

SPORTS

Rebensburg wins WC super-G in Lake Louise

Ford cruises in giant slalom for 1st career World Cup victory

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta, Dec 9, (AP): Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany raced to her fourth career World Cup super-G victory, withstanding a late charge by Italy's Nicol Delago.

Rebensburg, the 2010 Olympic giant slalom winner, finished in 1 minute, 20 seconds to edge Delago by 0.35 seconds. Delago was the 31st racer of the afternoon and bumped Corinne Suter of Switzerland into third place.

"I think for sure my GS skills, or technical skills, they were helping me," Rebensburg said.



Three-time overall World Cup champion Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States wound up in 10th place. Shiffrin is the reigning champion in the season-long super-G competition.

The 30-year-old Rebensburg has won back-to-back super-G races dating to last season. She's the first German woman to win two straight super-Gs since Katja Seizinger captured five in a row in 1997.

"I was always waiting for the win here in Lake Louise," Rebensburg said. "The super-G here looks tougher than it is, so I tried to push as hard as I can from top to bottom. Obviously it was working out pretty well."

Suter earned a bronze medal in the super-G at the world championships last season along with a silver in the downhill.

In Beaver Creek, Colorado, Tommy Ford didn't even set an alarm. He never does. He's so easygoing that oversleeping for a race doesn't even enter his mind.

That's the way he feels about pressure, too. He doesn't let it get to him.

Finding himself in new territory — leading after the first run — Ford simply did what he always does and charged. Ford cruised across the finish line, glanced up at the scoreboard and im-

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mediately pumped his right glove after earning his first career World Cup win.

The American racer glided through the fog and the falling snow to finish the Birds of Prey giant slalom in a combined time of 2 minutes, 31.25 seconds Sunday. Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway was second, 0.80 seconds back, while fellow Norwegian Leif Kristian Nestvold-Haugen took third.

"I've been skiing well and on this path for a long time," Ford said. "It's led to this moment and more moments to come. I just don't know what they are."

Ford's career path was interrupted in 2013 when he broke his femur during a free-skiing mishap. It caused him to miss the entire 2014 Olympic season.

Ever so steadily, he's gotten back on course.

Ford found himself on unfamiliar ground — with the lead after run No. 1. He didn't show any hint of nerves before pushing out of the start gate for his final pass. He simply gazed down at the awaiting course for a moment.

"There are all sorts of thoughts going through the mind," Ford said. "Some nerves coming up. Just working with them. Clearing them. Working with them. Clearing them. A continual process all the way to the start. Once things get going, it just happens."

He flowed through the gates with the home crowd urging him to the finish line. Then, the celebration was on as he was greeted by rambunctious teammates. They were stoked for the 30-year-old from Oregon.

"Not many words, honestly, smiling and hugs," Ford said. "It's been really cool to be with this group."

It's been quite a start to the season for Ford. He finished fourth at the season-opening GS race in Soelden, Austria, in late October. That also happened to be his best finish — until Sunday.

Ford became the first US racer to capture a World Cup men's giant slalom race on home snow since Ted Ligety won in 2014.



Viktoria Rebensburg, of Germany, skis down the course during the Women's World Cup Super-G ski race in Lake Louise, Alberta on Dec 8. (AP)

"Congrats to Tommy — amazing job in the second run," said Kristoffersen, who claimed his 18th career World Cup podium in the GS. "It's not easy to beat the US guys on home soil, on this type of snow. You see it with Leif, too."

Nestvold-Haugen spent years in Colorado as he competed for the University of Denver ski team. He feels at home on what's referred to as "hero snow" because racers don't have to worry about it being unstable underneath their skis.

"You get a lot back from the snow," Nestvold-Haugen said.

Before his second run, the 32-year-old Nestvold-Haugen called home to say goodnight to his young kids.

"That put things in perspective — they're sleeping while I'm racing," Nestvold-Haugen said. "The second run was a little bit more of a wild run. When I get nervous, I try to compensate by being more aggressive."

Ligety, who was fourth after the first run, struggled on his final pass and was 11th. The 35-year-old Ligety is predominantly focusing on the giant slalom this season.

"It's been nice, just doing GS really," said Ligety, who has captured 24 World Cup giant slalom races. "It's a nice gear shift." The conditions were hardly favorable with the snow falling and fog rolling in throughout the day.

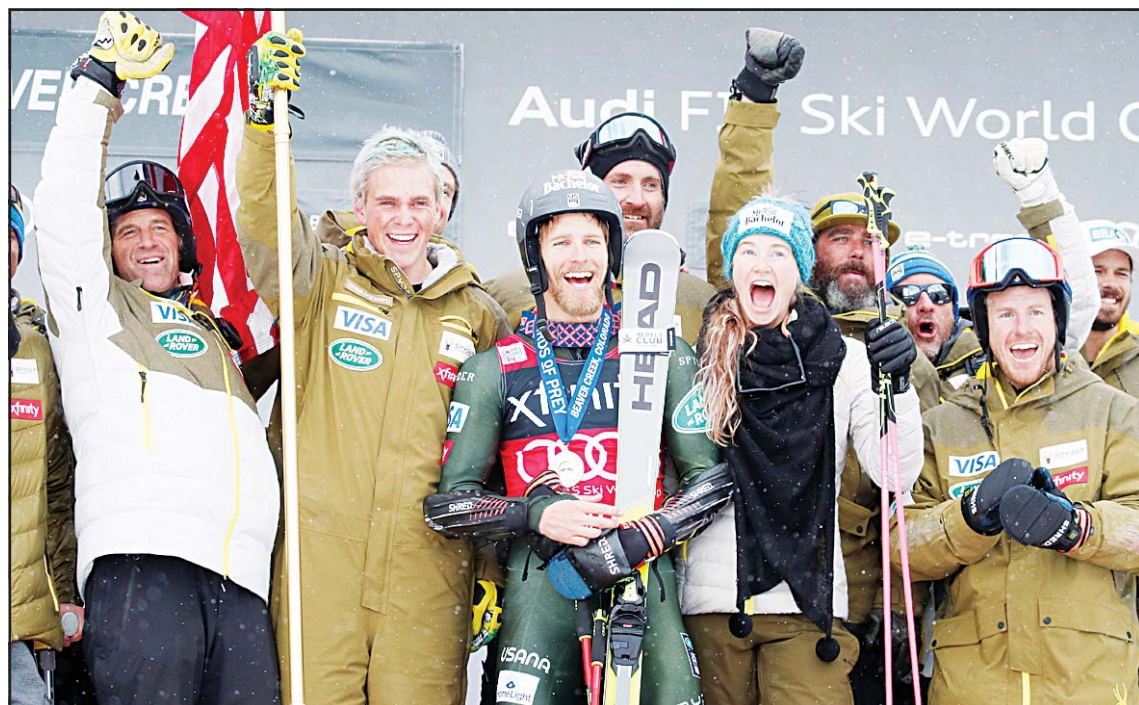
Defending Birds of Prey GS champion Stefan Luitz of Germany made a mistake in the foggy conditions and didn't finish his first run.

He won his first World Cup race in Beaver Creek last December amid some controversy. Racing at an elevation of around 10,340 feet (3,152 meters), Luitz inhaled from an oxygen tank before his winning race. The International Ski Federation later disqualified him because its rules prohibit using supplemental oxygen even though the World Anti-Doping Agency does not.

But the Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld Luitz's appeal against disqualification in March and awarded him his first World Cup win.

Luitz said he never really got the chance to celebrate his achievement. That's why he's eager for another.

"Not only for the victory, but there is so much around it — for my head and my skiing," Luitz said. "That's why I'm trying so hard to get back on top."



United States' Tommy Ford (center), celebrates with teammates after winning a Men's World Cup giant slalom skiing race on Dec 8 in Beaver Creek, Colorado. (AP)

'Hosting Olympics and Paralympics could be a game-changer'

Queensland will bid to bring Games back to Australia in 2032

SYDNEY, Dec 9, (RTRS): Queensland will launch a bid to bring the Summer Olympics to Australia for the third time in 2032 if it can get financial support from central and local government, state premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said on Monday.

The bid would be centred on the city of Brisbane and the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast beach resort areas of the southeast of the state, and take place from July 23 to Aug. 8 2032, she told a news conference.

"This is about so much more than a few weeks of sport," Palaszczuk added in a statement.

"Hosting the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics could be a game-changer and deliver 20 years of accelerated opportunity for our state."

"That's why cabinet has today made the decision to continue working to-

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wards securing a Games — and we will continue to work closely with our partners to ensure we receive the financial support we require from all levels of government. "There's more work to do to ensure we are in a position to put a compelling case to the International Olympic Committee."

Australia hosted the Olympics in 1956 in Melbourne and again in Sydney in 2000 but Brisbane's bid to bring the Games to Queensland in 1992 lost out to Barcelona.

The state has twice hosted the Commonwealth Games — in Brisbane in 1982 and the Gold Coast last year — and Palaszczuk estimated that up to 80% of the venues required to stage the Olympics were already in place or would be temporary.

Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison is on record as saying his government would back the bid "all the way" and Palaszczuk said the Olympics could create 130,000 jobs and boost "tourism spending" by A\$20 million (\$13.57 million).

Kuwait chief lawmaker receives Olympics-bound marksmen



The Speaker of the National Assembly receives Kuwaiti archers who qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's top lawmaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim on Monday met with a trio of his compatriot shooters, all of whom have just secured their berths at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Amid talks with Saud Al-Kandari, Mansour Al-Rashidi and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan, Al-Ghanim said he was proud of the triumvirate's accomplishments, which highlight the capabilities of young Kuwaiti athletes.

Next fight likely to take place at Tottenham stadium

Joshua set to defend heavyweight titles

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Dec 9, (AP): Anthony Joshua is set for a London homecoming to start his second reign as world heavyweight champion, with his next fight likely to take place at the recently built stadium of Premier League soccer club Tottenham.

Joshua reclaimed his WBA, WBO and IBF titles early Sunday with a unanimous points decision over Andy Ruiz Jr in Saudi Arabia, having lost to the Mexican-American in New York in June for the first defeat of his career.

They were the Briton's first two overseas bouts, with Joshua earning a reported \$70 million for fighting in

BOXING

Saudi Arabia, but Joshua wants to defend his titles in front of his home fans.

"London's calling, I think," said Joshua, who was born in Watford just outside the capital.

"British supporters do play a big part in my career. Any time I'm on home soil, I can't lose."

Joshua, who won the Olympic gold medal at the London Games in 2012, has fought twice at the 90,000-capacity Wembley Stadium, beating Wladimir Klitschko and Alexander Povetkin.

But Eddie Hearn, Joshua's promoter, says the national soccer stadium "doesn't look great, date-wise" for Joshua's next fight, which is set to be in April or May against IBF mandatory contender Kubrat Pulev.

Hearn has turned his sights on the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, which was opened in April and has a 60,000 capacity.

"The phone has gone crazy — it's like, 'Bring him here, bring him here,'" Hearn said, sitting alongside Joshua in a restaurant on one of the top floors of a 5-star hotel in Riyadh. "They've seen what we've done here and there's a lot of options internationally, but he does want to box back in the UK."

"We spoke to Spurs about hosting this fight (the rematch against Ruiz), which they were keen to do, but unfortunately the dates didn't work out.

Friedrich wins WCup 2-man race, extends medal streak



Driver Francesco Friedrich (front) and brakeman Alexander Schueller celebrate a first place finish during their second run of the men's bobsled World Cup event in Lake Placid, New York on Dec 8. (AP)

LAKE PLACID, New York, Dec 9, (AP): Francesco Friedrich of Germany rallied in the second heat to win a World Cup bobsled race, extending his streak of major international two-man races with a medal to 17.

Friedrich and brakeman Alexander Schueller were second after the first heat, then posted the fastest run of the day in his second trip down the Mount Van Hoevenberg

BOBSLED

track to finish in 1 minute, 49.77 seconds. Johannes Lochner and Christian Rasp of Germany were second in 1:50 flat, and Canada's Justin Kripps and Cameron Stones were third in 1:50.34. The same three drivers won medals in the season's first two-man race on Saturday — Lochner winning, Friedrich finishing second and Kripps third.

The top US finisher was Hunter Church, who teamed with brakeman Kristopher Horn to finish fifth. Codie Bascue and Kyle Wilcox were ninth for the US.

They would be keen to do it and it would be a nice stadium to do it in London."

Hearn said the UK pay-per-view numbers for the Ruiz-Joshua rematch were "well over a million," which would break the UK record.

Briton, says a health issue had left him tired and drained before his shock defeat to the Mexican-American in their first fight in June.

"I had some issue with my health which I was going through for a long time," said Joshua after judges scored the "Clash on the Dunes" 118-110, 118-110 and 119-109 on Sunday.

"I didn't know what was wrong with me. I felt so tired and drained and thought it must be down to training."

"In the changing room before the fight (in New York) I got a bucket of ice and was putting my head in it thinking 'why do I feel so tired?'"

"Even in this camp I had an operation done but as I'd started training in June I had no issues."

Joshua did not elaborate on the nature of the operation.

"Wembley doesn't look great, date-wise," Hearn said. "Tottenham Hotspur is a nice new stadium for a UK fight. We've got to look at it."

"We spoke to Spurs about hosting this fight, which they were keen to do, but unfortunately the dates didn't work out. They would be keen to do it and it would be a nice stadium to do it in London."