Russia Wins World Cup Ski Sprint

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The Russian team won the men's World Cup cross-country skiing team sprint Sunday, showing good form ahead of next month's world championships.

The men's 6 by 1.5 kilometer race on relatively flat ground in Estonia was a straight fight between Russia and Norway, with Russia's Sergei Ustyugov and Alexei Petukhov winning in 19 minutes 39.1 seconds, 0.4 seconds faster than Norway's Anders Gloeersen and Finn Haagen Krogh.

The bronze went to Italy's Dietmar Noeckler and Federico Pellegrino, 12.5 seconds further back. Neither of the two U.S. men's teams reached the final.

Sunday's team sprints were the only World Cup team events of the season and are preparation for the freestyle team sprints on Feb. 22 at the Nordic World Ski Championships in Falun, Sweden. Prior to Sunday's races, no international-standard freestyle team sprints had taken place since the 2013 world championships.

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