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## **BEST DAY IN MOGUL SKIING AS COX WINS GOLD, GRAHAM SILVER**

**The Australian moguls team have had an exceptional start to the World Cup season with Britt Cox winning gold and Matt Graham claiming silver in Ruka, Finland.**

This is the first time that Australians have been first and second in the same World Cup mogul event, a result which delights OWIA CEO, Geoff Lipshut.

"Statistically, this morning's results have been Australia's best ever mogul skiing day," Lipshut declared.

Brittney Cox delivered Australia's the best-ever Ladies Moguls World Cup result winning gold in magnificent style in the season's opener and Head Coach Steve Desovich is happy.

"Britt got through from the qualification in only 11th place, but she had a great run in the round of 16, and went into the superfinal ranked number one. A really strong performance skiing the last run of the night, gave her a great first career win," he said.

Success sits well with the 22-year-old from Mt Beauty in Victoria.

"I am so excited to kick off the season with my first World Cup win. This has been a goal of mine for quite some time now and it's very satisfying to finally climb to the top of the podium," Cox said.

"I made a big mistake in my first qualification run so I knew I needed to execute a nice clean and tidy run in the second qualifications to get back in the game. Once I reached the finals I found my gear and let my training come through."

"Sharing the podium with a team mate makes it even more special. It's a very proud moment to be there with Matt, and makes it even more special."

"The whole team, including the coaches and OWIA support staff worked really well together here and I'm really grateful for the support we have, which gives me confidence for the rest of the season."

Excellent turns, good jumps, speed and execution, were all on show as Britt skied a brilliant run to score 73.81 in the final ahead of Perrine Laffont (FRA) close behind on 73.13 and Keaton McCargo (USA) on 71.78.

Graham, from the NSW Central Coast, was well prepared for the opening World Cup - knowing that all eyes would once again be on Canada's Mikael Kingsbury, who claimed his 30th career victory and clearly was the favourite for the win in Ruka.

"Matt was very solid today, he skied well at all stages of the event. It is great to see him pick where he left off last season," said coach Steve (Des) Desovich.

Kingsbury was challenged by Graham whose strong technical skiing and solid performances had him second in the qualifying and both finals, displaying the consistency that the Australian coaches Des and Jerry are looking for in their squad.

In the end, Kingsbury won by four points with 84.26, followed by Matt Graham on 80.30 just edging out Ben Cavet from France who scored 80.11.

"Rohan Chapman Davies also did a really nice job today to qualify for the final and then register a PB in 14th place," Coach Desovich added.

The moguls team will take a break for strength and conditioning over Christmas before the North American leg of the tour.

Watch Britt's historic gold by clicking <https://instagram.com/p/BN2a26zhexW/>

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