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BRITISH SPEED SKIERS JAN FARRELL, RUNNING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN S1 CATEGORY, AND MARC PONCIN FINISH IN THE TOP 20 AT THE FIS SPEED SKI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Marc Poncin, 2008 Speed Downhill World Champion, came back this season to compete in the the S1 category, and ended up finishing in 14th place at the FIS Speed Ski World Championships in Andorra. Poncin said: "First race back in S1 after 8 years out of the sport and I finish in the top 15 in 14th place, feeling happy with that result. My target this year is the Speed Masters in Vars to achieve high speeds"

After three full seasons in the category SDH, where he finished ninth in 2012, fifth in 2013 and Champion of the World Cup FIS 2014, Jan Farrell made his debut in the top category S1 this weekend at Grandvalira, where he competed against skiers like Simone Origone, Ivan Origone and Klaus Schrottshammer, who ended shared the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in both tests.

Jan Farrell finished 19th place at the World Championships with a speed of 175,41kph, and **achieved a credible 13th place in the first World Cup of the season the next day**. Farrell's teammate **Benja Hedley** achieved 30th place in the World Championships.

The World Championships were four tough days, with unpopular cancellations by the FIS jury, gusty winds and hard track conditions. "I am rather disappointed with the results and with my entry into in S1", says Jan Farrell, "During the World Championship semifinals quite a strong headwind hit me, and I had problems during the run". The cancellation of the final meant that the semifinal results became the definitive marker, making it impossible for Farrell to improve on his 19th position.

The next day, the semifinals of the first World Cup run took place, but the final was canceled again. Jan says: "I had good track conditions and wind, but a technical error at the start cost me about 3kph. Bearing this and the cancellation of the final in mind, my 13th placing is a good result, and gives me strength to face the upcoming World Cup knowing I have room for improvement. The track in Canada has always suited me well, and I'll be fighting to reach a top 5 place".

The next World Cup events will take Farrell to Sun Peaks in Canada (11 to 14 March) and Idre Fjaell in Sweden (21 to 22 March).

About Jan Farrell

Jan Farrell was born in 1983, the son of a Czech mother and an English father. Jan first put on a pair of skis when he was 2 years old, and he has never missed a season since the age of five. His first speed ski race was in 2011, and soon began to have success: he is the top ranked British ski racer; 9th in the world in 2012, and 5th in 2013, before winning the top spot in 2014, becoming FIS Speed Ski World Cup SDH Champion. He reached a speed of 210.035 kph, thus becoming the third fastest skier in history on downhill skis. Jan combines his career as a top sportsman with that of an entrepreneur. When he is not skiing and creating content, you will find him in his office at Liberalia, the company he founded at the age of 18. He is actively involved in over half a dozen firms, plays an active role in various federations, including FIS and the Madrid Ski Federation and acts as a Mentor for budding entrepreneurs who are studying their MBA at IE Business School. His passion to create, develop, compete and his will to win is just as strong in his business environment.

Jan is sponsored by:

GoPro, X-Bionic, Atomic, Leki, Liberalia, Manifiesto, GlobalPhysio, SkiClinic and CoppelDental.

MORE INFORMATION:

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