

A WORLD AND OLYMPIC EUROPA CUP

Tomorrow, big athletes enrolled at the night slalom ladies in Gressoney-Saint-Jean

It's the last competition before Vancouver, and the preview of the Winter Military World Games Aosta Valley 2010

Aosta (27/01/2010). The Slalom Europa Cup will take place tomorrow afternoon on the track "Leo David" in Gressoney-Saint-Jean. First run at 5.30 p.m. and second run at 8.00 p.m.

The slalom ladies is a Test Event for the first Winter Military World Games that will take place from 20th to 25th March, and it's also a very fascinating race before the Olympics. It's the last opportunity among the narrow poles, before the competition, that will give the Olympic medal, on 26th February in Whistler Creekside, Canada, the second last day of the Olympic Games.

There are **more than one hundred** athletes from **22 nations** attending the event: the teams have enrolled many slalom big athletes. The **Italian team** is represented by **16 athletes** coming especially from the Military Forces: **Francesca Marsaglia** and **Irene Curtoni** (twelfth at the Giant Slalom of Sunday, in Cortina d'Ampezzo), both of the Military Sports Centre, **Chiara Costazza**, in her hard return after the accident of last year, **Camilla Borsotti**, **Michela Azzola**, **Chiara Petrucci**, **Romina Santuliana**, **Giulia Candiago**, **Anna Marconi**, **Sarah Pardeller**, **Martina Borselli**, **Sara Pramstaller**, **Elena Curtoni**, **Sabrina Fanchini**, **Anna Hofer**. All the heat of the spectators will be for the local athlete **Elody Ballot**, an Italian athlete of the Rathipharm Youth Project, living in Lilianes, some kilometres before Gressoney, and belonging to the Gressoney MR. Ski Club, the Organizer of the event.

The French A national team will be almost complete: **Tessa Worley** (first in Aare, and already at the top of the podium in Aspen, in the year 2008), **Taina Barioz**, **Marion and Sophie Bertrand**, **Claire Dautherives**, **Nastasia Noens**, **Anémone Marmottan**.

For the United States, attention paid to **Sarah Schelper**, fifth in Lienz; for Sweden, **Kajsa Kling** and **Anna Swenn-Larsson**; for Switzerland, **Aline Bonjour**, **Kathrin Fuhrer** and **Esther Good**; the Spanish **Leyre Morlans**, expert in speed. For Slovakia, the three times World Cup winner **Veronica Zuzulova**; for Germany, **Fanny Chmela**, second in Aare in 2009, and her team-mates **Lena Duerr** and **Christina Geiger**, among the World Cup top ten. For Canada, **Brigitte Acton** and **Marie-Pier Prefontaine**; the Polish **Katarsyna Karasinska**; the Croatian **Nika Fleiss**; for Slovenia, **Ana Drev**, and for Serbia, **Melena Lolovic**, last year eleventh in Aspen.

The evening will close at 09.30 p.m. with the prize-giving ceremony, and with the awarding of the Trophy **Leonardo David**, dedicated to the unlucky and always missed champion of the Aosta Valley.

In Gressoney there will be the FISU President **Giovanni Morzenti**, and some members of the Winter Military World Games Organizing Committee, the event scheduled from 20th to 25th March. The O.C. Vice-President **Renzo Bionaz** has stated: "The Europa Cup competition is for us a

general proof of what will take place in March. Big athletes, a well-tested and high-level organization, a great interest from media and fans, a real mix of world agonistic sport, together with an extraordinary offer of the Aosta Valley. This is our visiting card for what will happen at the first Winter Military World Games at the end of March”.