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Another world record goes at M-Wave as Romme claims 2nd gold

Gianni Romme shattered another world record at M-Wave Tuesday and captured his second gold medal of the Nagano Olympics while leading a Dutch sweep of the medals podium in speed skating men's 10,000 meters.

Romme set the world record for a second time at the Nagano Games, completing the sport's longest distance with a time of 13 minutes, 15.33 seconds at the indoor ice arena.

The swimming instructor, who turned 25 last Thursday, eclipsed the previous world and Olympic mark of 13:30.55, set by Norway's Johann Olav Koss at the 1994 Lillehammer

Games.

Bob De Jong won the silver in 13:25.76 and 5,000-meter silver medalist Rintje Ritsma took the bronze in 13:28.19.

Romme skated at a blistering pace from the outset of his race as he passed the 2,000-meter mark 7.14 seconds under Koss' old mark and widen the gap to more than 14 seconds midway through the race.

His then held his pace for the rest of the race and crossed the finish line to thunderous applause from a crowd that included horn-blowing Dutch fans clad in their traditional orange.

It was the second Olympic victory for Romme following his 5,000-meter triumph on the opening day of the Nagano Olympic speed skating competition. He set the world record of 6:22.20 in that race.

Romme brought the Netherlands' gold medal count in Nagano Olympic speed skating to four. Besides his double long distance crown, Ids Postma won the men's 1,000 meters while Marianne Timmer claimed the women's 1,500-meter title.

Keiji Shirahata, the only Japanese entry in the 10,000 meters, finished in 14th in 13:57.45.

Seizinger bags 2nd Olympic gold with Alpine combined win

Katja Seizinger posted only the fifth fastest total time in the slalom leg of the women's Olympic Alpine combined competition Tuesday but it was enough to lead a German sweep of the medals.

Seizinger, who led after Monday's downhill, claimed her second gold medal at the 18th Winter Games in central Japan as she put together a composite time of 2 minutes, 40.74 seconds, beating compatriots Martina Ertl and Hilde Gerg by less than a second.

The current World Cup overall leader also defended her title in the regular downhill race Monday, which was held prior to the downhill leg of the combined event.

The 25-year-old Seizinger clocked the fifth best time of 37.14 seconds in her first run down the Happo-one slope in Hakuba to maintain the lead and posted the third fastest 35.08 in the second race for the victory.

Ertl, fourth place after the downhill, led the slalom leg with a combined time of 1:11.16 to win the silver medal with a total time of 2:40.92, while Gerg took the bronze in 2:41.50.

It was the fourth sweep of medals by any one country in Alpine skiing at the winter Olympics and the second time for female skiers since the Austrians finished 1-2-3 in the women's downhill at the 1964 Innsbruck Games.

Stefanie Schuster of Austria ended in fourth



The German team celebrates after a 1-2-3 sweep in the woman's Alpine combined

place, followed by Italy's Morena Gallizio.

Japan's Junko Yamakawa finished in 16th place in 2:50.36.

Sweden's defending champion Pernilla Wiberg and 1997 world titlist Renate Goetschl

of Austria, who stood in second and third places after the downhill leg, bowed out of the competition as they both went off course in the first slalom run. (Kyodo News)

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