

CONTESTED JURY DECISION: FAIRPLAY FOLLOWS ANGET!

Controversial jury decisions at the Austria Climbing Summer Series - Florian Klingler and Nicolai Uznik look ahead to anger and disappointment.

Objection, "it echoed from the backstage area behind the 2018 World Cup bouldering wall over to the jury table. At first Jakob Schubert no longer understood the world, on the fourth semi-final boulder claimed the zone for himself and therefore also the points that would have meant the final entry.

But the three-time world champion had to tremble around 20 minutes for his final entry at the first stop of the Austria Climbing Summer Tour. Like Nicolai Uznik, who also objected to the referee's zone on the last boulder.

In the end, the jury accepted Schubert's objection, which improved him from seventh to second place in the semifinals. With his teammate from Carinthia, the result remained. Schubert: "Sure I'm glad I'm in the final, but at the same time I'm really sorry for Flo and Nico, who also deserved to climb again in the decision."

Klingler Looks Ahead

The former, namely Florian Klingler, took it by surprise that he was still out of the final ranks in overtime. "I watched Jakob's situation in the video. As soon as it goes to the jury, decisions are always difficult. This time she failed against me, too bad because I would like to have climbed again. But I'm sure to cheer Jakob on in the final. "

And so there was a shake hands between the two friends and teammates, after which the first competition of the Austria Climbing Summer Series for Florian Klingler was almost over, the thoughts were already about the second bouldering event next week.

"It's nice that things started again, the atmosphere was great even without a spectator. I now know how it works here and will try to do better at the second station. "

Disappointment at Uznik

With Nicolai Uznik, it felt like an eternity before the anger over the controversial jury decision was resolved.

"I knew that Jakob, Flo and I would have a very close fight in the fight for the final, so during the fourth boulder I made sure that I got the bonus. If you are kicked out of the finals with an at least questionable referee verdict, there is a bland aftertaste, "said Uznik.

But the second young hoppers at home also took a lot of positive things from the first competition. "There were some good actions, I now know where I am and I'm looking forward to attacking again next week."

MIXED FEELINGS AT JESSICA PILZ

The first competition after a long Corona break is over and Jessica Pilz looks at the start of the Austria Climbing Summer Series with mixed feelings. Fourth place in the bouldering competition does not quite meet the demands of the 2018 world champion.

Unfortunately, my climbing performance is not yet so good," the 23-year-old admits frankly. "All my weaknesses have been revealed. Especially the record. I didn't make any of the three. "

This shortcoming has wiped out a better result. "Jessy knows what she has to work on," explains trainer Katharina Sauersrin. "But she is a crazy fighter and blows her skin clean. You can see that from their success. "

First speed, then second boulder

Pilz will have the chance to show their best side again on Friday at the speed competition. "Speed went quite well in training. Now I want to get my best time in the competition ", the Lower Austrian is looking forward to the next opportunity.

They'll be back soon when it comes to bouldering. The second showdown for the Austria Climbing Summer Series will take place next Wednesday. "Then we will see whether it is due to the daily constitution or whether it was actually my form," grins Pilz.

Young guard puts pressure

In any case, the motivation is great - also because the young guard is already generating a lot of pressure. Pilz is happy because it means that it always has to x push itself to the limit.

"Otherwise it would be boring if you always won. So you have a great motivation to do better next time. "

FÄRBER WINS OPENING AT AUSTRIA CLIMBING SUMMER SERIES

The first winner of the Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020 has been determined: Johanna Färber (BV Bouldering Club Bloc House, STMK) won the women's bouldering competition. With Eva-Maria Hammelmüller (ÖAV Haag NÖ) another Austrian took second place, five KVÖ athletes made it to the final.

Färber, already third in qualifying and second in the semifinals, showed a brilliant performance in the top six finals. The 22-year-old from Graz was the only athlete to achieve three of four tops on the mobile World Cup wall from 2018 in the athletics hall in the Sillside area in Innsbruck and cheered: "I am incredibly happy, it is really emotional. I was so nervous and never thought it would work out after the Corona break. Before qualifying, I had sleepless nights because I was so nervous - today I will sleep particularly well! "

"Jo", as Färber is called by her teammates, has used the last few weeks, including the mandatory climbing break, for specific strength training. As the right path now shows: "When the lockdown came, I tried to keep fit at home somehow. It was a challenge in the beginning, but I tried to do a lot of strength training and work on my weaknesses. I can already tell that it really paid off. "

Hammelmüller, a young woman from Lower Austria, was happy about second place. The 20-year-old reached two tops (three zones) and completed a strong bouldering competition (1st place in qualifying and semi-finals): "It was really fun climbing the last two days, almost everything worked out for me. In any case, I'm completely happy with my performance. It was a bit strange at first, but I was able to flip the switch. Tomorrow I'll take the speed competition with me, on the weekend I go rock climbing and then I'm ready for round two!

Petra Klingler, the 2016 World Bouldering Champion from Switzerland, came third. Like fourth-placed Jessica Pilz, she got a top (three zones) but needed one less attempt and therefore made it onto the podium. Pilz struggled especially with the plate boulderers: "My performance was not good, also because all my weaknesses were queried. If you look at both days, it says: Plate 3, Jessy 0. But I feel good with the fitness boulderers, which gives me hope for next week. Then I will see whether it was dependent on the day or whether it really is the form. "

Places five and six went to two young KVÖ aces with Mattea Pötzi and Sandra Lettner. "It was a great competition, very varied - the athletes had a lot of fun bouldering, you could see that in every round. Everyone is happy that there was finally a competition again. Five out of six climbers in the final were Austrian, which is anything but a matter of course for this starting field. Some young athletes have shown well, which shows that we can look forward to the next few years. "

Tomorrow Friday, the first speed competition will take place in the Innsbruck climbing center. Qualification starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by the final.

SCHUBERT WINS BOULDER APPLICATION AFTER SCENE SECOND

Two competitions, two Austrian victories at the start of the Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020 in Innsbruck. After Johanna Färber for the women, Jakob Schubert (ÖAV Innsbruck, TIR) won the bouldering competition for the men and thus the first competition since the compulsory break.

The three-time world champion had to fear and fight for the finalists: In the semifinals, the technical boulders did not meet him, and a scar on his knee broke again and affected him. Only after an objection and a zone recognized by it did Schubert advance to the final of the top 6 as a semi-final second.

"It was a very clear matter for me. I knew the booth and knew that the bonus for moving up to the final was enough - so I did everything I could. For me it was done and then I heard that the zone was not scored. I'm sorry for Florian, but in the end the decision was the right one, "said the 29-year-old Tyrolean.

In the final, Schubert was the only athlete to achieve two tops and secure the victory: "Of course it doesn't get any better in terms of placement, but it was hard work - and it is also about recognizing the mistakes and working on them. My weaknesses were not punished today, it would be very different in the World Cup."

A trio from Germany followed behind Schubert: Philipp Martin, Christoph Schweiger and Max Kleesattel took second, third and fourth place. Austria's second finalist, Stephan Rest (ÖAV Kuchl, SLBG), took 6th place behind Swiss Sascha Lehmann.

The rest of the Austrians were not lucky in the semifinals: Florian Klingler (ÖAV Innsbruck, TIR) slipped to seventh place due to Schubert's successful objection and thus missed the final, Nicolai Uznik (SV St. Johann iR, KNT), like Schubert, objected to one supposedly secured zone and was rejected.

While Klingler was able to quickly forget the disappointment, it took longer for Uznik to dissolve the anger over the controversial jury decision: "I knew that Jakob, Flo and I would be very close in the fight for the final, which is why I got involved fourth boulder made sure that I get the bonus. If you are kicked out of the finals with an at least questionable referee judgment, there is already a bland aftertaste."

For KVÖ coach Kilian Fischhuber trend-setting scenes: "For some people it was definitely a shot in the bow, but it was better at the Summer Series than at the World Cup - and that is exactly what we are aiming for. You have to get back into the competition, from that point of view it was a success."

Tomorrow Friday, the first speed competition will take place in the Innsbruck climbing center. The men's qualification starts at 11 a.m., followed by the final. Schubert: "I am curious to see how tired I will be tomorrow - but I hope that something will still work there. The three laps and especially the heat have cost me a bit of skin, but I will still try to accelerate again."

RECORDS AND VICTORY TO COMPLETE THE FIRST COMPETITION PHASE

Rapid completion of the first part of the Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020: At the speed competition, the KVÖ aces celebrated new Austrian records and home wins.

Alexandra Elmer (ÖAV Tauernkraxla, SLBG) secured victory for the women. "It went great, it couldn't have been better. It was just important for me to finally compete again," said the 24-year-old.

Elmer won her duels on the 15-meter wall in the climbing center Innsbruck confidently and also set a new Austrian best time in the final with 8.38 seconds: "I was able to improve the record twice - that's a cool challenge. I already knew that maybe there was a best time because I was in a good mood during training. But to implement it in competition is a completely different topic."

Almost wins, Plangger breaks the sound barrier

Second place went to Franziska Ritter (GER) ahead of Nuria Brockfeld (GER). Laura Stöckler (ÖAV Haag, Lower Austria) came fourth, who was extremely satisfied with the top position: "It went perfectly, better than expected. I haven't trained much speed in the last few months and then I was able to stay under 9 seconds in a competition for the first time." Jessica Pilz (ÖAV Haag, Lower Austria) made it below the 10-second mark three times and took 5th place, Eva-Maria Hammelmüller (ÖAV Haag, Lower Austria) rank 6.

The men's victory went to Lukas Knapp (NFÖ Salzburg, SLBG). The 23-year-old from Salzburg showed consistently strong performances and secured victory in the final with 6.69 seconds. "The joy is great, especially about the times. The 6.46 in qualifying was very good and narrowly short of my personal best. "

(ÖAV Innsbruck, TIR) set a new red-white-red record. In qualifying, the 19-year-old Tyrolean only needed 5.98 seconds and cracked the magical 6-second sound barrier for the first time. Plangger beamed accordingly: "It is simply mega. I was able to prepare well for the Summer Series and knew that I was in a good mood. The goal was not victory but good times, I succeeded. I always wanted to be under the 6 seconds - brilliant! "In the semifinals, the Innsbrucker slipped and had to give up just a little bit, finally taking 3rd place, the German Ludwig Breu took second place.

Positive Balance After Part 1

Winner Knapp was also delighted with Plangger: "Tobias was really strong in training, which he also showed in competition. Unfortunately he is out once, I would have liked a final against him. His record is already a brand. "

Jakob Schubert (ÖAV Innsbruck, TIR) showed himself in good speed form and stayed under 7 seconds twice before failing the quarter-finals due to a mistake. Finally, the three-time world champion took seventh place, Jan-Luca Posch (ÖAV Innsbruck, TIR) finished sixth ahead of him.

Pawel Draga, trainer of the KVÖ-Speed-Team since 2018, happily summed up: "I am very satisfied with the performance, especially from our speed specialists. Two victories, two new Austrian records and some personal bests - that is a great motivation to continue on the path started a year and a half ago. "

Part 1 of the Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020 is now complete, next week (July 15th / 16th Boulder, July 17th Speed) will continue with the next competitions. KVÖ sports director Heiko Wilhelm is completely satisfied: "We have had three exciting competition days, which have also shown how important a competitive atmosphere is for the athletes. The feedback from the teams from Germany and Switzerland was very, very good, also as far as the frame is concerned - starting with the backdrop, the atmosphere with speakers and DJ to the worldwide live stream and live broadcast on ORF. "

"I would especially like to thank the entire KVÖ team for their preparation. The Covid19 security measures were of course a challenge, but it worked well for the applicants themselves - so hopefully it will continue. "

RESULTS

Speed, women, top 15:

1. Alexandra Elmer
2. Franziska Ritter (GER)
3. Nuria Brockfeld (GER)
4. Laura Stöckler
5. Jessica Pilz
6. Eva-Maria Hammelmüller
7. Lea Kempf
8. Celina Schoibl
9. Julia Lotz
10. Stephanie Leitner
11. Sandra Lettner
12. Jana Rauth
13. Emma Tabernig
14. Franziska Sterrer
15. Petra Klingler (SUI)

Speed, Men, Top-15:

1. Lukas Knapp
2. Ludwig Breu (GER)
3. Tobias Plangger
4. Thorben Perry Bloem (GER)
5. Sascha Lehmann (SUI)
6. Jan-Luca Posch
7. Jakob Schubert
8. Sebastian Lucke (GER)
9. Jonas Biack
10. Johannes Hofherr
11. Linus Bader (GER)
12. David Zinsler
13. Lawrence Bogeschdorfer
14. Robin Kirchmair
15. Stefan Scherz