

# Mancuso leads charge to raise money for Haiti

KITZBUEHEL, Austria -â€“ Alpine World Champions Bode Miller (Franconia, NH) and Lindsey Vonn's (Vail, CO) race bibs from this weekend are up for auction. In a grassroots effort driven by the Audi FIS Alpine World Cup athletes. Both men's and women's race bibs from Kitzbuehel, Austria and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy â€“ two of the season's biggest races â€“ are now available to the highest bidder on eBay with all proceeds going directly to the earthquake relief effort in Haiti.

Bibs from Friday's super G in Cortina, which was won by Vonn, are already up for auction at [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) (Keyword: cortina haiti), while men's bibs from Saturday's 70th running of the famed Hahnenkamm downhill in Kitzbuehel, captured by Swiss Didier Cuche, go online at [www.ebay.at](http://www.ebay.at) (Keywords: haiti startnummer).

In early bidding, start numbers from U.S. skiers Vonn, Miller, and Ted Ligety (Park City, UT) are proving to be the most valuable.

“This is such a huge disaster and it just seems right to do something,” said 2006 Olympic gold medalist Julia Mancuso (Olympic Valley, CA), who spearheaded the auction on the women's tour. “I've realized that little things can make a big difference. We're living our dream and inspiring others to do the best that they can. So having a bib in a lot of ways is getting a piece of the excitement.”

Two summers ago, Mancuso and British racer Chemmy Alcott raised over \$40,000 for Right to Play by raising money through an ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Each season, all of Mancuso's bibs are auctioned for charity through her website.

“When you're racing, you feel like there are so many things

that you can control,” said Vonn following her super G win Friday. “But really, there’s so much in the world you can’t control and unfortunately those things affect a lot of people. It’s important for everyone to do what they can and I hope our little bit helps.”

For each side of the tour, there is an athlete working group made up of leaders from each national team. The men’s working group met Thursday and Downhillers for Haiti became the most important message of that voice.

“It’s really cool, it’s from the athletes,” said Scott Macartney (Crystal Mountain, WA), the U.S. Ski Team representative in the men’s working group. “We’re very far away and in a different world, but we’re all thinking about it and trying to do what we can to help support it.”

Each auction closes this weekend, so bid early and bid often.

“Kitzbuehel is the coolest bib we have all season. They’re already personalized with our names, but now they each have our signatures on them as well. Guaranteed, some of these guys are going to be Olympic gold medalists next month.”

Women’s bibs from Cortina are up now at [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) (Keyword: haiti cortina), and men’s bibs are online at [www.ebay.at](http://www.ebay.at), (Keywords: haiti startummer). Auctions close Saturday morning.