

A year of ups and downs

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BY SVEIN MUNDAL



▶ The victory podium on Sunday, March 8th, 2015. From left: Vincent Kriechmayr, Kjetil Jansrud and Dustin Cook. Photo: Cornelius Poppe / NTBscanpix

It is a well-known fact that Gudbrandsdalen has a stable inland climate. This is the main reason behind the fact that the organizer in Kvitfjell has only cancelled 2 of the scheduled races assigned to them. During the days of training on Thursday and Friday this year (2015), there were great winter conditions from top to bottom. However, on Saturday challenges appeared concerning the weather. Due to wind and fog, the Downhill start had to be moved down to the reserve start below the tree line. Before noon on Sunday the temperature rose considerably. In addition, the wind suddenly increased greatly after the race started, and the race had to be stopped on two occasions. There were challenges concerning advertisement banners, balloons and finish sails, particularly in the finish area. But the worst thing that happened was when a sound tower fell, inflicting serious injuries on a female spectator.

Kjetil Jansrud won 2 out of 3 races in Kvitfjell in 2014. After 3 World Cup victories in Downhill and 2 in Super-G earlier in the 2015 season, a lot was expected from Kjetil Jansrud in the Downhill on Saturday. A substantial amount of spectators were attending to cheer Kjetil on, as he was the only victory candidate for Norway in Aksel Lund Svindal's absence. But Kjetil disappointed himself and the audience, as he came in 7th in the end. Hannes Reichelt (AUT) won the race by a significant margin over Manuel Osborne-Paradis (CAN) and Werner Heel (ITA).

But the day after in the Super-G, Jansrud was back on his winning track, and was able to climb to the top of the podium for the fifth time in Kvitfjell. With this victory in Kvitfjell he also achieved the World Cup Crystal Globe in Super-G for the season of 2014/2015. In the following World Cup finals, he also took home the Globe in Downhill!

During the World Cup week, the Norwegian slalom/giant slalom team trained in Kvitfjell as well. With Sebastian Foss Solevåg in the front line, a parallel slalom race was arranged in the lower part of the course. A very engaging attraction for the alpine sports enthusiasts in the audience.

This year there was also great interest from both the audience and the media on measuring and confirming that the local business GIAX in Ringebu had produced the world's largest cheese slicer. Height: 7,796 m!



The world's largest cheese slicer. Photo Svein Mundal

Results, 2015 men

DH: Hannes Reichelt, Austria. Manuel Osborne-Paradis, Canada. Werner Heel, Italy.
SG: Kjetil Jansrud, Norway. Vincent Kriechmayr, Austria. Dustin Cook, Canada.