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AUSSIE SNOWBOARD CROSS SUPREMO ALEX PULLIN ON THE PODIUM AGAIN

Dual Olympian Alex 'Chumpy' Pullin remains on top of the World Cup Snowboard Cross rankings after winning bronze last night in Cervinia, Italy.

Pullin, who opened his season with a double gold weekend in Argentina, had retained his number 1 status despite electing not to contest the finals at Montafon, Austria last week due to risky weather conditions.

Opening his Cervinia campaign in emphatic fashion and facing a large field of 79 riders, Pullin qualified in second place on his opening run, guaranteeing a top 16 seeding and entry to the 32-man final. Team mates Cam Bolton and Adam Lambert joined Pullin in the top 32 after hard racing in their second qualifying runs.

Pullin and Lambert both won their heats in the opening round of the finals and with Cam Bolton all moved through to the quarters, where Pullin again won but Lambert and Bolton were out in narrow thirds.

Experience and smart tactics in the semi delivered Pullin his third medal final of the season – an opportunity he was happy to take.

"I had a good race and very happy to get a podium and continue to lead the works cup standings," Pullin said.

"The conditions were challenging with high wind which changed the speed of the features, but I managed to keep a good rhythm and make it to the podium."

The bronze medal win at Cervinia marks his 21st World Cup medal in an international career that began in 2007 and which has included back-to-back World Championship wins and Crystal Globes.

Cam Bolton had a return to the form and a result that he has been after for three seasons as the second highest qualifying Australian and final 10th place.

Like Bolton, Adam Lambert narrowly missed the semi-finals and finished overall in 12th.

Jarryd Hughes, who just five days ago won the Montafon World Cup, was disappointed to miss the top 32 qualifying time by 0.04 seconds, finding himself in 33rd position and out of the finals. Matthew Thomas placed 41st, Adam Dickson 52nd and Josh Miller 72nd.

The next Snowboard Cross World Cup will be contested in Ezerum, Turkey on January 19.

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