



Press Release

THE SWATCH FREERIDE WORLD TOUR (FWT) FIEBERBRUNN 2017 GOES OFF IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL

It's crunch time as the world's top freeriders seize their last chance to qualify for the remaining events on the FWT and move on to the dream stop in Haines, Alaska.

SKI MEN

1. Kristofer Turdell (SWE)
2. Logan Pehota (CAN)
3. Reine Barkered (SWE)

SKI WOMEN

1. Lorraine Huber (AUT)
2. Eva Walkner (AUT)
3. Hazel Josie Birnbaum (USA)

SNOWBOARD MEN

1. Sammy Luebke (USA)
2. Jonathan Penfield (USA)
3. Thomas Feurstein (AUT)

SNOWBOARD WOMEN

1. Marion Haerty (FRA)
2. Shannan Yates (USA)
3. Audrey Hebert (CAN)

To see the official list of all the athletes that have qualified for the upcoming stops, click [here](#).

March 8, 2017 – Fieberbrunn, Austria – After several days of heavy snowfall at the Tyrolean ski resort, the skies finally cleared to allow the competition to take place on the renowned Wildseeloder face (2118m). Competitors were treated to good visibility and somewhat variable snow conditions on the 600 vertical meter face due to snow safety control work conducted during the previous days.

As the last stop before qualification cuts, athletes felt the pressure to execute their very best lines of the season which resulted in a high level of riding across all disciplines.

SKI MEN

Challenging conditions and a spate of spectacular crashes marked the start of today's competition. Nonetheless, Kristofer Turdell (SWE) stomped a massive air high on the venue followed by impeccable riding in difficult snow, earning first place. Reine Barkered's (SWE) line featured his signature full-throttle skiing but was marred by a lack of flow on the lower part of the venue which pushed him to third place.

Kristoffer Turdell (SWE), 1st Place Ski Men, current leader of the FWT ski overall ranking *"I guess I couldn't feel better, of course! For the next competition the goal is to lay down as good of runs, as I plan to do, and find good lines. Hopefully the judges think they look good and I will get a good score as well. I am looking forward to Alaska; it's an unbelievable place!"*

SNOWBOARD MEN

Sammy Luebke (USA) topped out the category in first place with a masterful selection of features that allowed him to pull off textbook frontside and backside 360s, both cleanly stomped. Close on his tails was Jonathan Penfield (USA) who demonstrated unparalleled control with powerful riding.

Sammy Luebke (USA), 1st Place Snowboard Men, current leader of the FWT snowboard overall ranking *"For me the pressure is always there, because every contest I want to do well for myself. There is pressure but I feel pretty good! I think having fun is the key and as long as I am having fun, the pressure is fine. Today I decided to change my line ten minutes prior to the contest but I am glad I did because the snow was really nice in that area. This venue is kind of tricky but this year was nice because it pretty much had powder all the way down and I hit all the kickers I wanted to hit."*

SKI WOMEN

The Austrian women ruled the day with stunning no-hesitation skiing from Lorraine Huber (AUT), who entered the face with confidence on a double-air and followed through with stylish skiing and a stomped bottom air, delivering her into first place, and closely followed by Eva Walkner (AUT) in second.

SNOWBOARD WOMEN

Marion Haerty (FRA) was once again able to secure a top spot on the podium with a line featuring a technical entrance followed by beautiful powder turns linked with stylish airs. Veteran rider Shannan Yates (USA) earned second place with a highly technical line and fluid riding.

After the qualification cuts made today, the reduced field of twelve ski men, six ski women, six snowboard men, and four snowboard women will advance to the next stops in Haines, Alaska, Verbier, Switzerland, and will be qualified for the 2018 FWT.

Stay tuned to FWT social media channels and www.freerideworldtour.com for the latest information regarding the upcoming competition scheduled for March 18-25 in Haines, Alaska.

Picture Selection

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Swatch

Swatch, launched in 1983 by Nicolas G. Hayek, is a leading Swiss watch maker and one of the world's most popular brands. The first Swatch watches surprised everyone with their revolutionary concept, creative design and provocative spirit. Today Swatch continues to innovate and surprise with new models, collections and special editions. The brand maintains a strong presence in the world of sports with its commitment to snowboarding, freeskiing, surfing, beach volleyball and Mountainbike Dirt Jump. Right from the start, Swatch connected with art and artists, and Swatch watches remain a prominent canvas for artists from a broad range of disciplines. www.swatch.com

FWT Management SA

FWT Management SA, based in Lutry/Lausanne-Switzerland, is organizing world-class sports events in mountain resorts and regions since 1996. Founder of "Xtreme Verbier" – iconic event in freeride skiing & snowboarding –, FWT Management SA has taken the stand-alone Xtreme Verbier event to create in 2008 Freeride World Tour (FWT), Freeride World Qualifier (FWQ), Freeride Junior World Championships (FJWC) and a Freeride Skiing Team Competition (Skiers Cup) with events in Europe, North America, South America and Oceania. FWT Management SA is the sole and exclusive organizer of the above mentioned events. www.freerideworldtour.com

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