

Ski-Cross World Cup 3 Zinnen Dolomites: Näslund and Grag steam ahead

San Candido, 21 December 2022 - The first of two Ski-Cross World Cup races in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomites came to an end on Wednesday with two victories for the favourites. Mathias Graf from Austria and Sandra Näslund from Sweden confirmed their top form and extended their lead in the overall World Cup ranking on Baranci. From the Italian point of view, Jole Galli from Livigno provided a highlight, winning the small final and finishing fifth.

During the entire competition, Mathias Graf only had to worry once in his debut in San Candido. That occurred in the quarterfinals, when he was hanging in there by his teeth and, after a brilliant finish, just managed to make it into the round of the last eight as the runner-up. In the semi-final the 26-year-old from Vorarlberg was again in a class of his own and also in the final there was no way past the ÖSV athlete, who last season won the overall European Cup ranking.

In a battle with the three Canadians Reece Howden, Brady Leman and Kristofor Mahler, Mathias Graf maintained the upper hand and wrapped up his second World Cup victory. Howden took second place and Leman third. For Howden it was the second top-3 result in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomites, Leman stood on the podium in San Candido for the fifth time. The Italians were not represented among the top. Simone Deromedis from Trentino failed in the quarterfinals and finished 15th, Dominik Zuech from Lana (26th) already came to the end of the line in the round of 16.

Näslund is now the sole record winner in San Candido

In the women's event Sandra Näslund only had to worry about victory in the final. At first there seemed to be no obstacle on her way to her 32nd World Cup success, and everything went according to plan. But then the Olympic and overall World Cup champion made a small mistake on the finish slope, on which Fanny Smith (Switzerland) was almost able to capitalise. In the end, Näslund prevailed by a few centimetres. It was Näslund's fourth victory in a row in the new season, the third in a row in San Candido and the fifth triumph overall on Baranci. This means that the 26-year-old is now the sole record winner in the Ski-Cross World Cup in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomites. Marielle Thompson from Canada completed the podium on Wednesday. She finished in the top 3 for the first time in San Candido eleven years

ago. The Sochi Olympic champion now stood on the podium seven times in the region 3 Zinnen Dolomites.

Jole Galli from Livigno nearly made it on the podium. The 27-year-old missed the final run in her 17th World Cup race by a hair's breadth, but then prevailed in the "small" final and celebrated her second-best World Cup result. A result that should give Galli plenty of self-confidence for the second race tomorrow, Thursday, at noon.

Comments from Wednesday's athletes:

Mathias Graf (Austria/Winner): "I dedicate this victory to Johannes Rohrweck, who had had a fall. Luckily nothing worse happened and I hope he will be back soon. The race itself was difficult and a tough fight from the beginning, but it worked out by the end. So of course I am very happy. The quarterfinals were tight. I'll be back in full force tomorrow (Thursday, editor's note), even if I'm a bit tired. But so are the others. It's a tremendous race, the organisers have done a super job. It's very warm, but the slope holds."

Sandra Näslund (Sweden/Winner): "Today I had to really fight. I was strong in the upper part of the course and then maybe I took it a bit too easy on the finish slope. But it was enough and that makes me very happy. The slope is in good condition, even though it also has a few bumps".

Jole Galli (Italy/5th place): "I am happy that I could win the small final. However, I could have made it to the final today. I'm a bit annoyed about that. But I lost out to one of the strongest athletes at the moment (Marielle Thompson, editor's note). Now I'm going to go all out again on Thursday."

Dominik Zuech (Italy/26th place): "It all just went badly. I was in fourth position after the start, then in third after the first bend. After that I tried to overtake in the wrong place and the Japanese guy closed in on me. It was a tactical mistake. But on the other hand it motivates me even more for tomorrow's race. Competitors, take note!"

Results Ski-Cross World Cup 3 Zinnen Dolomites 1st race (21.12.2022)

Men

1. Mathias Graf AUT
2. Reece Howden CAN
3. Brady Leman CAN



LEITNER

Pinoth

CMP



HELLA



4. Kristofor Mahler CAN
5. Ryo Sugai JPN
6. David Mobaerg SWE
7. Florian Wilmsmann GER
8. Jonas Lenherr SUI

Women

1. Sandra Näslund SWE
2. Fanny Smith SUI
3. Marielle Thompson CAN
4. Linnea Mobaerg SWE
5. Jole Galli ITA
6. Tallina Gantenbein SUI
7. Courtney Hoffos CAN
8. Katrin Ofner AUT

Press contact Ski-Cross World Cup 3 Zinnen Dolomites:



Hannes Kröss
E| hannes@sportissimus.it
T| +39 0471 1551688
M| +39 333 7223248
W| www.sportissimus.it

Official website <https://www.dreizinnen.com/de/das-erlebnis/im-winter/events/fis-ski-cross-3-zinnen/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SkicrossInnichen/>

Website ski-cross FIS: <https://www.fis-ski.com/en/freestyle-freeski/ski-cross>

Press room: https://bit.ly/PressRoom_Skicross_WC_Innichen-San_Candido_2022



LEITNER

Pinoth

CMP



HELLA

