



THE TALENT OF MISS SHIRLEY TEMPLE OF ALPINE SKIING

Little stories of a very special slalom won by Mikaela Shiffrin, the amazing girl who is afraid of the dark only and is crazy for hot chocolate with cream - A star is back and shiny under the rain in Bormio, that of Nastasia Noens from Nice - Tomorrow World Cup men's slalom at night

Mikaela Shiffrin is not the same age and hasn't got the blond curls of Shirley Temple, who at seven was a child prodigy and won the Oscar. But that's how we like to call the girl from Vail who won the Schladming World Championships' gold medal at seventeen and two days after her eighteenth birthday won the World Cup slalom in Lenzerheide and made the eager Tina Maze cry for anger. Today, the Shirley Temple of snow let her long blond hair run down on her back and her skis run like no other champion in the world, no matter what snow conditions and course. The young American stars and stripes champion is scared of nothing but the dark (she recently confessed that) and therefore couldn't be afraid of losing the sixth race of her short career during the Bormio second run, after being the fastest in the first one

It's true, the course wasn't compact under the small skis and with the rain that hadn't stopped falling until dawn, and the final part of the Stelvio was characterized by little holes. But Maria Pietilae - Holmner, second fastest time in the first run and only 3 hundredths of a second from her, was extraordinary in the second run too. And Mikaela could not be beaten by the amazing Swedish racer, especially after Marlies Schild put herself far from the podium with a morning run that wasn't worth of her amazing value. And in fact our Shirley Temple didn't miss her new meeting with success, maybe with a hot chocolate as she always does between a run and the following.

Who knows well the American star knows that she has no other vices besides hot chocolate with whipped cream. She started skiing when she was only three to beat her elder brother and marvellously moved between the broomsticks that her mother Eileen, a nurse, put on the hill in front of their Vail's home. Then it was her dad Jeff the one who took her to Panarotta (Valsugana), when she wasn't fifteen yet and won the giant slalom of the legendary Trofeo Topolino by friend Rolly Marchi.

From slalom to slalom. After the one won by Mikaela Shiffrin it's men's turn tomorrow and the champions are going to race at night.

Marcel Hirscher will try to shorten the distance from Norwegian Aksel Lund Svindal in the general World Cup. Svindal precedes him with 195 points and won't be there during the first run at 2.45pm. The second run will start at 6.10pm on an enlightened Stelvio.

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