

Women's Ski Jumping USA
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Press Release

Jerome second, Van third in second day at Rovaniemi

Dec. 9, 2010 — Half a point separated Visa Women's Ski Jumping Team members Jessica Jerome and Lindsey Van in the second day of jumping at the season opener in Rovaniemi, Finland. Jerome finished in second and Van in third on Wednesday.

After winning Tuesday's comp, Jerome had two solid jumps at 93 meters each, scoring 241 points. Van, who finished fourth the previous day, jumped 93.5 and 92 meters, scoring 240.5 points. Austria's Daniela Iraschko took the top spot with two 98-meter jumps and 263 points.

Additional American finishers included Sarah Hendrickson, who tied for 7th; Alissa Johnson 13th, Abby Hughes 20th, Nita Englund 23rd, Nina Lussi 33rd, Avery Ardivino 35th, and Karin Friberg 36th.

Jerome and Iraschko are now tied for first place overall in the Continental Cup standings and Van, current world champion, is in third as the jumpers head to Vikersund, Norway for the next competition, which starts Saturday.

Jerome, who nabbed the first win of her COC career on Tuesday, said she was thrilled with her consistent performance in Rovaniemi and knows what she needs to improve on as the season progresses.

"My jumps on the first comp day were very close to what I've been looking to do, technically speaking, and I was ecstatic to put two good jumps together," Jerome said. "The second day, although my jumps weren't as good as the day before, I was still able to stay fairly consistent and end up in second place."

Van, who took a break from international competition last season, said it was good to be jumping in Finland and that while she was satisfied with her jumps, she "has a lot of room for improvement."

"I am looking forward to showing my good jumps on the bigger hill in Norway," Van said. "We did very well both days and it's a great start for our team."

All nine members of the Visa Women's Ski Jumping Team qualified to compete and they represent one of the largest groups of women jumpers the U.S. has had in one international COC competition. The travel and training for the team this season were made possible thanks to three major fundraising events this year and the recent announcement by USANA Health Sciences, based in Salt Lake City, that it is a new team sponsor.

"Our team had another great day and just like all the other jumpers, I am so excited for the season to really get into full speed and see where we can take things," Jerome said. "The U.S. girls as a whole are very strong coming into this year — it's really cool to see."

Additional Quotes from Visa Team members about the Rovaniemi competitions:

Avery Ardivino: "It was my first time in Finland and it was good to compete on snow again and to jump on a new hill. This weekend, I had good jumps in official training and good trial rounds, but I couldn't manage to bring that into the competitions. I'm happy to go back to

Vikersund because my training there was a lot better and I'm more confident about my jumps there."

Abby Hughes: "Going into the winter season, our team is feeling strong and we are showing it by our results. We're looking forward to this season."

Karin Friberg: "It's my first time to Finland and it's strange to only have four hours of daylight every day. I'm excited to have been able to compete and it's good to see all the international teams getting together again for another season."

Sarah Hendrickson: "It's good to be competing in the winter again. I'm excited about the team's results. My jumps were OK, but I definitely see room for improvement for my future jumps."

Nina Lussi: "It was good to see Finland and jump on a new hill. My jumps were not as good as I know they can be and so I am looking forward to the next competitions."

Nita Englund: "I'm really glad the U.S. team was so strong in the first comps. I felt like my jumps were right where they should be for this time of the year. I enjoyed the experience of competing in Finland, and I'm satisfied because I got my best international result."

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