

## PROJECT – X 2009 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

It was an amazing year for Project X as we exceeded virtually all goals set in the beginning of the season.

Initially, we had planned to compete exclusively on COC with the core group of 4 athletes (Fairall, Johnson, Lamb and Alexander). Our goal was to get all guys scoring COC points with some regularity and a couple top 10's.

After the 1<sup>st</sup> two COC's, Jochen decided it was time to get Nick Fairall into a World Cup for experience. While he didn't make the Quali, he was fairly close and improving. Moving Nick to World Cup also opened up an additional spot on COC for another athlete, as our national quota is just 4.

At this time Anders Johnson scored his best COC to date with a 7<sup>th</sup> place in Liberec. Based on this Jochen decided to take Nick and Anders to get some serious experience jumping in the Four Hills Tournee. So now the stage was set for an additional athlete to compete on COC. This opened the door for Blake Hughes and Mike Glasder to hop in.

Other than the FIS Cup competition in Eisenertz preparing for World Jrs., this is how the season went. Anders and Nick on World Cup and Chris Lamb, Nick Alexander, Mike Glasder and to some extent Blake Hughes on COC.

All in all, 11 athletes participated in FIS events this year in Europe. Jochen Danneberg and Ernst Wimmer handles most of the coaching with assistance from Casey Colby for 4 Fis Cup events.

Fis Cup athletes competing during the season: Andrew Bliss, Peter Frenette, Brian Wallace, Kris Kowalczyk, Blake Hughes, Mike Glasder, Chris Lamb, Nick Alexander, Anders Johnson and Nick Fairall

- Nick Fairall became the 1<sup>st</sup> US athlete to win a FIS Cup event in Eisenertz, Austria

Project X competed this winter in

- 6 FIS Cups
- 14 Continental Cups
- 15 World Cups
- World Championships

In World Cup and World Championship Qualis made

- Anders Johnson (6 cuts)
- Nick Fairall (4 cuts)

### **World Cup Highlights**

	Overall WC rk	S Fly rk	4 hills rank
Nick Fairall	60 <sup>th</sup>	38 <sup>th</sup>	65 <sup>th</sup>
Anders Johnson	87 <sup>th</sup>	-	64 <sup>th</sup>

### **TOP WORLD CUP FINISHES**

- Nick Fairall – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>
- Anders Johnson – 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

Nick Fairall's 23<sup>rd</sup> place in Kulm was the highest result by a US jumper since November 28<sup>th</sup> 2003. Over 5 years....

### **Continental Cup Highlights**

- 7 athletes scored COC points this season (Blake Hughes, Mike Glasder, Johnny Lyons, Nick Fairall, Nick Alexander, Chris Lamb and Anders Johnson).
- Noteable high scores:
  - Johnson 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Alexander 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Fairall 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Lamb 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Glasder 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Hughes 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Lyons 29<sup>th</sup>

### **World Championship Highlights**

- Normal Hill – 48<sup>th</sup> Anders Johnson
- Large Hill – 40<sup>th</sup> Anders Johnson

### **World Jr. Highlights**

- Individual
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Mike Glasder
  - 16<sup>th</sup> Anders Johnson
  - 36<sup>th</sup> Nick Fairall
  - 61<sup>st</sup> Chris Lamb
- Team
  - 10<sup>th</sup> of 18 Teams
- This was one of our few disappointments of the season as we were poised with 4 normal jumps to place in the top 5.

## **PLANICA**

What a way to end the year.....Nick Alexander and Mike Glasder came down for the finale so the US could be represented in the Final World Cup Team event. While noone made the Quali to the final 40 for the individual competition, the young guys competed in the team event and represented the US well. Possibly the 1<sup>st</sup> US team to compete in the team event in Planica.

Here they all set new PR's

Nick Fairall	190 meters	Official Training
Mike Glasder	179.5 meters	Official Training
Anders Johnson	173.5 meters	Team Comp
Nick Alexander	171.5 meters	Quali

Next Year.....200 meters for everyone

Special recognition should go to the work of Jochen and Ernst who directed and managed this program. Their hard work and dedication has made a huge impact on our athletes and we hope to continue this program just as it was this year. Without them this amazing year would not have been possible.

**THANKS AGAIN TO ONE AND ALL WHO HAVE MADE THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS ENABLING US TO PROVIDE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OUR AMERICAN ATHLETES.**

**TOO BAD THE US SKI TEAM CAN'T..**