
Cambridge skier gets her best World Cup finish

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Jackie Brown of Cambridge finished fourth in women's moguls yesterday with 20.63 points for the best World Cup result of her career.

The U.S., was 1-2 with Hannah Kearney and Michelle Roark earning gold and silver respectively with 22.91 and 21.75 points. Margarita Marbler of Austria was third at 20.80 edging Brown.

"I'm ecstatic with the result," said Brown, 23. "I just wanted to prove to myself today that I can ski that way and that made all the difference. This was the kind of step I wanted to take this season. I knew I was capable of doing this."

Three other Canadians were in the 16-woman final. Audrey Robichaud of Quebec City was 13th, Nathalie Bazin of Quebec City 15th and Olympic champion Jennifer Heil of Spruce Grove, Alta., was 16th.

Heil opened this World Cup season with two silver medals after missing all of last season with a knee injury but crashed on her second air in yesterday's final. She was first after the preliminaries.

Alexandre Bilodeau of Rosemere, Que., earned his third silver in three races this season finishing second yesterday in men's moguls at a freestyle skiing World Cup competition.

Guilbaut Colas of France won the gold medal with 24.62 points, Bilodeau followed at 24.20 and Patrick Deneen of the U.S., was third at 23.99.

On a long, icy and fast course, Bilodeau picked the right strategy to assure himself a berth on the podium.

"I had to change my first jump because of the course conditions," said Bilodeau, currently first overall in the World Cup moguls standings.

"You really had to keep the jumps simple and I focused more on my speed and my technique. Still I misjudged my second jump and that possibly cost me the victory."

Bilodeau is delighted with his start to the season especially since he's been battling the flu bug the past couple of weeks.

"Consistency has been a problem in past seasons so this kind of start is very important for me," he said. "But it's still not a win and I'll have to work harder to get back on that top step of the podium. In my three events this year I've made small mistakes but overall I'm very pleased with the results."

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