

## Women's Ski Jumping USA

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### Press Release

Dec. 18, 2010

## Visa Team strong heading into holiday break

Dec. 18, 2010 – Powered by three finishers in the top 10 Saturday in the second of two competitions in Notodden, Norway, the Visa Women's Ski Jumping Team will carry some serious momentum into the stretch run of the Continental Cup season and the World Championships following a three-week break for the holidays.

Lindsey Van (4<sup>th</sup> place), Abby Hughes (6<sup>th</sup>) and Jessica Jerome (7<sup>th</sup>) overcame heavy snow, strong winds and several course holds to finish in the top 10 behind winner Coline Mattel of France, who halted Daniela Iraschko's win streak at four while claiming the first Continental Cup victory of her career. Austria's Iraschko maintained her overall lead in the COC standings with 560 points, ahead of second-place Jerome (376 points) and third-place Van (316 points).

Mattel posted jumps of 90.5 and 92 meters on the K90 hill, and edged Iraschko, who jumped 90 and 93 meters, on style points. Van, ninth after the first jump, jumped 91 meters in round two to climb into fourth. Jerome, who finished second in Friday's competition in Notodden, opened with a 90-meter effort on Saturday before falling back a bit in round two with 87.5. Hughes posted her best result of the winter season despite the difficult conditions.

"My goals today were to land safely," said Hughes, who jumped 91.5 and 86.5 meters. "I had a really good first jump that I hadn't had on this hill yet. And I'm pleased that my second jump was consistent, but I didn't have any air. ... With a little bit of headwind the hill can feel completely different than when there is a little bit of tailwind."

Three more Visa team members finished in the points on Saturday, with Sarah Hendrickson 20<sup>th</sup>, Alissa Johnson 21<sup>st</sup> and Karin Friberg – who qualified for a second jump for the first time this winter season – finishing 32<sup>nd</sup>.

"I finally relaxed and just trusted my legs to do all of the work," Friberg said. "Today I didn't let the weather affect me at all and I just trusted my feelings more. ... I am hoping to continue to train harder for the rest of the season so that I might be able to ski even better and consistently make it into the second round and improve the caliber of my jumps."

With four jumpers in the top 15 of the COC standings — no other nation has more than two — the Visa Women's Ski Jumping Team will hope to build on its momentum when the Continental Cup resumes Jan. 8 in Schonach, Germany. The team is focused on training for and competing in the second ever World Ski Jumping Championships in which women will be allowed to compete. The event takes place Feb. 25 in Oslo, Norway.

**Continental Cup**  
**Notodden, Norway**  
**Dec. 18, 2010**  
**Women's HS98**

1. Coline Mattel, FRA (90.5, 92.0) 238.5
  2. Daniela Iraschko, AUT, (90.0, 93.0) 230.0
  3. Melanie Faisst, GER, (94.5, 87.0) 228.5
  4. Lindsey Van, USA, (88.5, 91.0) 227.0
  6. Abby Hughes, USA (91.5, 86.5) 223.0
  7. Jessica Jerome, USA (90.0, 87.5) 216.5
  20. Sarah Hendrickson, USA (75.5, 87.5) 188.0
  21. Alissa Johnson, USA (80.5, 83.0) 185.0
  32. Karin Friberg, USA, (78.5, 65.0) 136.0
  36. Avery Ardovino, USA, (71.5) 70.0
  37. Nina Lussi, USA, (71.0) 67.5
  39. Nita Englund, USA (69.5) 61.5
- (top 30 and ties after first round jump in second round)

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