



For Immediate Release

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VICTORIES AND MEDALS ABOUND IN LEGENDS FIELD FOR 25TH
ANNIVERSARY COUNTRYWIDE AMERICAN SKI CLASSIC

VAIL, Colorado—All that glitters at Golden Peak during the 25th Anniversary Countrywide American Ski Classic will not necessarily be associated with Hollywood as the 2007 Legends of Skiing field will abound with career World Cup victories and Olympic and World Championships medals.

Running the numbers, the 48 men and women Legends have accounted for a total of 35 Olympic medals, 50 World Championships medals and 207 individual World Cup wins.

“We all know that our Legends field features some incredible racers,” explained Ceil Folz, president of the Vail Valley Foundation, “but I don’t think you realize how special this event really is until you look at the Legends’ accomplishments as a whole.”

Heading up the Olympic medal count is rookie Legend Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway, who tops the list with a career total of 8, followed by his former teammate, Lasse Kjus with 5. Aamodt also owns the distinction of being both the youngest and oldest alpine skier to ever win an Olympic gold medal by virtue of his Super-G victories in Albertville (1992) and Torino (2006). In addition, Aamodt is the only alpine skier in history to claim four gold medals.

The Norwegian duo also tops the list of World Championships medals, with Aamodt’s collection of 12 and Kjus claiming 11. Kjus is the only skier in history to win medals in all five alpine disciplines at a single Championships, an historic feat accomplished in Vail and Beaver Creek during the 1999 World Alpine Ski Championships.

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2007 Legends Numbers

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However, when it comes to career number of World Cup individual wins, American Phil Mahre still leads the pack with a total of 27, while Austria's Franz Klammer is a close second with 26. Aamodt does make the victory podium in the third position with 21, while Kjus recorded 18 for fourth. Klammer racked up nine consecutive World Cup Downhill wins during one stretch of his prolific career, while winning 19 of the 33 Downhills contested between 1974 and 1977.

Mahre also owns the most World Cup Overall titles with three, while Klammer tops the list for most World Cup season-long discipline crowns with five Downhill titles. Following a four-year slump that included failing to make the 1980 Austrian Olympic team to Lake Placid, Klammer came back with a vengeance, winning the 1983 World Cup downhill title, a crown he had last worn in 1978.

The Legends will officially kick off the racing action at the 25th Anniversary Countrywide American Ski Classic on Wednesday evening, March 21, with the Countrywide Legends Giant Slalom. The Volvo Legends Downhill is on tap for Thursday, March 22.

In addition, the Legends will also serve as team captains for the Countrywide Ford Cup celebrity team races on Friday and Saturday, March 23-24. Originally conceived by Austrian legend Pepi Gramshammer, the Legends component was added to the Countrywide American Ski Classic schedule in 1983.

The 25th Anniversary Countrywide American Ski Classic is a project of the Vail Valley Foundation. For additional information on the Countrywide American Ski Classic or the Vail Valley Foundation, visit www.vvf.org or contact (970) 949-1999.