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Ruby wins women's snowboard giant slalom



Odds-on favorite Karine Ruby of France won the gold medal in the women's snowboard giant slalom event Tuesday at the 18th Olympic Winter Games.

Ruby, the winner of six World Cup slalom events earlier this season, made two steady runs down the 936-meter course on the snow-draped Mt. Yakebitai to win with an aggregate time of 2 minutes, 17.34 seconds.

Germany's Heidi Renoth, the reigning world champion in the slalom, claimed the silver medal with a 2:19.17 while Brigitte Koeck of Austria won the bronze with a 2:19.42.

Koeck, the winner and runner-up in two World Cup events held at this venue a year ago, posted the fastest time of the day with a 1:06.41 on the second run to leap from seventh up to third.

Shinobu Ueshima, Japan's top racer for the last five years, was 15th with a 2:28.05.

Alpine events postponed again due to weather

For the third day in a row, an Olympic skiing event was postponed at the Happo-one Alpine skiing venue Tuesday, stranding fans who have come a long way to see the world-class competition.

Organizers postponed the women's super G race due to heavy snow, following the postponement of Sunday's men's downhill and Monday's men's combined slalom.

However, despite the heavy downfall and poor visibility Tuesday, organizers decided to go ahead with the rescheduled men's combined slalom, which is a shorter race.

The weather was expected to clear up in time for the men's downhill Wednesday.

Some 15 centimeters of snow fell around the Hakuba mountain resort area Monday night and early Tuesday morning, with another 10 to 20 cm expected throughout the day, said Tamahiro Kimino of the Olympic's weather center.

The snowy conditions, which have made driving the narrow roads up to the Hakuba area treacherous, have also made it difficult for many of the spectators hoping to see the Games. (Kyodo News)

Japan's Shinobu Ueshima placed 15th.

This paper can also be seen on Shinano Mainichi Shimbun web.
URL <http://www.shinmai.co.jp/olympic/>

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