

## **Ski-Cross World Cup 3 Zinnen Dolomites: Näslund and Graf unbeatable in the qualification**

**San Candido, 20 December 2022 - On Tuesday, Ski-Cross World Cup in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomites was dedicated to a total of 4 qualification runs. In the men's race there was no way past Austrian Mathias Graf, in the women's Sandra Näslund (Sweden) was in a league of her own. Pleasing for South Tyrol: Local athlete Dominik Zuech qualified on Baranci for both races on Wednesday and Thursday.**

With two almost identical runs Mathias Graf was the fastest ski-crosser on Tuesday. The 26-year-old, who celebrated his first World Cup triumph at the season opener in Val Thorens, first mastered the 1340-meter course with an elevation gain of 229 meters on Baranci in 1:11.11 minutes and was only 0.22 seconds slower in the second run. This inevitably makes the athlete from Vorarlberg the top favourite for the two races on Wednesday, December 21 and Thursday, December 22 with start times at 12 noon in each case.

Based on their results in the qualification, Graf's toughest opponents in San Candido are likely to be his compatriot Johannes Rohrweck, Bastien Midol from France and Canadian Howden Reece. In the two qualifying runs they finished behind Graf, who last year won the overall European Cup. Midol in particular likes Baranci, as last year's victory and four second places impressively underline. But Howden and Rohrweck have also been on the podium at the Ski-Cross World Cup in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomites. With the second fastest time in the second qualification, German Florian Wilmsmann also demanded attention.

### **Zuech and Deromedis in both finals, Zorzi in one**

Dominik Zuech from Lana and Simone Deromedis from Trentino were the only athletes from the Italian winter sports federation FISI to qualify for both races in South Tyrol. Edoardo Zorzi from Songavazzo in the province of Bergamo, on the other hand, will be in action in Thursday's final. For Federico Tomasoni, Yanick Gunsch and Filippo Zamboni, however, the home World Cup is already over.



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There is likely to be no one who can beat exceptional skier Sandra Näslund in the women's race in both races in South Tyrol on Wednesday and Thursday. The 26-year-old from Sweden has won all three World Cup races so far and outpaced her rivals in both races last year on Baranci. It was a similar story in qualifying on Tuesday, where she was the only skier to stay below the 1:14 mark. The Olympic champion and overall World Cup winner recorded 1.13,83 and 1.13,96 minutes. Both times, the closest to the Scandinavian was Fanny Smith from Switzerland, who had already fought exciting duels with Näslund last year. Smith finished 1.34 and 1.72 seconds behind Näslund. Daniela Maier from Germany finished third in both qualifying runs, showing her podium ambitions.

### Impressive Galli

Jole Galli, an Italian athlete, also reached the final of the best 16 racers. The 27-year-old from Livigno finished ninth in both qualifying runs. Last year, Galli finished seventh and ninth in her home race in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomites.

The final on Wednesday, December 21, which will be raced in a gripping knockout format, will begin at 12:00. with the men's round of 16. Simone Deromedis is in action in the third heat at 12:06, and Dominik Zuech will battle for a spot in the quarterfinals in the seventh at 12:18. The first women's quarterfinal is scheduled for 12:24 and here Jole Galli will immediately face top star Sandra Näslund. The finals of the Ski-Cross World Cup 3 Zinnen Dolomites will take place at 13.10 (women) and 13.19 (men).

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