

Ski-Cross World Cup 3 Zinnen Dolomites: Joy for Näslund and Howden in the second race

San Candido, 22 December 2022 - Sandra Näslund from Sweden and Canadian Reece Howden won the second Ski-Cross World Cup race in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomite on Thursday in perfect snow conditions. Näslund extended her winning streak of more than a year, while Howden took over the overall leader's jersey from Mathias Graf (Austria). Simone Deromedis from Trentino caused excitement in his home race with fourth place.

The exciting final runs on Baranci on the last day of the top-class winter sports event were also not for the faint-hearted. The numerous overtaking manoeuvres, millimetre decisions and spectacular crashes - all of which, however, ended smoothly - gave the many spectators plenty to enjoy. After the men's final, everyone cheered Reece Howden's victory. The 24-year-old Canadian, who had finished second on Wednesday, bagged his seventh World Cup success with a spirited run. He relegated Japan's Ryo Sugai and Niklas Bachsleitner from Germany to the places of honour. "Azzurro" Simone Deromedis had to settle for fourth place and missed the first Italian podium in San Candido by a hair's breadth.

Instead Sugai delivered a first at the 13th edition of the Ski Cross World Cup in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomite. It was the first podium for a Japanese skier on Baranci and the third of his career. Local athlete Dominik Zuech (Lana) was eliminated in the quarterfinals, watched by Franz Gamper, the exceptional coach from Ulten, and came in 12th, while Edoardo Zorzi came 30th.

Näslund far ahead of the field

In the women's event on Thursday, there was no way past exceptional skier Sandra Näslund. The athlete from Sweden skied in a league of her own in all three knockout rounds and extended her serial wins with her 33rd World Cup win (including one in the team). The 26-year-old has been unbeaten for over a year and has won the last four World Cup races in San Candido. Näslund won a total of six victories on Baranci, which makes the Scandinavian the sole record winner.

Austrian Andrea Limbacher came in second. The 33-year-old from St. Wolfgang ended an almost four-year dry period with her 16th podium. The last time Limbacher



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climbed the podium was in February 2019. Third place was shared by Limbacher's teammate Sonja Gigler and Fanny Smith from Switzerland, who had collided on the finish slope. The only "Azzurro" in the race, Jole Galli from Livigno, dropped out in the quarterfinals and had to settle for 14th place this time.

Comments from Thursday's athletes:

Reece Howden (Canada/Winner): "I already skied strongly yesterday (Wednesday, editor's note) and learned a lot from Mathias Graf, who is an enormous asset for the Ski Cross World Cup. And today I once again put everything on the line. The races in the knock-out system are enormously exhausting. But I risked a lot, gave everything and won my four heats."

Simone Deromedis (Italy/4th place): "On the one hand, I am very happy because the start of the season was difficult. I got a little injured before the first races and that put me a bit out of step. To have reached the final is therefore good, but when you are competing for the podium, of course there is also a bit of disappointment. But all in all, I'm very happy with how I'm skiing again."

Dominik Zuech (Italy/12th place): „Today it went much better than yesterday. I did have the speed. I managed some good overtaking manoeuvres, and it was close in the quarterfinals. I work hard at the start, but the competitors are simply stronger there. It's a matter of experience and I've been downhill for six, seven years, so maybe I lack a bit of speed. But it was another brilliant week here in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomite with a fantastic piste. Compliments and thanks to the dedicated organising committee."

Sandra Näslund (Sweden/Winner): "I skied the way I want to again and the last run was probably my best of the day. Yesterday (Wednesday, editor's note) you saw how close it can be if I don't stay focused until the end. The long winning streak doesn't put any pressure on me, I don't even think about it much. I just want to ski well."

Results Ski-Cross World Cup 3 Zinnen Dolomites 2nd race (22.12.2022)

Men

1. Reece Howden CAN
2. Ryo Sugai JPN
3. Niklas Bachsleitner GER
4. Simone Deromedis ITA



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5. Marc Bischofberger SUI
6. Joos Berry SUI
7. Oliver Davies GBR
8. Tobias Müller GER

Women

1. Sandra Näslund SWE
2. Andrea Limbacher AUT
3. Fanny Smith SUI
3. Sonja Gigler AUT
5. Sixtine Cousin SUI
6. Talina Gantenbein SUI
7. Courtney Hoffos CAN
8. Hannah Schmidt CAN

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