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Press Release

January 31, 2006

Team Rossignol's Russian Rocket – Natasha Naryshkina On the Rise

The Telemark SuperTour opened with classic sprints this past Wednesday with ideal conditions and strong competition on a challenging course. Bright blue skies and deceptively cold temps made waxing a piece of cake allowing racers to focus their attention on attacking the testy longer than usual hilly sprint course. The course unfolded before the racers with a quick flat into a downhill section, transitioning to a feel-those-legs steep uphill, a short S-turn, a more gradual uphill leading to a screaming, tuck-worthy descent, and a blink of the eye rise before the final 100M stretch into the stadium finish.

Team Rossignol's Natasha Naryshkina is on a winning roll, following up her past two week podium finishes – a win in the Itasca 10K classic and a third at Capitol Square – with a dominating sprint at the Telemark Sprints. The longer tougher course played perfectly to Naryshkina's all-around distance skiing strengths. She attacked from the start with her powerful pounding stride, which increased in intensity up both the major climbs and then employed her quick deep double poling to blast into the spectator-filled stadium. Naryshkina dashed across the line ahead of Erin Hood in second and Shayla Swanson in third.

On Sunday, The spring-like conditions throughout the Midwest, responsible for the cancellation of numerous races, fortunately did not so severely affect the Telemark trails. The 5K Classic loop featured relentless rolling steep climbs and descents with no flats to be found in between. Racer's skiing early in the day seized a significant advantage, as the course transitioned from pure icy tracks to spring slush.

In the women's 5K Classic, a huge deep field of 101 stormed the rock hard course early in the morning with its G-force glide and tricky technical descending turns. The ongoing SuperTour battle between Team Rossignol's Natasha Naryshkina and Shayla Swanson ensued. Naryshkina's tenacity ignited as she fiercely fought over the continuously climbing and descending loop. It was a tightly contested race, apparent in the final results with first through sixth places separated by less than 20 seconds. In the end it was Swanson prevailing by a mere second in 16:34 and Naryshkina nipping at her bindings at 16:35. Erin Hood strided in to take third at 16:40.

In the men's 10K Classic event, 150 racers attacked the 5K loop twice at interval starts with hundreds of cheering spectators filling the stadium under sunny skies. David Chamberlain dominated the field with a 27:26. Chris Cook captured second at 27:45. Zack Violett skied hard and steady to take third at 28:25.



Natalia Naryshkina makes her move
Photo credit: Paul Belknap



Telemark, WI Super Series start
Photo credit: Kelly Randolph

