

Mancuso places second in downhill

By USSA

BAD KLEINKIRCHHEIM, Austria – Julia Mancuso of Squaw Valley stormed to second and led three Americans into the top 10 at the Audi FIS Alpine World Cup downhill in Bad Kleinkirchheim on Saturday.

World Cup overall and downhill leader Lindsey Vonn of Vail survived a big mistake right out of the starting gate to finish fourth, missing the podium by a mere five hundredths. Reigning downhill World Champion Austrian Elisabeth Goergl of Austria won for her first World Cup downhill victory.

Mancuso scored her best downhill finish since winning World Cup Finals last March finishing second. She has now been on the World Cup podium for downhill, super G and giant slalom this season.

“It was very difficult and I was hoping for the win, but you had to hold on and fight. It was set pretty straight at the bottom, so you can go really fast, but you pay for it if you can’t hold the line,” Mancuso said. “The light and conditions were really tough. You have to make a lot of direction before the hill just drops away. You’re fighting it the whole way.”

Vonn also continues to lead the World Cup downhill standings.

Stacey Cook of Truckee was eighth, Julia Ford 22, Laurene Ross 23 and Alice McKennis 26, for six Americans in the top 30.