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JARRYD HUGHES WINS WORLD CUP GOLD IN MONTAFON

SNOWBOARD CROSS: Jarryd Hughes has continued Australia's exceptional start to the Snowboard Cross season after claiming top spot on the podium at the World Cup event in Montafon, Austria.

After finishing 26th in qualification, Hughes confidently progressed through the eight final, quarter-finals and semis to make the four-man big final.

It was there that Hughes showed his best as he held off local favourites Alessandro Haemmerle and Markus Scharer of Austria to take the gold medal.

"I am absolutely stoked with this result," Hughes said.

"I have been working incredibly hard in the off season, so it feels amazing to have that pay off at this event.

"This is my second career World Cup win and it's given me a huge confidence boost heading into the Olympic season."

With the final featuring Olympic Champions and World Cup winners, Hughes knew he had to be in his best form to secure a victory

"It was a great race with a super hot and competitive field," said the 22-year-old.

"I knew I had to step up, calm any nerves and just put down the best run I could.

"The fact I was able to execute and get the win feels awesome."

Both Matt Thomas (12th) and last week's silver medallist Adam Lambert (16th) were knocked out in the quarter-finals while Alex 'Chumpy' Pullin finished 32nd, after deciding not to ride after the qualifications.

"The depth of Australia's snowboard cross athlete is unbelievable right now," Hughes said with this result seeing Pullin remain on top of the overall World Cup standings, with Hughes now in fourth and Lambert in fifth.

"It puts our country in a great spot leading into the Olympics and that is really exciting."

Further Information:

Belinda Noonan, OWIA

Belinda.noonan@owia.org 0411 157 063

