

= Ski jumping at the 1928 Winter Olympics =

The men 's ski jumping at the 1928 Winter Olympics took place at the 70 @-@ meter ( 230 ft ) Olympiaschanze in St. Moritz , Switzerland , on 18 February . Thirty @-@ eight competitors from thirteen nations competed , with the event being won by Norway 's Alf Andersen ahead of countryman Sigmund Ruud and Czechoslovakia 's Rudolf Burkert .

Norway sent a strong contingent with four jumpers able to win the event , including reigning Olympic and world champion Jacob Tullin Thams . Andersen had won all eight Norwegian qualification events . World record holder Nels Nelsen from Canada was not permitted to participate due to financial problems . Japan participated in an international ski jumping competition for the first time , also becoming the first Asian country to do so . After the first jump , three Norwegians were in the lead . A 40 @-@ minute discussion erupted regarding the speed , with Central European jumpers wanting it increased . This was complied with by the jury , resulting in falls by several favorites , including the most vocal speed increase proponents , Gérard Vuilleumier and Bruno Trojani . Andersen and Ruud won by reducing their speed on the in @-@ run .

= = Venue = =

The event took place at Olympiaschanze , located in the neighborhood of St. Moritz Bad . The town 's first ski jumping hill , Julierschanze , opened in 1895 . However , it was not large enough for the Olympic tournaments , forcing the town to build a larger venue . Construction started in 1926 and the venue in inaugurated on 20 January 1927 . Olympiaschanze had a size of 70 meters ( 230 ft ) and a crowd of 8 @,@ 000 people attended the event . The venue had also hosted the Nordic combined event and would later be used for the 1948 Winter Olympics .

= = Background = =

Norway sent a strong delegation with four participants able to win the event . Jacob Tullin Thams had won the 1924 Winter Olympics event and has also won the 1926 World Championships , making him reigning Olympic and world champion . The rest of the delegation consisted Alf Andersen , Sigmund Ruud ? the oldest of the Ruud brothers ? and Hans Kleppen . Andersen had won all eight Norwegian qualifications for the Olympics . Other favorites were Rudolf Burkert , who had won and the ski jumping part of the Nordic combined event , and the host nation 's Gérard Vuilleumier . Asia participated for the first time in an international tournament , represented by Japan 's Motohiko Ban .

Canada had originally planned to send two ski jumpers , Nels Nelsen and Melbourne McKenzie . Nelsen held world record for the longest ski jump . However , lack of funding meant that they planned for work for their fare on a freighter . These plans were stopped by officials from the British delegation , who organized the Canadian team and who felt working for their fare was inappropriate and not fitting for the team , and Nelsen never competed in any Winter Olympics .

= = Race = =

The jury consisted of Østgaard of Norway , Jilek of Czechoslovakia and Straumann of Switzerland . Because of ice on the in @-@ run , a reduced speed was used during the first round . Andersen jumped 60 @.@ 0 meters , by far the longest jump . Lengthwise , Ruud and Vuilleumier were in joint second place with 57 @.@ 5 meters , while Burkert was in fourth with 57 @.@ 0 meters . Thams , Kleppen and Poland 's Bronis?aw Czech all jumped 56 @.@ 5 meters , but both Kleppen and Czech fell . In terms of points , the three Norwegians Andersen , Ruud and Thams were in the lead , ahead of Burkert and Vuilleumier .

In the break , a number of Central Europeans , including Vuilleumier and Bruno Trojani , asked for top speed . This was protested by the Scandinavian and United States jumpers , and a 40 @-@ minute discussion broke out . At one point , one of the facilitators at the in @-@ run received a

telephone call confirming top speed . The facilitator was skeptical , and chose to call back to the judges , who could confirm that they had not given such a go @-@ ahead . In the end , the judges chose to allow higher speeds , with a compromise of 5 @.@ 0 meters more distance . However , the facilitator only moved the rope 4 @.@ 5 meters . This made the Swiss furious , and they used their knives to cut the rope . They then accused the participants who were opposed to full speed of being cowards .

Andersen and Ruud skied down the in @-@ run in a standing position to reduce their speed , and had the two longest standing jumps . The event is regarded as the international break @-@ through for Ruud . Thams gave full speed and landed at 73 @.@ 0 meters , but fell and ended on a 28th place . Had he stood , it would have been a new world record . The wounds were serious enough that he had to be taken to hospital . Afterwards he stated : " I at least showed those guys that we are not cowards " . Also Vuillemiuer and Trojani became subject to the higher speeds , both falling and ending with a 30th and 32nd place , respectively . Ban had the shortest jump in both rounds , fell in the first round , and ended last .

= = Results = =

The following is a list of all participants , noting their rank , country , the length in the first and second round , and the judge score for each of the three judges , as well as the final score . ( F ) denotes a fall .

= = Participating nations = =

A total of 38 ski jumpers from 13 nations competed in the event :

Austria ( 1 )  
Canada ( 1 )  
Czechoslovakia ( 4 )  
Finland ( 2 )  
France ( 3 )  
Germany ( 4 )  
Italy ( 3 )  
Japan ( 1 )  
Norway ( 4 )  
Poland ( 4 )  
Sweden ( 4 )  
Switzerland ( 4 )  
United States ( 3 )