

U.S. women sweep Lake Louise downhill

By USSA

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta – Lindsey Vonn (Vail) reclaimed her title as Queen of the Downhill at Lake Louise on Saturday, winning her 60th Audi FIS Ski World Cup and capping a first-ever U.S. Ski Team podium sweep.

At the World Cup dubbed Lake Lindsey, she regained her crown as she pulled out the win by almost a half second. Early-running Stacey Cook (Mammoth Mountain) took the lead and held it until Vonn bumped her into second. Julia Mancuso (Squaw Valley) rounded out the podium in third. It was the best finish in two seasons for all three athletes.

Out of her 60 career World Cup wins, 15 of Vonn's first places have come in Lake Louise and she did it again. Vonn looked fast and strong, keeping her speed up throughout the run and never losing the lead. When she crossed through the finish and looked up at the time, she let out a scream of excitement, thrilled to be back in action.

"Every day has gotten better here," Vonn said in the finish. "Today I went a little bit more aggressive than I did yesterday and took some more chances. I'm finally feeling confident going fast again."

It was the first ever all-American podium in alpine World Cup ski racing. It also marked four Americans in the top 10, with Laurenne Ross (Bend, Ore.) in sixth.

The rest of the Americans had to deal with a dark, snowy course, but had good results. Also coming back from multiple knee surgeries, Alice McKennis (Glenwood Springs, Colo.) took 18. Jackie Wiles (Aurora, Ore.) 37 and Katie Ryan (Aspen) 46.

Julia Ford (Plymouth, N.H.) did not finish.