

4 U.S. men in top 30 in Austria downhill

By USSA

KITZBUEHEL, Austria – On the world's toughest downhill course, one small mistake is the difference between finishing on the podium and 10th place. Just ask Steve Nyman (Sundance, Utah), who finished 10th in Saturday's Hahnenkamm Audi FIS Ski World Cup downhill where the top 10 were separated by just 0.84 seconds.

Italy's Dominik Paris took the victory over two surprise Frenchmen, Valentin Giraud Moine in second and Johan Clarey in third. Nyman, who chose bib 1, soaked in the start festivities and was well on his way to a great run until the Hausberg section on the world's most famous downhill course.

"It was really cool starting No. 1," Nyman said. "They have the big gong going up there, the countdown, and everybody is psyched to see the first guy kick out of the gate. I definitely had some nerves, but I executed really well until the Hausberg. I landed off that round, and that's a long side-hill traverse, and not carrying the speed across that cost me a lot of time."

Nyman led four Americans into the top 30 Saturday, including Tommy Biesemeyer (Keene, N.Y.), who started bib 50 and posted a career-best 23rd place finish – scoring his first World Cup downhill points – on his first race down the Hahnenkamm.

"I'm happy to walk away with 23rd today," Biesemeyer said. "It was my first time down Kitzbuehel. To get my first downhill points with a career-best downhill result here in Kitzbuehel is a day to remember."

Andrew Weibrecht (Lake Placid, N.Y.) was 19th and Travis

Ganong (Squaw Valley) was 29th. Jared Goldberg (Holladay, Utah) finished 40th and Bryce Bennett (Squaw Valley) finished in a three-way tie for 41st.

Austria's Marcel Hirscher, who did not race Saturday, continues to lead the overall World Cup standings with 980 points. Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen is second with 692 points and France's Alexis Pinturault is third with 655 points.