



Horsefeathers Pleasure Jam (Swatch TTR 4Star)

Nov 13th- Nov 15th 2009

Atomic Superpark Dachstein

Schladming-Dachstein region at the Dachstein glacier

Freestyle-sensation at the Horsefeathers Pleasure Jam 2009 -

Elias Elhardt and Enni Rukajärvi: Winners with spectacular performances

As many as 3000 visitors pilgrimed to the seventh Horsefeathers Pleasure Jam in the Atomic Superpark on the Dachstein glacier last weekend. In a height of 2.600 meters and in the valley, QParks and the Schladming-Dachstein region have shown how to entertain the scene with a diverse and fully loaded schedule: Roughly hundred riders from more than 15 different nations, a bunch of hot parties and a top-class slopestyle set-up.

Finally, two successful days were over and the TTR 4 star event brought out two beaming winners: The young German highflyer **Elias Elhardt** secured himself not only USD 6000.- prize-money with his first place, but he has also won a 3 week's surf-trip to the overwhelming Bali-surfcamp with his best-trick-performance.

Enni Rukajärvi from Finland, who already had to hold her ground at the qualification round, was rapt away by her first place and the prize-money of USD 900.-.

Despite changing weather conditions and delays, the schedule could eventually be pulled through as planned for the 70 fellers and 20 ladies. Thanks to the sun that came through at noon, already the qualification day turned out absolutely perfect and was marked by ravishing performances and actions. About 500 spectators witnessed breathtaking tricks such as Cab 900 Double Corks and Backside Rodeos. In the end, **Gjermund Braaten** (NOR) won the qualification with a combination of a Backside 900, a Cab 900 and a Frontside 360, before **Simon Gruber** (ITA) and **Max Weickl** (AUT). On Friday afternoon the 14 best males had been fixed for reaching the final. Happy about the first prize-money, riders as well as the invited media- and industry-representatives met for a colorful scene-come-together at the **Gala Dinner** in the Hohenhaus Tenne. After tasting some Styrian tasty tidbits, the party-folks moved on to the **Blue Tomato Riders Party** on the top floor.

For the day of the finals, parkdesigner Bernd Mandlberger and his crew put out all the stops: The perfectly shaped lines, together with heavenly weather-conditions contributed to the motivation of the riders who already started with their training very early in the morning. After the 2nd run of the ladies' qualifications the semi-final followed, where the 10 invited riders met the 14 qualified in a "best-of-two" format. Thereby, the better of the two runs was rated. At the concluding **Superfinal**, the riders boasted with their skills and proved that they were rightly the elite of the contest.



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Especially **Elias Elhardt** (GER) showed both nerves and creativity with his Frontside 720, Backside 1080 Doublecork (best trick!) and a Backflip. The second place landed the young Norwegian **Torgeir Bergrem**.

Another surprise was the Austrian **Max Weickl** who could defend his great third place from the qualification: *"I am entirely happy with my placement. At first I had to worry for even getting a starting place and now I'm third – it's just insane! I just tried to take it easy and not risking too much."*

But also the girls showed some highly convincing tricks and eventually **Enni Rukajärvi** made the remarkable first place with a Cab 540, a Backside 360 and a Frontside 360. **Cheryl Maas** (NED) could not entirely find her way in the contest-line but could still make the brilliant second place. Last year's winner **Sarka Pancochova** (CZE) merely landed the 4th place, nevertheless she now has taken over the lead of the TTR world ranking. The Austrians **Julia Baumgartner** and **Lisa Filzmoser** took the places five and six.

Eventually, the Horsefeathers Pleasure Jam found an adequate ending with the Pickings Fam Party inside the Hofbauer Stollen, where 1200 party-people turned the night into day.

The relaxed and high-spirited atmosphere on the Dachstein and down in the valley has shown all the more that the Horsefeathers Pleasure Jam has established itself as *the* kick-off of the winter-season. Hence, the Schladming-Dachstein region is more and more developing into a real freestyle-mecca. Whoever wants to spend the time until the next Horsefeathers Pleasure Jam 2010 with improving his/her skills, the Atomic Superpark Dachstein and the more than equal Horsefeathers Superpark Planai have open the gates throughout the season.

For all the information, photos and the brand-new videoclip of the Horsefeathers Pleasure Jam 09 visit www.pleasurejam.com !

