Tina Maze Wins Giant Slalom

Tina Maze skied through rain and snow to win Olympic gold, and then swam through slush to celebrate. In tough conditions on the slopes above Sochi, Maze won her second gold medal of the 2014 Games by leading the giant down-hill from start to finish.

The Slovenian skier is the first woman since Marie-Theres Nadig of Switzerland at the 1972 Sapporo Games with enough versetility to master the downhill's test of pure speed and the giant down-hill's more technical turns at the same Olympics. Wearing bib No. 1, Maze skied cuatiously and cleanly through the gates to finish 0.07 seconds ahead of Anna Fenninger of Austria. Maze celebrated by belly-flopping onto the wet snow and pretending to swim the breaststroke.

Defending champion Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany was third, trailing 0.27 behind Maze's two-run time of 2 minutes, 36.87 seconds. American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin placed fifth in her Olympic debut, missing a medal by just 0.23 seconds.

"Next Olympics I go to, I'm sure as heck not getting fifth,” said Shiffrin. Her goal was gold on Tuesday. But under difficult conditions the 18-year-old gained some valuable experience that could pay off when she goes off as the favorite Friday in the down-hill.

“I wanted a gold, but I also think this was meant to happen," she said. "It's something I will learn from the next Olympics I go to I'm sure." The closest thing to a replacment for the U.S. in the Olympics for the injired Lindsey Vonn, Shiffrin had a chance to boost the flagging hopes of the country's ski team by snatching a medal in her Olympic debute.

Here are how the top ten finished:

Tina Maze- Slovenia

Anna Fenninger- Austria

Viktoria Rebensburg- Germany

Nadia Fanchini- Italy

Mikaela Shiffrin- USA

Maria Pietila-Homner- Sweden

Jessica lindell-Vikarby- Sweden

Anemone Marmottan- France

Lara Gut- Switzerland

Dominique Gisin- Switzerland

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