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## **AERIALS GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE AND FIRST-EVER TEAM EVENT MEDAL**

The amazing winter weekend just kept getting better on Sunday with Australian athletes winning a record-breaking six World Cup medals after the VIS Aerial Skiing team bagged two more individual World Cup medals and the first-ever Team medal at Beida Lake, China.

Following in the golden and bronze path set by Belle Brockhoff and Alex 'Chumpy' Pullin in Snowboard Cross on Saturday morning, the Aerials team took up the charge.

Fresh from a silver medal on Saturday, Danielle Scott went one better to win her second career World Cup gold with higher scores and was joined on the podium by teammate Samantha Wells who jumped a PB and took the bronze.

Scott's gold, with Wells' bronze and the historic team bronze, brought Australia's weekend medal haul to a record-breaking six.

Following the men's event, in which Dave Morris placed 5<sup>th</sup>, the trio joined forces for the team event where Australia was not expected to figure in the medals.

Being one of only two nations to field two women and one man against every other team of two men and one woman, Australia won its first team medal claiming bronze behind Russia and Canada.

"Today was epic," Scott said after the medal presentations.

"I'm really excited to have landed on top of the podium and improve on yesterday's second place performance. I feel pretty good about the execution of my jumps and have loved every second of working with Joe and Jeff on the hill. It was a fantastic team effort out there."

"To finish the day and bring home a bronze with Sam and Dave in the team event, made my time in China a trip to remember."

"We had so much fun and a pretty cool experience being on the podium together."

Scott's dual individual medals now has her ranked as equal world number one.

"I have been so close to that yellow bib and it feels amazing to finally wear it," she said.

Coming off a disappointing first day, Wells stepped up a gear bringing her strong off-season training along for the ride.

"This was the first time I have competed dFF (double full full) in competition on snow and only the second time I've landed on the podium. I was part of the team that placed fourth last year in Beijing

and knew that I could bring greater strength now. It was really satisfying to stand on the podium with the same team from last year," Wells said.

Sochi Silver medallist Morris battled injury to deliver when it mattered.

"Last year the Australian team came fourth in the team event, being at a disadvantage having two girls and one boy, instead of two boys and one girl," Morris explained.

"All scores are combined to get the team total and today Sam and Dani really put down some great jumps, which combined with mine to secure a spot in the top 3, pushing out what seemed like some much stronger teams, but quality jumps and good landings pulled through and we have Australia's first team medal."

"I'm very proud of everyone's efforts today."

"I was severely unprepared for this weekend, today was a much-needed confidence boost after a disappointing first World Cup yesterday," he said.

"Being only the third day off the triple kicker this season and competing a skill that I've done around ten of in my entire career was a big step, with very little build up - but my coaches Joe and Jeff got the landing nicely prepared and the speed exactly right for me to execute my jump really well."

"Thanks go to our physio Kate for keeping me in one piece solid enough to continue jumping."

"We have an extremely strong team this year and will continue that momentum forwards toward 2018."

World Champion Laura Peel is yet to find her best form after qualifying fourth on day one in China, and Sochi bronze medallist Lydia Lassila will not return to competition until January in North America.

Olympic Winter Institute of Australia CEO Geoff Lipshut is more than happy.

"After two days of World Cup Aerial competition in China, the VIS Aerial Skiers team has capped off the best-ever December for winter sport athletes with three gold, two silver and three bronze," he said.

"December began with gold for Britt Cox and silver for Matt Graham in Moguls then Belle Brockhoff and Alex Pullin's Snowboard Cross Gold and Bronze. Aerials has won one Gold, one Silver and three Bronze. We also had good results for Scotty James (4<sup>th</sup>) in snowboard halfpipe, Jarryd Hughes (4<sup>th</sup>) in snowboard cross and Brendan Kerry (5<sup>th</sup>) in figure skating. A very good December."

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