

World premiere on the Streif ski run

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Attachments accompanying the report at [http://
presse.leisuregroup.at/kalhor](http://presse.leisuregroup.at/kalhor)

Subhead: Talented skier from Iran demonstrates his abilities for the first time at the renowned ski race in Kitzbühel. For the first time in the history of ski racing, an Iranian is taking part in an FIS world cup race. =

(LCG9010 – Teheran/ Vienna, 20/01/2009) – “I have always dreamt of taking part in the FIS world cup in Kitzbühel and I will do what I can to score a point finish”, says 24-year old Hossein Kalhor, who hails from the Iranian town of Dizin. It sounds unbelievable. Although there are ski regions in Iran, the country has never been known as a ski nation. But at the slalom race on 25 and 27 January 2009, this will become a reality. On the way there, he will be supported by country trainer Michael Stocker, who has been training for weeks with Kalhor in his home town of Dizin in Iran.

The young athlete is excellently qualified, especially since his results at the international Grasski tournament were outstanding. At the world cup race in 2007, Kalhor took second place and this year he earned a bronze medal. Last year, he secured the Iranian

â€˜Champion of Championsâ€™™ title at the championship finals in Teheran. For Kalhor, born in 1984, the son of a mountain farmer, the races in Austria are a return to the roots of his career: on 16 July 2004 he completed his first FIS Grasski race as part of the youth league in Bad Tatzmannsdorf.

The legendary race in Kitzb  hel in Tyrol however is not everything for Kalhor. Beforehand, on 20 and 21 January 2009, he is entering the giant slalom in Kirchberg and immediately afterwards, on 22 January 2009, the slalom in Westendorf. The night slalom in Schladming on 27 January 2009 forms the conclusion of his Austrian tour.

Kalhor is not worried about the competition. â€œAlthough Grasski is not generally known in Austria, it is much harder and much more dangerousâ€œ, he smiles. â€œDuring the winter we train on the ski piste in order to be optimally prepared for the Grasski season in the summerâ€¢, says the Iranian. A weighty announcement, but not at all surprising for Kalhor: at 9 kilograms, he was the heaviest baby to be born in Iran.

(S E R V I C E â€˜ website: [http:// www.hossein-kalhor.com](http://www.hossein-kalhor.com))

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