

press release

THE NORWEGIAN ATHLETE TRYM NYGAARD LOEKEN AND THE FRENCH CHAMPION ARGELINE TAN BOUQUET WIN THE PODIUM OF THE FIRST DAY OF RACE OF THE TELEMARK WORLD CUP IN LA THUILE

La Thuile, January 20th 2019 – The n. 3 – Franco Berthod ski slope is wonderful, the snow is perfect and the organisation exemplary. This is the general opinion among the athletes who took part to the **Sprint race of La Thuile, which opened the Telemark World Cup season**. This is a significant recurrence for the valdôtain town, which confirms its ability to organise and run international events.

Spectacular athletic performances were realised by the athletes: 27 gates, one jump and a parabolic curve which had to be completely interpreted. Among women the French athlete **Argeline Tan Bouquet** (FRA - 2'10.55) triumphed with a stunning performance, which allowed her to beat the Swiss champion **Amelie Raymond** (SUI - 2'11.15), who conquered the second stage of the podium, right before the Norwegian athlete **Guro Helde Kjoelseth** (NOR - 2'11.72). No way for Johanna Holzmann (GER), the actual champion who only conquered the 7th place with a time of 2'22.87.



After the flower ceremony, which took place at the parterre, Argeline Tan Bouquet says about her performance: *“love skiing here in La Thuile because the n. 3 – Franco Berthod has some characteristics that I do appreciate. The snow is compact and perfect. In the last track, were the gradient is rather important, I did enjoy myself. I really look forward to competing in tomorrow’s Classic Ladies.”*



Strong competition among the men too, with **Trym Nygaard Loeken** (NOR) who realised a marvellous performance and won the podium of the Sprint race with a time of 1'58.01. He was thus right before **Nicolas Michel** (SUI - 2'00.86), protagonist of a stunning performance, and **Philippe Lau** (FRA) the winner of the first manche, had to pay an error after the jump of the second manche and managed to get the third place with a time of 2'00.89. The Italian athlete Davide Dallago, protagonist of a nice performance during the first manche and who managed to get the 28th place, unfortunately fell during the second manche, right before the winning post.

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Trym Nygaard Loeken expresses his profound satisfaction by saying: *"It was an amazing race. It is my second time in La Thuile, but today I really did my best. The slope is really tough, rapid and foolish, especially after the jump. I am really waiting for tomorrow's race. A big thank you to the organisation, which really worked hard!"*

The prizegiving ceremony was at 5.30pm; after that, the bib's draw for tomorrow's race, which provides one manche only in the Classic discipline.

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