

Italian big mountain skier Giulia Monego was born with a passion for speed. Before joining the SOS team riders she raced in international competitions in a range of disciplines, taking second place in the Italian Giant Slalom and Super G championships. Today she's a talented freerider and coaches at the ski school Powder Extreme in Verbier.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMPETING IN GS AND BIG MOUNTAIN SKIING?

Oh, there's a huge difference. First of all, both the competitors and the fans have a completely different attitude to the sport. We don't compete against one another so much as with one another. Everything is more easy-going, and everybody has a good time, even if the competitions are often much tougher. People are just more laid back.

WHY DID YOU SWITCH?

I injured my knee, and that meant I couldn't reach the level necessary to qualify for the World Cup.

LAST YEAR YOU COMPETED IN THE O'NEILL VERBIER XTREME IN A FLORAL PATTERN JACKET. WAS THAT YOUR WINNING SECRET?

Heh. Yeah, probably. I love that pattern and I'll be skiing in the same jacket this year. I prefer to ski in a two-piece outfit rather than overalls, even if overalls look great. So currently I'm skiing in the floral jacket and a pair of purple pants.

"I love the Dolomites. They're big and the high mountains are very accessible. All you have to do is walk half an hour from the lift to find great runs through all kinds of terrain. Even though there are a lot of people, there always seems to be untouched snow."

HOW BIG IS SOS IN ITALY?

There's huge potential here. The clothing SOS has put out in the past few years is of very high class technically, and since the clothes are so right as fashion, I think SOS could become as big here as it is in Switzerland.

HOW SHOULD CLOTHES LOOK THIS YEAR?

Baggier, absolutely. There will be a lot of prints, too, everything from patterns to illustrations, both on jackets and pants.

WHICH IS YOU: STYLE OR ADRENALINE?

I guess I'm known for skiing fast – it's left over from my GS days. And I like big jumps. But I want to get better at tricks.

ANY OTHER TRENDS ON THE SLOPES?

Looking at other girls, they're really pushing back the boundaries. They're getting incredible air, and that's a lot of fun to see.

ARE THE NUMBERS OF WOMEN COMPETING GOING UP OR DOWN?

Up, for sure. In the past few years, more and more talented girls keep coming along. They have finally reached a really high level.

WHERE IS THE BEST SKIING?

Verbier is great, but I love the Dolomites. They're big and the high mountains are very accessible. All you have to do is walk half an hour from the lift to find great runs through all kinds of terrain. Even though there are a lot of people, there always seems to be untouched snow.

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN FIVE YEARS?

Skiing. I hope I can keep travelling a lot and make a living skiing. And I hope I'll have found a boyfriend and somewhere to live.

GIULA MONEGO
TEAMRIDER SOS-SPORTSWEAR

FACTS & FIGURES

AGE – 25
SIZE – (CLOTHES) S
SKIS – ROSSIGNOL
HELMET – ROSSIGNOL
GLOVES – HESTRA
GOGGLES – SMITH

RECEIPT

hour...m.

WOMAN

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