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COX SECURES FIRST MOGUL SKIING WORLD CUP TITLE

Britt Cox has created history, becoming the first Australian female to win a Mogul Skiing World Cup title, in a mixed event where she did just enough in today's Dual Mogul event in Tazawako, Japan.

After victory in yesterday single moguls, the 22-year-old NSWIS skier went down in the round of 16 to Russian Marika Pertakhiya.

Fortunately for Cox, her closest rivals, Perrine Laffont of France and Justine Dufour-Lapointe of Canada were also unable to progress to the later rounds of the event. Cox now leads Laffont by 259 points and wraps up the series win, with only two events and a maximum of 200 points remaining in China next weekend.

Cox's outstanding season comes on the back of six World Cup victories, which equals the legendary Dale Begg-Smith, who won six World Cup events in his Olympic Gold Medal winning year in 2005-2006.

Once the news came in that the title had been secured, Cox reflected on her journey in the sport.

"Mogul skiing has been my passion ever since I was a little kid. I live and breathe moguls, so to find out this afternoon that I have won the crystal globe for mogul skiing feels incredible."

"The job certainly is not done yet. We still have two more world cups in China before the World Championships in Spain."

"I skied well in the Duals today but my opponent in the round of 16 skied better. It was a close one but I think I got a bit wild in the middle section which meant the dual went her way."

"I am so grateful for the motivated and hard working support team I have around me. The Australian system of OWIA, NSWIS, AOC, AIS and Ski and Snowboard Australia provide our team with the best possible support to allow us to simply do our job as best we can week to week."

Olympic Winter Institute of Australia Mogul Skiing Head Coach Steve Desovich was thrilled with Cox's season after the event.

"Today Britt formally clinched the World Cup Title, which we are ecstatic with."

"This is a very monumental achievement and so well deserved. Ultimately only the very best are able to stay consistent throughout a whole season and emerge victorious."

"Having said this, we have two events remaining in China next week and the World Championships in March, which is where the focus will be at this stage."

Cox's World Cup title was not the only highlight for the OWIA/NSWIS Mogul Skiing Program in Japan, with Matt Graham putting together an impressive performance to take bronze.

Graham advanced through the first few rounds before a semi-final showdown with world number two, Benjamin Cavet of France. In a very competitive dual, Graham was unfortunately unable to progress to the big-final, going down 19 to 16.

Graham bounced back in the small-final, this time being on the right side of a 19-16 decision to take bronze against Kazakhstan's Dmitriy Reiherd.

Graham was thrilled to come away with his third World Cup medal of the season.

"Today was pretty awesome. I am really happy to come away with my third consecutive podium here in Tazawako."

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