

## 79. International Lauberhornrennen Audi Fis Ski World Cup

### Slalom

#### WINNER: Manfred PRANGER (AUT)

I have had 4 years of hardship with my injuries. I dreamt of winning this race and I tell you it was as sweet in reality. I use to want to to dream but I had so many setbacks that I wouldn't allow myself to do it. I tore my ligaments in Alta Badia 13 months ago. Raini sent me a text message then and said look at me I'm back at the highest level you can do it too. So when he congratulated me I knew coming from him that it was genuinely from the heart. Now that we are going to our home races I hope that we can keep on swoping the two top places on the podium. We didn't have more pressure at the start because we are a strong slalom team in Austria, we can push each other and that is great. We, slalom skiers, have been in a slump before. The downhillers will be back strong.

#### SECOND: Raini HERBST (AUT)

Being a slalom specialist has it's ups and downs. We can concentrate on only one discipline but if you hit a slump during the season then it's hard to get back on top. Each race is like a highlight because we only have 11 per season, 11 chances. Allrounders have 40 so they can mess one or two up

#### THIRD: Ivica KOSTELIC (CRO)

It's my fifth podium here in Wengen. I love it here because the course is a classic one, really. It has eveything, it's steep, flat, has bumps and even a compression . I remember watching on TV, Krijai and Stenmark racing on this hill.

I was already feeling a bit tired after the super Combined but as an allrounder I knew that before starting the season. The discipline World Cup against JB? Well we both are skiing many disciplines so it will be who is more tired than the other at the end of the season. I will skipp a few races before the Worlds probably the Garmisch downhill .I'm not really thinking about the Worlds now but for sure an overall World Cup would be the greatest (achievement). I think all racers think that.

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