

<u>Press Release – 31 Jan. 2010</u> 35km & 55km skating

Ski-Trail 2010

January 26th – 31st, 2010 – Tannheim Valley/Tyrol, Austria <u>www.ski-trail.info</u> <u>www.rocketmedia.at/program</u>

"It was a dream come true"

These were the words the winner, Austrian World Cup racer Manuel Hirner, used to sum up his impression of the skating distance of 35 kilometres he covered on Sunday. "To win in such amazing scenery has always been my dream and it was a real success in terms of preparing for my next 50-kilometre world cup race on the Holmenkollen," said Hirner.

About 5 minutes separated him from Andreas Möse (Sport-Team Buhler) from Marktoberdorf, who came in second and is a regular contestant in Tannheimer Tal.

Local hero, Matthias Kuhn from Weißenbach, crossed the finishing line third.

As to the women, Isabel Brambrink (1.54.47 hours/SC Pfronten) came in fourteenth in the total ranking, which put her head and shoulders above the rest of the women. She was followed by Regina Lingl (SC Monte Caolna Hirschau) and Martina Stursova.

In the top discipline of 55 kilometres, folloing the Zöblen sprint and the sweep through Unterjoch, the difficult climb to Oberjoch had to be tackled. But at freezing temperatures, seven degrees below zero, the track groomers had prepared a hard and speedy trail in the glorious countryside under clear blue skies with not a cloud in sight. A trail, which even less well trained participants could manage.

Rico Schaller from Klingenthal was this weekend's most successful racer. Already on Saturday, he won the 25-kilometre race in the classic technique. And on Sunday, he even managed to win the 55-kilometre race in 2.46.00 hours in freestyle technique. Norbert Ganner came in second close behind, followed by Christian Eberharter (Rossignol Racing-Team).

The best women covered the 55-km distance in 3.14.31 hours. Sigrid Mutscheller crossed the finishing line closely ahead of Anja Kretchmer and Stefanie Meyr.

All in all, almost 500 racers took part in the 35-kilometre race and 255 racers tackled the 55 kilometres. "A big thanks goes out to the organisers headed by Michael Keller and his team. It was great fun and every single one who reaches the finish line is a winner," This is how celebrity participant and former cycling pro Gerrit Glomser described his first-ever race at the Ski-Trail Tannheimer Tal – Bad Hindelang after crossing the finishing line.

With more than 1,300 participants in two days, a new participant record was set, which is a fantastic confirmation for the organisers, but also an incentive and an obligation to keep up the good work and the effort for this wonderful atmosphere in the future.

Lists of participants & results at http://ski-trail.sport-db.de/os/de/

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Television details and footage availability___

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TV format: (16:9) news-feed, ftp-streaming & Beta SP/Digibeta/DV Cam - pal