

PRESS RELEASE

21st August 2005

Event : Land Rover Australian Freestyle Mogul Championships 2005

Athletes: Martin Nankoo (British Men's Dual Moguls Champion - Great Britain Team)
Ellie Koyander (British Women's Dual Moguls Champion) – England Team

Athletes from Australia, Japan, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Korea, and Great Britain battled over the weekend in the Land Rover Australian Freestyle **Mogul** Championships 2005 . The event was a FIS Continental Cup, with two races running on the Saturday, due to the postponement of Friday's event with high winds and prolonged rain.

With World Championship and World Cup medallists on display, the battle for the open division was tight. In the men's events , Australia's top ranked male mogul skier Dale Begg-Smith took gold in the first event (25.99) , beating off Kai Ozaki (Japan 24.56) into silver and Pierre Alexandre Rousseau (Canada 24.10) into bronze. The second event saw Begg Smith come second (25.46) to fellow Olympic team athlete Nick Fischer (25.77). Bronze went to Kai Ozaki (Japan 24.44) . Despite being very strong in pre competition warm up and having very strong and promising starts to his runs , Martin Nankoo (Great Britain) crashed spectacularly on landing in both events. He was disappointed to finish 26th in the first event (7.01) and 18th in the second (11.85).

In the Women's events Japanese athlete Aiko Uemura of Japan took first place in the first race (21.97), beating World number one Jennifer Heil of Canada into second (21.56) and Miko Ito of Japan into third (19.43) . The tables were turned however in the second event where Heil (25.89) showed what makes her World number one beating Miko Ito of Japan comprehensively into second place (22.40) . Australian Olympian Manuela Berchold took third (22.02) .

In a field of 27 female competitors and in her first Continental Cup experience , Ellie Koyander of the England Moguls Team put in a very gutsy performance and came in a respectable 12th in the first event (5.23) and 17th in the elimination round of the second (7.29).

Athletes will head to Mt Buller next Saturday for the 17th ABOM **Mogul** Challenge at Mt Buller.

Full results available from <http://www.freestylesnowsports.co.uk/ozmogulsaug05.pdf>

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