

A miserable year for the Norwegian national team

In 2011 another three races were arranged in Kvitfjell, and despite some dramatic events, the crowd kept smiling with joyous cheers.

By Stein B. Olsen and Svein Mundal



The top three on Saturday. Small picture, Didier Cuche (SUI), winner of the SG.

The trainings before the Downhill on Friday set the scene of the drama. It was based on a statement from Didier Cuche (SUI), who made some claims against the World Cup director, Gunther Hujara. The topic of discussion was the safety of the competitors. Cuche and Ivica Kostelic (CRO) claimed that some of the jumps in Kvitfjell were a safety violation. Cuche's outcry resulted in him getting a fine from FIS, which didn't make him very happy.

Aksel Lund Svindal came in 28th, 37th and 27th in his three races in Kvitfjell. "Horrible", he commented. It belongs to the story that Aksel was injured in his knee before Kvitfjell, which of course affected his preparations for the competition.

The race on Friday was won by a new rising star from Switzerland: Beat Feuz. Eric Guay (CAN), who won the Super-G in 2010, followed up with another place on the podium. Kjetil Jansrud came in at number 21 and was the best Norwegian.

During the race on Saturday, Michael Walchhofer (AUT) secured the victory in his last season ever. He personally regarded

this a dignified ending, and he was very content. The fact that his teammate Klaus Krøll came in second made this a perfect farewell gift from Kvitfjell to Walchhofer. Jansrud was the best Norwegian, at 27th place.

On Sunday, Didier Cuche was declared a winner in the finish area. Didier is a great friend of Kvitfjell and was very pleased after a turbulent week. The Norwegian downer continued. The best Norwegian was Iver Bjerkestrand at 26th place. In other words, these were the poorest Norwegian results in Kvitfjell's WC history. Kjetil's conclusion was this:

- Kvitfjell will remain a World Cup organizer for many years ahead, and my long-term goal is to win here. And he definitely kept his promise.

Madcon lifted the spirits in the finish area with two songs on stage, including their top hit "Glow", supported by the local dance ensemble from Vinstra in the paddock.

Result:

DH1: Beat Feuz (SUI), Erik Guay (CAN), Michael Walchhofer (AUT)
DH2: Michael Walchhofer (AUT), Klaus Kroll (AUT), Beat Feuz (SUI)
SG: Didier Cuche (SUI), Klaus Kroll (AUT), Joachim Puchner (AUT)