

79.INTERNATIONAL LAUBERHORNRENNEN Audi FIS SKI World Cup

WINNER Didier DEFAGO (SUI)

What happened is great and I appreciate every second. Moment like these are so rare. I was happy with my podium placings but a win has a different taste. In Val Gardena where I had my first win I had flashbacks of my first success. You have to work very hard to be the best. Everybody on tour works hard to get one tenth faster. Today I had a near perfect race and my skis were running particularly well on the top part and that was a very important part of the win.

I always believed that I could win again. I would have podium placings that would reinforce my belief but to have my first top 3 in downhill on the Lauberhorn, as a win that is unbelievable.

Mellowed me yes...In the past I would have stayed in Wengen and partied but now I just want to go back home and spend the evening with my wife and little girl. There will be time for celebrations at the end of the season. There is so little time, on Monday, I have to leave for Kitzbuehel already.

SECOND Bode MILLER (USA)

I'm less concerned than most people by the fact that I haven't had result. It's just that I am frustrated because I have skied well in all disciplines maybe except in GS. I have had winless streaks before.

I always try my best regardless of the result in the race before. I wanted to give my best and go for the win but with my injured ankle it's hard for me to put a lot of pressure on my outside ski and push my knee to hold the curve. I was holding on my inside ski compensating with my right leg. There are a lot of left curves in this race. I usually need the 3rd training run for my choice of skis for the race. Yesterday's skis in the Super Combined downhill didn't work and Heinz just put them on the side and gave me a new pair that I had never skied on for this downhill. He told me these skis will go fast. I totally trust him because he has decades of experience. I'm constantly in physical and mental pain because of my skiboots in the slalom. When you have to deal with that every day on the World Cup it gets really frustrating. We chage a set up in the slalom boot (tried it in Zagreb first run and got disqualified for the second because it was not within the rules). I reinjured my ankle in Adelboden, I didn't use them yesterday but I will in the slalom on Sunday.

I hope that this podium placing is the beginning of many more to come.

THIRD Marco SULLIVAN (USA)

We've been talking about getting 2 Americans on the podium. I think this is the first time since Bode and Daren made it. My Dad and my sister came over here. It's the first time in Europe for my Dad so maybe that kind of motivated me to be faster. I had a bunch of crazy supporters out there. This is really important to make it on the podium on the first classic of the season. I would like to make it on the podium too in Kitzbuehel. I was 6th last year and I feel in great shape right now so it should be possible.