

SIXTH GOLD MEDAL FOR MOGUL QUEEN BRITT COX

Britt Cox has sustained her excellent World Cup season by winning her sixth Mogul Skiing World Cup gold medal at Tazawako, Japan.

Today's win makes it six golds from eight World Cups, plus one bronze and only once missing the podium this season (in Val St. Come, Canada).

It is a truly remarkable accomplishment for the 22-year-old skier whose previous best rankings at season-end were 14th in moguls in 2013/14, and 57th on the overall list in 2014/15.

With just one World Cup remaining this season in China next week ahead of the World Championships in Spain on March 8, Britt's dominance in ladies' moguls is unassailable for the World Cup title and also a realistic chance to take out the Freestyle Skiing overall World Cup, which is determined across all Freestyle disciplines.

Cox did not have today's event all her own way – qualifying second and then again in the first final to Perrine Laffont from France.

However, by the medal round Cox was back on top scoring 78.57 to Laffont's 78.36.

"Wow what a day and what a feeling to be on the top of the podium in Japan," Cox said.

"This is my first time in Japan and I am amazed at how much the Japanese people love mogul skiing. It was so exciting having all the Japanese school kids cheering for us on the side of the course."

"I really wanted to pick up the intensity for the finals today, so I was really happy when I took a good chunk off my time in the finals. I think that's what got me to the top spot today."

Coach Steve 'Des' Desovich couldn't be happier.

"We are thrilled with Britt's performance today as she was able to improve on each of her three runs throughout the day," he said.

"Britt skied fast, jumped well and had very good turns to conclude a nice rounded performance between all three sectors. The conditions were tricky and it was a challenge due to changing weather and snow conditions but Britt adapted very well and advanced nicely throughout the day with no major errors."

The week-in week-out schedule for the mogul skiers could take its toll but the coach praised the fitness of Cox and the Australian squad for their continued success.

"It has been a long season thus far and we still have duals tomorrow and China next week - so really it just has to keep going whether you want a breather or not," Desovich said.

"Britt's improved strength and conditioning is really paying off at this time of the year and it's nice to see her continue so strong"

Cox was joined in the first final by fellow Australians Jakara Anthony – who is headed to the Asian Winter Games next week, and Madi Himbury finishing 9th and 16th respectively.

"It's always fun when I have my Aussie girls in the finals with me, I'm stoked for Madi and Jakara today," Cox said.

Matt Graham continued his strong form, finishing 5th. Graham is also enjoying a successful season, having been in the top six in the eight World Cups so far, collecting one gold and one silver along the way. Brodie Summers was the next placed Australian male making the first final and finishing 10th.

Other Australian results included Claudia Gueli 24th, Krystle Yin 28th, Rohan Chapman Davies 39th and James Matheson 41st.

The Mogul Duals will be competed tomorrow (Sunday) from 2.05pm.

Further Information:

Belinda Noonan, OWIA

<u>Belinda.noonan@owia.org</u>

0411 157 063

Andrew.pattison, OWIA

Andrew.pattison@owia.org
0411 281 372