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Giulia Monego, the first lady of the Verbier Xtreme

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After her flawless, no-nonsense ride on the right side of the bec, Giulia crossed the finish line and was interviewed. Most likely she had no idea of the quality of her ride, because she only said "I was not fit enough, hope to be here the next year to do better....".

Well Giulia, you might ride better next year, but cannot grab a podium place better than #1...

After 10 editions opened to boarders and 2 editions opened to male skiers, the 2006 edition of the Verbier Xtreme (probably right now the most famous freeride contest in the world) had two major newcomers: female skiers and rookies, ie participants not directly selected by the organizers but qualified through a dedicated series of contests. All these news were not enough to define Giulia Monego. When she crossed the start gate from the top of the bec de rosses as the first female rookie, from an historical perspective she was also the first overall Italian skier in the contest.



Let's try to know a bit more about Giulia...

*I read somewhere you were born in Venice, is that right? What brought you from the most famous water channels in the world to the most famous 55° mountain slope?*

It's true, i was born in venice, where my parents still live today. It's a little unusual for a venitian to do freeride comp but i have to thank my parents that since i was a kid they transmitted me the passion for the mountain and the ski, bringing me in Cortina d'Ampezzo every week end! I start skiing in the beautiful Dolomites then, and after years of racing in alpine comps i changed my interest into the off

piste skiing and i moved to the best resort in the alps to practice this new dicipline; Verbier. I've been living in verbier for the last 3 winters, and i work for a freeride ski school called Powder-extreme. This is how i finished skiing the bec the roses 4 days ago!



*How did you prepare the Xtreme? How did you select your line? Was this your first time on the bec de rosses? Was it more steep (and scaring....) than anticipated?*

The preparation for the Bec didn't go at all as i planned 1 month before.. Since the beginning of the winter i had problems with my feet: frost bite and skin infection.. The week before the xtreme i had an infection on my little toe of my right foot and i couldn't put the bbots on. I skied just one run the day before the contest and was painfull!! The day of the event i was still taking antibiotics and lots of pain killers! I wasn't in the best shape!

I've never skied the Bec before, crazy to say for someone that has been living there for 3 winters but true! I chose the line on thursday and friday morning before start hiking just by using the binoculos as all the other riders. The face is really impressive, from the top as well as from Gentianes. I expected little less rocks on the top part of the face, but is quite normal for a mountain so rocky!



*When you had a chance to see your ride and compare it with those of the other riders, what did you think?*

My run wasn't as good as i wanted to skied in my mind, but my lags, where very tired for the tension and the bad preparation, probably. I felt slow in some part, and i saw my run on the big screen exactly as i felt that morning. What i didn't know is that the other girls where less fluid and slower than me.. that was my winning poin!

Next year i will be definetly more prepared, physically and most of all mentally, so i will ski the bec as i would love to do this year, faster and with some nice drops in my line!

*The next time you climb the bec de rosses, what would you prefer to have on your shoulders... a pair of skis or a paraglide?*

Next time that i climb i really want to have my skis and ski the face relax with my friends. Next summer instead i want to fly on top of the bec but just using the thermals!!

*How's your life in Verbier? In my humble opinion, too many people has the wrong perspective that verb is an expensive place for rich gapers.... If they only knew that food at migros supermarket is cheaper than in most other EU/US similar stores and that a pizza at the fer de cheval is cheaper (and better) than in most other EU/US similar places...*

Verbier is such a nice resort to live.. Is young, international, has some of the best terrain for skiing in the entire planet, is easy to access and full of nice people with big passions! in Verbier is great in the summer too. I love the mountains, so i find always something to do here: rock climbing,hiking, paragliding, mountain biking...

