

## **Karate World Championships 2016 presentation in Hinterstoder**

Great Kata show in the snow, followed by a slap in the Wels team´s face

“We have never had so many spectators before. It was fantastic – and an enormous challenge,” said Lukas Buchinger, Junior World Champion, who was excited after the show to present the Karate World Championships in Linz (25.-31.10) in the Ski World Cup´s finish area in Hinterstoder, Austria. Their footing slipped away very easily on the icy, steep slope, so Ajdin Besic, Lukas and Christoph Buchinger (Karatedo Wels) were fighting in the snow with their bare feet.

But just the next day it got even frostier at the Grand Prix in Bratislava.

Packed with emotions and the obligatory selfie with Marcel Hirscher in their pocket, the Kata Team Wels travelled from the Ski World Cup directly to the GP in Bratislava. There, the three Karatekas got a slap in the face in the semifinal: Lukas and Christopher Buchinger and Vincent Forster were strong against Poland – but then they were affected adversely – and had to settle for bronze. “We are right in the middle of the preparations for the WC-season. There is a lot of potential to be fetched until the highlight in Linz in October,” an optimistic Buchinger said.

The Ladies from St. Pölten had a considerably better weekend: Kristin Wieninger, Joan Marie Stadler and Patricia Bahledova were able to push the finals through against the local heroines from Bratislava. “Their Kururunfa was great, “ respectfully admitted Kata World Champion 2008 Hoang Ngan Nguyen from Vietnam. Also Vorarlberg, Austria, was able to cheer: their Kata-top athlete Alper Deger (Höchst) earned under-18-gold.

Kata results, Grand Prix from Bratislava:

- Team, Female: 1<sup>st</sup> – Austria (Kristin Wieninger, Joan Marie Stadler, Patricia Bahledova – all St. Pölten). –
- Team, Male: 3<sup>rd</sup> -- Austria (Vincent Forster, Lukas und Christoph Buchinger – all Karatedo Wels).
- U18: 1<sup>st</sup> -- Alper Deger (Höchst).

All pictures by Miguel Daxner.

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