Press Release

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**Lucas Eguibar: “I’m impressed with the FIS Snowboard World Cup circuit in Baqueira Beret”**

**On Friday 18th, Val d’Aran ski resort has hosted the trainings of the last FIS Snowboard World Cup, which will take place on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March. In this competition there will be 84 snowboarders from 21 countries.**

**The three Spanish riders from RFEDI, Lucas Eguibar, Laro Herrero and Regino Hernandez, who settled in Baqueira Beret earlier this week, have valued positively the circuit built for the occasion and the great work of the station in its first World Cup.**

This weekend of 19 and 20 March is the last event of the season for the snowboard cross. The 2015-2016 World Cup circuit has hosted 7 tests spread over various European and Asian ski resorts. Baqueira Beret will host the big final, which will decide the champions of the highest international SBX circuit. It is a spectacular sport and is one of the few sports in which there is physical contact and where strategy and improvisation are mixed, which means that the downhill is very explosive.

On Saturday 19th 48 riders (32 men and 16 women) will be classified for the final race on Sunday. 84 snowboarders will do two runs based upon time, in which it will be decided their participation in the final race of the circuit. On the 20th, the riders will go down in groups of 4 and the first two of each round will be classified for the next round (1/8th,,1/4th, semi-final and final) to the big final and the small final to decide the from the 1st to 8th positions.

The ski resort from Val d’Aran planned an emergency plan and on Thursday 17th it was done a mock rescue with the ski resort safety equipment and the security forces of the Val d'Aran to ensure the protection of all participants at the competition.

**First impression of the new SBX track**

During the first official day of the World Cup, all riders have moved to Beret to test the circuit in which will take place the event. The three athletes of RFEDI have also test the track and all of them have had good feelings. **Lucas Eguibar**, Crystal Globe champion in the previous edition, explained: "I felt very well and I think I’ve been very fast." The Basque rider is also happy with the organization and said "I am already impressed with the atmosphere at the final line, although today it’s a training day. The village is set up and there is music. Moreover, my family and friends will come this weekend to give me all their support”. According to the final, he sad: "if I do my job well, I can even finish second in the SBX circuit, so that's my goal in this disputed race, where we hope to receive all the encouragement of local public".

The SBX technician of the Spanish Federation, **Israel Planas**, who has been overseeing the training, explained that "we will be able to see the work done throughout the season on this circuit, which is perfect, technical at the beginning, and then it allows riders to flow". And added "Baqueira has done a great job. Any of the Spanish participants, despite of their youth, can make the podium".

**Laro Herrero**, member of the national team, explained: "the track looks good. I found it hard to keep pace, but finally I could make the descents". Tomorrow "I will take the necessary confidence to get my best result in the final".

The third rider of RFEDI, **Regino Hernández**, who was absent in the last competitions due to an injury in the X Games has said that "I have come to Baqueira intended to be as close as possible to the podium, I feel I recovered from the injury and I’ve been able to train". In relation to the track, he explained that "the first jumps are very high and I had fun".

**A whole weekend enjoying the highest level of SBX**

On Sunday 20th the podiums of the ranking of the 2015-2016 season will be decided. In the male category, Pierre Vaultier (France), Olympic champion, is already the leader of the circuit with 4,640 points, thanks to the results obtained in previous World Cup tests. But it remains to decide who will complete the podium among which stands out Eguibar Lucas (Spain) who won in the last race in Veysonnaz and is fourth in the overall with 2,766 points. Alessandro Haemmerle (Australia) currently holds the second place, with 3,440 points, followed by Nikolay Olyunin (Russia) with 3,060. In the fifth and sixth places are Nick Baumgartner (USA) and Alex Pullin (Austria) with 2,306 and 2,163 points respectively. In the women category, the Crystal Globe will be played until the last second and the leading candidate is the Italian Michela Moioli, with 4,650 points. Eva Samkova Czech Republic, with 4,260 points, and the French Nelly Moenne Loccoz (3,720 points) can also obtain the best results. The riders who complete the Top 6 are Trespeuch Chloe (France) with 3,660 points, Belle Brockhoff (Australia) with 3,460 and Lindsey Jacobellis (USA), with 3,410 points.

In total there are registered 84 boarders (53 men and 31 women) from 21 countries (Germany, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, USA, Spain, Finland, France, Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia and Switzerland).

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