



Thun, May 2, 2019

#swatchrocketair May 3-4, 2019 in Thun, Switzerland

Will Huppi fly to the podium?

Tomorrow kicks off the tenth annual Swatch Rocket Air. At the Thun ice rink spectators can anticipate a gift in the form of the Team Battle and for the first time, the best trick contest on Friday evening. What they can't predict: will a Swiss stand atop the podium for the first time in Swatch Rocket Air history?

Swiss young gun and 2018 Red Bull Rookie of the Year, Lucas Huppert, 19, aka Huppi emerged on the slopestyle world stage taking home his first top-10 at a gold event before going on to win a stop on the FMB World Tour. Already in 2019, the Zurich local placed 8th at the Crankworx Diamond Event in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Huppi's story is inextricably linked to that of the Swatch Rocket Air. Leading up to the 10th anniversary, we asked Huppi nine questions - one for each year of the Swatch Rocket Air:

What did biking look like for you in 2010 when the first Swatch Rocket Air took place?

Lucas Huppert: I rode four-cross races and dared to do my first dirt jumps on the bike. In the winter of 2010, I got a BMX and three weeks before my 11th birthday, I landed my first 360.

Was there a time without biking in your life?

At the age of 8, I was already a part of the local bike club. Before that, I skateboarded, but from a young age I was drawn to biking.

Do you remember your first Rocket Air participation?

Of course, 2015 when I was 15. The year before I won the Dirt Offspring tour by the Flying Metal Crew and was granted a wildcard for the Swatch Rocket Air 2015. Since then I have participated every year.

And last year you placed 8th. Would you have expected that? After all, you were injured before.

No, I could not expect that, mainly because I was seriously injured just before. But in retrospect, those three months of rest were just what I needed. I used to be on the bike all the time, even if my body wasn't ready. Thanks to the break, I was fresh again and fully motivated for the Rocket Air 2018. I learned from it and now make sure to take the recovery time needed.

Your success in 2018 was no fluke, you have established yourself on the slopestyle world stage. Why right now?

I am stronger physically and mentally more mature. I can focus much better before a competition and let go of negative thoughts. I train more purposefully and when possible, travel to Italy where I can train tricks with a soft landing before an event.



What do your boss and parents say about you always being on the road?

My teacher is extremely supportive! Sometimes on a nice day he says, "Hey Huppi, the weather is splendid, go get on your bike!" For my recent trip to New Zealand, I only got the call 48 hours before departure. I am incredibly grateful for his support. In return, he asks for a high level of performance at work and at school. My parents have gotten used to the fact that I am traveling a lot - and they are now starting to properly understand how it works with the rankings and so on.

And they also understood how you earned a spot at the Crankworx in New Zealand?

Yes. The 14 best in the world are invited to these events, plus two substitute riders. I was 17th in the world ranking, and because one rider was unable to compete, I was nominated as a substitute. I could take part in training before the completion, but I didn't find out I had a start plate until one hour before the competition. I was happy how it all went, especially since I was riding safe not wanting to hurt myself on the big obstacles.

With a top ten in the FMB Diamond event the pressure increases, right?

Yes and no. Of course, the expectations are higher now - but most of the pressure is what I put on myself. Although I know today I am having fun while riding, otherwise, nothing works. Of course, I am already happy when my sponsor TSG has now joined his pro team due to my achievements.

Will you bring us the first Swiss podium on the 10th Swatch Rocket Air?

Taking the victory, that I don't know but I certainly hope for top five. Come watch to find out!

The construction work for the 10th Swatch Rocket Air in the ice rink Thun is largely complete and the first riders are already testing the Birthday Bash course. Tickets for the 10th-anniversary edition and for the after party on Friday and Saturday are still available.

Ticket Information and a detailed program can be found at www.rocketair.ch

swatch[®]₊ ROCKET AIR

Swatch, launched in 1983 by Nicolas G. Hayek, is a leading Swiss watchmaker and one of the world's most popular brands. The first Swatch watches surprised everyone with their revolutionary concept, creative design and provocative spirit. The brand philosophy is based on color, movement, lightness and transparency, which can be seen in every Swatch product and project. Today Swatch continues to innovate and surprise with new models, collections and special editions. The brand maintains a strong presence in the world of sports with its commitment to snowboarding, freeskiing, surfing, beach volleyball, mountainbike slopestyle and drone racing. Right from the start, Swatch connected with art and artists, and Swatch watches remain a prominent canvas for artists from a broad range of disciplines.

Partner



The latest news about the event, the riders and afterparties on the Swatch Rocket Air [Facebook page](#)

Information about the Flying Metal Crew can be found on our Flying Metal Crew [Facebook Page](#).

Contact

Event Management

Flying Metal GmbH
Alpenstrasse 2a
3600 Thun

Public Relations

Andreas Halter
Tel. +41 76 302 24 70
andreas.halter@flyingmetal.ch

Web

www.rocketair.ch
www.flyingmetal.ch