

Mancuso finishes downhill season ranked 15

By USSA

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland – Julia Mancuso (Squaw Valley) was 10th to lead the U.S. Ski Team in the final downhill of the Audi FIS Alpine World Cup season Wednesday.

“Last downhill of the season and you just really have to go for it. It’s a really tough course. It’s a fun hill,” Mancuso said. “There’s definitely room for improvement (in my downhill season), so I’m just going to keep working to improve and hopefully next year will be going better. I just had a lot of things going on with equipment, and that always gets into your head, especially when it’s an important year to be in top form.”

Swiss Lara Gut picked up the win, while Germany’s Maria Hoefl-Riesch took the crystal globe, despite not finishing the race. Hoefl-Riesch was helicoptered off the slope.

Austria’s Anna Fenninger had a chance to catch Hoefl-Riesch, but was sixth, however she did leap into overall points lead surpassing Hoefl-Riesch by 11 points with three races remaining.

Lindsey Vonn (Vail) had won the women’s downhill title the past six consecutive seasons.

Stacey Cook (Mammoth Mountain) was 18th.

Mancuso finished the downhill season ranked 15th and Cook 18th. Leanne Smith (N. Conway, N.H.) also finished in the top 30 at 30.