

ORAGE EUROPEAN FREESKI OPEN LAAX

March 25, 2007

Press Release

– for immediate release –



ORAGE EUROPEAN FREESKI OPEN LAAX 2007 MARCH 21 – 25, 2007

Congratulation to the Winners at the European Freeski Season Highlight: Virginie Faivre/SUI and PK Hunder/NOR in Slopestyle, Grete Eliassen/NOR and Jossi Wells/NZE in Halfpipe – and to the resort LAAX for a perfect and stylish Event

(LAAX/SUI 03/25/2007) – The Orage European Freeski Open LAAX 2007 were a great success. The event that has been credited within uniting the European Freeski scene took center stage for the second edition in LAAX Switzerland at Crap Sogn Gion Mountain from March 21 – 25, 2007. The Orage European Freeski Open LAAX provided an arena for the best pipe and slopestyle skiers. With 160 riders coming from 15 European countries and from USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Japan, both male and female, pro and amateur the competition was top notch. 24 of the worlds best riders received invitations and were directly seeded for the semifinals in slopestyle and halfpipe. Surprises on a sportive high level were provided due to amazing skills of the young generation, which qualified going through the open qualification. A thrilling competition for titles, trophies and USD 50.000 prizemoney were offered.

SLOPESTYLE

The well-shaped slopestyle consisting of 5 obstacles with a length of 400 m forced a high concentration and technical knowledge of every competitor. The course starts with a bridge to slide followed by a bowl-shaped box and a 10 meter rail and finishes with 2 kickers. Especially over the kicker-line the crowd could adore scary jumps.

The slopestyle winners of the ORAGE EUROPEAN FREESKI OPEN LAAX 2007 are Virginie Faivre and PK Hunder. The conditions up on the mountain were hard for the 24 men and 12 women in the semifinals. Bad visibility and heavy snowfalls made it difficult for the riders to show their scary tricks. Right before the last run the sky was opening up and made a fair decision possible.

A newcomer did best: Only 17 year old PK Hunder from Norway got the highest score and big respect from all the other riders. With a huge 900° nosegrab and a double 450 over the rail he could take the victory followed by last year`s winner Simon Dumont from the USA. Jossi Wells from New Zealand got 3rd. The girls showed a great show, too. Swiss rider Virginie Faivre defended her title successful and won again at Crap Sogn Gion.

Results:

Men:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. PK Hunder/NOR | 92,40 points |
| 2. Simon Dumont/USA | 90,00 points |
| 3. Jossi Wells/NZE | 89,60 points |

Women:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Virginie Faivre/SUI | 89,20 points |
| 2. Ashley Battersby/USA | 79,60 points |
| 3. Grete Eliassen/NOR | 77,00 points |

HALFPIPE

Jossi Wells from New Zealand and Grete Eliassen from Norway, who both got 3rd in Fridays slopestyle, are the happy winners of the halfpipe finals at the ORAGE EUROPEAN FREESKI OPEN LAAX 2007. So these two riders earned the main part of the USD 50.000 prizemoney, followed by Simon Dumont for his two 2nd rankings.

The best 12 men and 6 women had 2 runs (better one counts) in the perfect shaped halfpipe. The riding level was very high, 900° rotations were standard in the men`s finals. Jossi Wells from New Zealand was the man of the day. With his various tricks and a big amplitude the 17 year old

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newcomer got incredible 93 of 100 possible points by the judges. "That`s my second time in Laax, I really like this place because the whole event is so well organized. I had a great day and for sure I come back next year." US-boy and X-Games winner Simon Dumont did the trick of the day: He was the first rider showing a 1260° rotation at a contest, which got him into 2nd position, followed by another American, Sammy Carlson.

The Europeans were dominating the women´s finals. Norwegian routinier Grete Eliassen had the best technical run, showing a nice 540°- 720° combination. Em Lonsdale from Great Britan got a great 2nd place, 24 year old Swiss girl Mirjam Jäger finished on 3rd position.

Results:

Men

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Jossi Wells (NZE) | 93,0 points |
| 2. Simon Dumont (USA) | 91,0 points |
| 3. Sammy Carlson (USA) | 86,3 points |

Women

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Grete Eliassen (NOR) | 83,7 points |
| 2. Em Lonsdale (GBR) | 71,0 points |
| 3. Mirjam Jäger (SUI) | 65,7 points |

After this great on-slope action the riders, organizers and fans were going to party in the Riders Palace and rocked with the female Swiss band "The Delilahs" the house. And in 2008 we will see us again for the third edition of the ORAGE EUROPEAN FREESKI OPEN LAAX at Crap Sogn Gion, pushing the freestyle freeskiing to a next level!

Further information: www.laax.com , www.laax.com/freeskiopen , www.laax.com/snowpark and www.orageski.com .