

Peak
Performance
PRESENTS

ride 06
SAAS-FEE



EUROPEAN SUMMER FREESKI EVENT
HALF PIPE . BIG AIR . RAIL JAM

SAAS-FEE.SWITZERLAND.22.JULY.2006

SAAS-FEE RIDE 06 presented by PEAK PERFORMANCE

The second event in the 2006 Ride series took place Saturday 22nd July in the glacial resort of Saas-Fee (www.saas-fee.ch), Switzerland. The European Summer Freeskiing championships, the Saas-Fee Ride 06 (www.saasfeeride.com) presented by Peak Performance (www.peakperformance.com), offered spectators the chance to see some of Europe's finest Half Pipe, Big Air and Rail action in one full day of events.

Conditions were great for this freeskiing event, especially considering the high temperatures we have been getting this summer in Europe! The Saas-Fee glacier was the perfect location and perhaps Europe's only location with the north facing glacier and the new improved look of the Saas-Fee snowpark.

HALF PIPE

The first discipline of the day was Half Pipe. The pipe, 110 metres in length, 20 metres wide and 5 metres in height, was in great shape considering the heavy rain fall on Friday evening. Paddy Graham (Nike ACG, Line), one of Britain's finest freestyle athletes, put together a smooth run with a Corked 540 Mute Grab and Alley Oop flat spin 720. This earned him a deserved 3rd place podium finish.

Swedish rider Oscar Harlaut (Scott, Salomon) claimed 2nd place showing huge amplitude and definition on grabs. His best run consisted of a Corked 540 Truck Driver on first hit which really impressed the judges. Each hit down the pipe was huge and fluid throughout.

Winner of the men's competition was Loic Collomb-Patton (Dynastar, Sun Valley) of France. Loic, who finished 4th in winter X-Games Ten and 2nd in the FIS World Cup Half Pipe Championships, took the Saas-Fee Ride 06 title with a run that thrilled the crowd in the snowpark and the judges as well. The winning run included an Alley Oop Flat Spin 540 that took him 4 metres out and above the pipe and a huge Inverted Unnatural 720.

Loic said after the event:

"It's not too bad at all in Saas-Fee for summer skiing. There were two big tables for the Big Air event. The pipe is good especially considering the heat of the summer, it's all cool here."

In the woman's event Beanie Milne Home (White Stuff, Dynastar) from Scotland came 3rd with Alley Oops on both walls and good height. Swedish rider Sofie Windstedt (Rossignol, Kaubi) finished 2nd with the first part of her run consisting of high grabs and the second part showing good rotations. Marta Ahrenstedt (Peak Performance, Roxy Optics) from Sweden took the 1st place with a strong and powerful descent showing clean grabs, back to back spins, switch riding and good height throughout.

It was overall an event that survived the heat of the summer to bring the Saas-Fee crowd many of Europe's top athletes competing on Europe's top summer Half Pipe.

BIG AIR

The two big air kickers gave all the riders an equal opportunity to pull off their best and biggest tricks. The run in was excellent for the type of kickers, giving just the right speed and the landing area was made with the perfect gradient and length. Both kickers were relatively whippy but the majority of riders loved it, as it gave them more air time, therefore they had more opportunity to pull off some amazing tricks.

During the competition many athletes were travelling around 25 metres in the air from take off to landing. A huge variety of jumps were being thrown down including Cork's, Double Grabs, Underflips, Switch 5's, 7's, and 9's. All athletes were given two hits at the kickers and the best score out of the two jumps counted.

Finally the 3 top male and female riders were decided by 1pm on the Saturday afternoon. Loic Collomb-Patton (Dynastar, Sun Valley) took 3rd with a huge Switch Corked 720 Mute Grab to reverse Mute Grab. Paddy Graham (Line, Nike ACG) of England was 2nd with a Switch Corked 720 reverse Mute Nose Grab. Paddy went very big and showed a super smooth style. Henrik Harlaut (Scott, Salomon) of Sweden took 1st place with a Switch Corked 900 Mute Grab which was super tweaked out. Amplitude was massive as he stomped clean near the bottom of the landing. This scored him extra points and sealed Henrik's victory.

In the girls comp joint 3rd place went to Vanessa Colletta (Roxy, Pull In) of France and Sofie Windstedt (Rossignol, Kaubi) of Sweden. 2nd went to new comer Teri Spencer of England with a smooth and styled Tail Grab. Marta Ahrenstedt (Peak Performance, Roxy Optics) of Sweden took 1st place with a super clean 360 Truck Driver. The landing was stomped and she scored high on style taking the winners cheque.

DOUBLE CHAMPION

The Peak Performance rider made Saas-Fee Ride event history by becoming the first ever double champion taking both Half Pipe and Big Air 1st places. After the event Marta has this to say:

"I was so stoked to have won both events. I really had a good feeling being up here in the event having fun with good friends. It was so chilled it didn't feel like

a competition really, everyone was in such a good mood and the atmosphere was sweet! It's such a cool vibe here in Saas-Fee in the summer and the event followed that vibe. I love the park this year and am stoked to have won in the resort that is supporting me for skiing. Super happy!"

Riders and organisers both agreed that the 4th edition of the Saas-Fee Ride was the best yet, especially considering the high temperatures this summer. The event pulled through the odds with the help of a few important factors; Europe's best summer skiing glacier, the new design of the Snowpark and the extra efforts of snowpark shaper Niklas Hoglund. Other thanks go to Peak Performance for their investment in the development of freeskiing events, Saas-Fee Bergbahnen and Tourism for hosting and supporting the event and all the people from the British Freeski Camps for working on the set up and break down.

Look forwards to seeing you all in October at the London Ride 06, 20th + 21st October 2006, Grand Hall, Kensington Olympia, London (part of the Metro Ski and Snowboard Show).

RESULTS

Half Pipe

Men: 1st place - Loic Collomb Patton (France), 2nd Place - Oscar Harlaut (SWE), 3rd Place - Paddy Graham (UK)

Women: 1st Place - Marta Ahrenstedt (SWE), 2nd Place - Sofie Windstedt (SWE), 3rd Place - Beanie Milne Home (UK)

Big Air

Men: 1st Place - Henrik Harlaut (SWE), 2nd Place - Paddy Graham (UK), 3rd Place - Loic Collomb Patton (FRA)

Women: 1st Place - Marta Ahrenstedt (SWE), 2nd Place - Terri Spencer (UK), 3rd Place - (Joint) Vanessa Colletta (France) / Sofie Windstedt (SWE)

Print + Web Info

Detailed press releases of all competitions and high-definition/free-of-rights images are available. Please contact melodysky@snowsportsynergy.com for any requests. Also available for web press are a selection of Web Compressed video clips of highlights from the event. Please email press@saasfeerideride.com to request a selection.

A 24 minute TV show will be available at the end of August through Quattro Media (www.4msports.com).