



Junior World Orienteering Championships **Campionati mondiali juniores di corsa d'orientamento**

Tenero, 10-17.07.2005

Conferenza stampa JWOC 2005, Bellinzona 8 luglio 2005

Summary of reports

1. Introduction

Today, representatives of the international and Swiss orienteering federations, the Ticino Sports association and the organizing committee have gathered in Bellinzona, capital of the Canton of Ticino – under the walls of its three castles, a UNESCO heritage site – to inaugurate what is a vitally important week for the sport.

From 9 to 17 July, the Canton of Ticino and Italian-speaking Switzerland generally will be welcoming the elite of world orienteering to their woods and city squares for three events of major importance: the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC 2005), the Swiss 5-day event, and the invitation “Postfinance Sprint” competition, each presented at the media conference by the presidents of their respective organizing committees.

2. Reports

On behalf of the organizers, the president of JWOC 2005 and the 5-day event, **Francesco Guglielmetti**, extended a welcome and confirmed that everything was ready, after months of work, to receive the 400 athletes and coaches involved in the world championships, the 1,900 participants in the Swiss 5-day event and the 100 Postfinance Sprint competitors. He said this was a unique experience for the Ticino orienteering movement, a project that had demanded far more work than anticipated, both in its general organization and in terms of personal commitment. During this week of world-class competition, no less than 270 helpers would be ensuring the technical quality of the competitions and all the other activities involved in staging a sporting event of this magnitude.

According to the national delegations which, in the year's run-up to the world championships, had organized 28 training camps in Ticino, the woodlands of Italian-speaking Switzerland had few similarities with those of other nations involved in orienteering, which should ensure fair play all round, without the host country deriving undue advantage from the local conditions.

In bringing greetings from the cantonal government, **Gabriele Gendotti**, senator for the Canton of Ticino and director of the Department of Education, Culture and Sport, expressed satisfaction at seeing another top-level sporting event being staged on cantonal territory, after the world cycling and mountain-biking championships. The Junior World Orienteering Championship, the Swiss 5-day event and the Postfinance Sprint competition would transform the woods of the canton into great open-air sports installations, another aspect of the wealth of sports infrastructure available to the community for leisure activities.

For Senator Gendotti, it was a source of pride that Ticino could offer competitors from so many countries the competence and enthusiasm the organizers had built up over many years in a very wide range of competitions.

Senator Gendotti also praised the great effort made by the cantonal orienteering movement in promoting orienteering not only as an elite sport but as a sport for all, and an ideal school-based activity. Gendotti was delighted to report the figures achieved by the sCOOL project, set up to



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popularize orienteering in schools: in 2003, 12,000 Ticino pupils had contributed to a world record, duly noted in the Guinness Book of Records, for the biggest sporting event ever staged on a single day; in 2004, 650 young people and, in 2005, 570 children had taken part in the sCOOL Cup, while 1,890 pupils from 35 schools had been involved in the various stages of the sCOOL Tour de Suisse between 2002 and 2005.

In orienteering, which ideally combines activity in the natural world with the mental effort required to interpret a map, the senator saw a realization of the basic objectives of sport for all – objectives which modern sports policy-makers would want to share and support. In this respect, the Canton of Ticino could rightly claim to be one of the leaders in Switzerland, with a school for elite sportsmen and women, special funds set aside to support sports federations' youth activities, targeted campaigns and sport-for-all days.

This was the fertile ground, concluded the senator, in which the world orienteering week project had been able to take root, and he was confident that it would enjoy a well-deserved success.

Beat Fischer, president of the Swiss Orienteering Federation thanked the Ticino Sports Association for undertaking the demanding task of organizing the world junior championship. Thanks to the orienteering enthusiasts of Ticino, the Swiss Federation was able to honour its commitments in respect of the International Orienteering Federation.

Staging major international orienteering events at regular intervals was one of the strategic objectives of the Swiss Federation, so as to maintain the high standards achieved in recent years, enabling it, as the only non-Olympic sports federation, to be included in the primary group of Swiss Olympic sports. Thanks to the success of its athletes, the robustness of its structures, its perfect organization of the world championship held at Rapperswil in 2003 and the ski-orienteering championships staged at S-Chanf earlier this year – and now these world junior championships organized with such enthusiasm by its members from Ticino – the national federation was in a position to forge ahead, at home and internationally.

Willi Müller, the Swiss Federation member with responsibility for orienteering as an elite sport, emphasized the need to bring on new generations of athletes, the objectives being to train well-rounded competitors who could fully realize their potential on the most varied types of terrain.

In Switzerland, the accent in the preparation and training for the 2005 world junior championships had been on the physical demands of uphill climbing and on mental factors: how to cope with the pressures arising from coaches' high expectations of athletes, from the Federation, from family, and the public generally. In a few days, they would be reaping the harvest of all the hard work put in.

Switzerland had a long tradition of victories and top placings in the world junior championships, and was determined to maintain this record. Competition from the Scandinavian countries would be particularly fierce this year, but the Swiss team had taken great pains in preparing for these championships and was aiming to repeat, and possibly improve, on the results achieved last year in Poland.

Sönke Bandixen, president of the organizing committee of the invitation Postfinance Sprint event, gave an update on the latest developments in this competition, launched on the wave of success which followed the Rapperswil world championship in 2003. The aim had been to provide Switzerland with an annual competition involving the big names of world orienteering. This year, despite its coinciding with other major events, and the approach of the world elite championship scheduled for August in Japan, the organizers had managed to bring together a top-class bunch of competitors. The world's three top-ranking women (the Swiss multi-medal-winner Simone Niggli Luder, the Swede Jenny Johannson and the Swiss Vroni König) would be on the starting line in Bellinzona, while the men would include the Swede Mats Troeng, number three in the 2005 world



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rankings, the best qualified orienteerer on courses involving city squares, narrow lanes and restricted spaces. Troeng would be competing with such dangerous adversaries as the Swiss sportsmen Daniel Hubmann, winner of a world cup competition in Great Britain, and Matthia Merz, the currently reigning – but soon to be replaced – world junior champion. To compete in the Postfinance Sprint finals held on Sunday 10 July in Bellinzona, the athletes would have to qualify on the Saturday afternoon at Novaggio, in a middle-distance event which would also serve as a qualifier for the world elite championship in Japan. Eighty orienteerers from nine countries would be competing at Novaggio, but only 45 of them would qualify for the final in Bellinzona, due to start at 3.30 p.m. This event would be preceded (at 2.30 p.m.), over the same route, by the departure of 46 junior competitors from 25 countries, who would thus be throwing down a challenge to the world elite. Their competition would serve as a prologue, or hors d'oeuvre, to the more important and substantial events of the full-scale world championship. In pole position among the juniors would be the Swede Erik Rost.

The Bellinzona event would be broadcast live on TSI 2.

In future, the Postfinance Sprint event should be included in the list of World Cup Series competitions, which the International Federation is planning to establish in 2007.



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Programme of the week

Saturday - 9.7.2005

13:30 qualification race for world championship in Japan and for PostFinance Sprint in Novaggio

Sunday - 10.7.2005

14:30- 17:00 **Final of PostFinance Sprint** (elite sprint competition) in Bellinzona

17:00- 17:30 Post Finance Sprint price giving ceremony and JWOC 2005 opening ceremony in Bellinzona

Monday - 11.7.2005

10:00 first start of Leg 1, Bellinzona

20:30 opening ceremony at CST

21:00 price giving ceremony of leg 1 at the CST

Tuesday - 12.7.2005

10:00 JWOC Middle distance qualification race, Tesserete

13:00 first start of Leg 2, Tesserete

21:00 price giving ceremony of leg 2 at the CST

Wednesday - 13.7.2005

09:00 **JWOC Middle distance final**, Taverne

13:00 first start of Leg 3, Taverne

20:30 price giving ceremony JWOC at the CST

21:00 price giving ceremony of leg 3 at the CST

Thursday - 14.7.2005

09:00 **JWOC Classic distance race**, Losone

20:30 price giving ceremony JWOC at the CST

Friday - 15.7.2005

10:00 first start of Leg 4, Cademario

21:00 price giving ceremony of leg 4 at the CST

Saturday - 16.7.2005

09:30 **JWOC Relay**, San Bernardino

13:00 first start of Leg 5, San Bernardino

13:00 price giving ceremony JWOC at San Bernardino

18:00 price giving ceremony of the leg and of the whole competition at the arrival area in San Bernardino

Sunday - 17.7.2005

09:30 closure of competition centre in Tenero



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Nazioni partecipanti ai JWOC

AUSTRALIA	15	ITALY	12
AUSTRIA	9	JAPAN	15
BELARUS	8	LATVIA	12
BELGIUM	11	LITUANIA	9
BULGARIA	10	NETHERLANDS	3
CANADA	6	NEW ZELAND	12
CHINA/Hong Kong	15	NORWAY	16
CROATIA	4	POLAND	11
CZECH REPUBLIC	16	PORTUGAL	5
DENMARK	15	ROMANIA	12
ESTONIA	8	RUSSIA	15
FINLAND	15	SLOVAKIA	6
FRANCE	16	SLOVENIA	1
GERMANY	11	SPAIN	14
GREAT BRITAIN	16	SWEDEN	16
HUNGARY	14	SWITZERLAND	16
IRELAND	3	UKRAINA	10
ISRAEL	4	USA	12

Il team svizzero

Donne

Nome	Cognome	Anno
Ines	Brodmann	1985
Caroline	Cejka	1985
Rahel	Friederich	1986
Sara	Lüscher	1986
Fabienne	Stucki	1986
Sara	Würmli	1987

Uomini

Nome	Cognome	Anno
Sebastian	Hägler	1986
Fabian	Hertner	1985
Stefan	Lombriser	1985
Jonas	Mathys	1987
Sandro	Rechsteiner	1985
Andreas	Rüedlinger	1985



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