

March 22, 2010

Blue Jackets

After returning home last Monday from the FIS Alpine World Cup Finals in Garmisch and catching the Closing Ceremonies of the 2010 Paralympics Games on CTV, I was inspired to sit down and write a thank you note to all of the blue jackets that worked in Whistler over the last 2 months to make the "Amazing Winter Games" happen. I am a proud Canadian who started as a young racer from Ontario, went to school in Vancouver, and was a proud hardworking Wessel Worker for the World Cup attempts in 95 and 96. I have since been working on the FIS Alpine World Cup tour for the last 13 years and have been working directly for the FIS for 9 years now, on the Men's Alpine side. Many of the faces that I met in Whistler during the Games were familiar from the years of World Cups, and many new friends were made. The dedication from all of you with one very common goal in mind is what impressed me the most, "to do whatever it takes".



In all of the World Cups at which I have worked in the last 13 years, all around the world, we have never had such diverse weather patterns to deal with. The Crew in Whistler just kept on persevering through, and on the final day of the games with all of our medals handed out – you all have something to be very proud of. I really can't speak for my colleagues Gunter, Helmut, and Hans, but I will say that there was lots of talk in the weeks following the Games about how we were really all very impressed with the dedication from all of the Volunteers/Pete's entire Crew and all of the Blue Jackets, from the Event Services persons checking accreditations to the radio distribution desk, the medical staff, to the shovelers and rakers, the dye crew, to the cat drivers, the big boss green hats to the little boss crew and section chiefs, blue jackets all!!! You all worked so hard to make it happen.

I had the privilege to work closely with the "Stadium Crew" throughout the Games, made of young and old, from Alberta and BC to the Maritimes, experienced to completely green – you guys really impressed me how you stood up to the plate and made things work just the way we (Mr. Picky and Mr. Chicky) needed them to! It was an absolute pleasure!

To conclude with the athletes perspective, speaking with many of the Alpine athletes in the 2 weeks of World Cup races following the Games, the most common comment that I heard was how friendly those Canadian's were!!! Makes me proud to be Canadian!

Thanks for all that you did to make the Games a lasting memory for me!

Sincerely
Mike Kertesz