Lund Svindal resulted in medals of 3 grades. The people-pleaser Alexander Rybak was hired to put the audience in the right mood. All in all, everybody had a good feeling before the race started. And spectators were streaming in to watch the Downhill on Saturday. There probably hadn't been this many people present since 1994. Alexander with his fiddle along with an enthusiastic crowd of local spectators set the tone. Kjetil Jansrud put it this way:

- I was just as psyched about racing on home ground surrounded by people I know that I was in the Olympics!

Didier Cuche (SUI) was in great shape and his second victory in Kvitfjell came in the Downhill on Saturday. Aksel made a solid second place, while Klaus Kröll got the last place on the podium.

At the team captains' meeting on Saturday, the organizers in Kvitfjell received standing ovations led by FIS head of races, Günther Hujara.

- We had some things to address prior to this year's event. We succeeded. When we get such a spontaneous and positive feed-back in the last team captains' meeting, it is a feather in the cap for us. Actually, I haven't experienced this before, claimed the leader of the organizing committee, Svein Mundal.

On Sunday, the success in Kvitfjell continued, and this time a Canadian stole the show, Eric Guay. He came in two hundredths faster than Hannes Reichelt. And another pleasing place on the podium for Aksel Lund Svindal. A place he shared with Tobias Grünenfelder (SUI).

This year the audience left Kvitfjell in high spirits. The races were uplifting. A lift that gave hope for the future. And not least: this was a solid response to the challenge from the International Ski Federation, FIS. The future was definitely brighter, just one year after the Super-G on Sunday had to be cancelled because of a big snow fall the night before the race.

Results, 2010 men

DH: Didier Cuche, Switzerland. Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway. Klaus Kröll, Austria.
SG: Erik Guay, Canada. Hannes Reichelt, Austria. Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway.
Tobias Gruenenfelder, Switzerland