

End Of Season at Snowpark Gastein: I like!

Sunshine, snowboard prominence and good boarding marked the lifestyle event „End Of Season“. The closure party of the Snowpark Gastein passed off relaxed and hilariously under perfect conditions.

The sun, the smell of barbecue and of course the Finnish snowboard pro Joni Malmi allured numerous visitors to the snowpark Gastein. Freely under the motto „Step by and have fun“ the whole day freeskiers and snowboarders strolled around the park set-up as well as the chill area. While QPhotographer Roland Haschka and cameraman Sean Balmer were in search of brave riders and awesome tricks, the folks in the chill area strengthened themselves with delicious sausages and fresh beer. At 13 o'clock the **Goodies-for-Trix session** started with many material prizes from **First Decent, Free Alpi Style, Haeggloms** and **Makia**. The participants, amongst others Joni Malmi himself, presented their skills on picknick tables, curved box and kickers. Certainly the Finn impressed the audience with a stunning performance.

Thanks to the good park atmosphere the time spinned away. The successful snowpark season found it's condignly ending and the splendid day on the mountain concluded in the after party at the Haeggloms Bar. At a drink we had a nice chat with Joni Malmi about the event, snowboarding and his connection to Gastein:

Hei Joni, how are you?

Fine, thanks.

Is this your first time in the Gastein valley?

My first trip ever to the Alps was to Gastein. I went there with my mother when I was 6 and learned skiing here. This was in 1985. And I still know how to ski, I just went skiing last week.

Why did you come to Gastein again?

I came especially for the event as some Swedish guys from the First Decent store invited me. I thought it may be a good opportunity to promote my own clothing company Makia. It was founded 4 years ago with some friends. By now they are already doing other things and I kept going with it. Some things changed a lot since the last time I was here. But when I was walking through the city yesterday, I even had some flashbacks.

So this is the first time you see the snowpark? How do you like the set-up?

Yes it's the first time in the snowpark Gastein. And the set-up – I really like it. It's fun to ride it. There's some cool jib stuff and special features, the pyramide box is great. I did some ollies over it. Unfortunately the airline lost all my equipment and so I don't have my own board. (It's not the same to ride with a borrowed board.)

How did you like the barbecue sausages we've prepared?

I liked the sausages, combined with the Heineken it was maybe the highlight of the event ;)

What's the special thing about snowboarding for you?

For me it's the combination of sports and freedom. You just get a good feeling flying down the mountain. I'm doing it for 21 years now.

What have you done this season?

This season I've worked on the movie „Euro Gap 3“. It's a remake as in the late 90's Paavo Tikkanen and me have done Euro Gap 1 & 2. The movie will be released in fall 2010 for free on the world wide web.

What are you further plans?

First I'm going back home and then head over to Sweden for some good powder runs.

Your last words are...

Thanks for building up this nice snowpark! I appreciate it and also that people have come up here to the event! Maybe, I'll come back here next year and it's even better then. And for now I'm looking forward to the After Party at Haeggbloms...

Thx Joni!

Photos and video of the End Of Season as well as information about the snowpark Gastein can be found on www.snowpark-gastein.com!