

Personal Interview with Andreas Goldberger

Erika Reponen

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Background

Andreas Goldberger is a former multi champion ski jumper who after his sports career started to work as a television commentator for ski jumping competitions, and jumping as a pre-jumper, wearing camera and sharing his camera feed to the television audience.

A refers to Andreas Goldberger and E to Erika Reponen

Interview

E: So first, when was the first time you jumped with the camera, do you remember that?

A: Of course, of course I remember. It was in summertime 2005

E: Ok

A: Summer I think, or autumn, I think September or October 2005 it was.

E: So, not that long time ago but quite long, 4 years, 5 years.

A: 4,5

A: After I quitted my ski-jumping competitions, the Austrian television wanted me to do this. At first they wanted to have me as a co-commentator and to be an expert talking with them. And then we said – Hey! And my reason to do it is that I want to bring the ski-jumping nearer to the spectators in their living rooms. They should see what a ski-jumper sees, but maybe you can do more, that you can get also how it feels and so and that was my reason. I tried to jump with the helmet

camera, then later I tried this with the microphone and then I also tried to jump with the cameras on the skis. And you can always get closer to this feeling.

E: So there should be more and more and more

A: Yeah yeah, because if I do this, it should be something special for the spectators. They should feel, they should know and feel and see how ski-jumping is so something special, something cool. They should feel like they jump themselves. That was my reason.

E: That's, good to hear!

E: So kind of the idea came from the television company but then when they asked you, you got this kind of own interest?

A: Yes it was. Of course it was because they always do it in skiing, in alpine skiing, they have done it for long time. And they also wanted to do it in ski-jumping. They did it already earlier sometimes, but it was not good, that was not really good jumping and it did look awful.

E: Ok, then, there were some --

A: Not good jumpers. And if one jumps 60 meter, it doesn't look -- you see it, and it also looks good but it must look better if one jumps 130 meters or in ski-flying 180 or 190. That must be much better, if it's possible.

A: So then we tried it. That was because if do it, it should be something good. Not just for fun or for this. It must be something special. That was always my goal, as always what I do, I want to do it good, not just to do something.

E: Yeah that's good

A: And, that was the reason. They had the idea and said we want to do it and then I said ok we can try but if it, then we need to do it good. But it's not easy, you know with the -- like in Austria it's the ORF, it's the official television program.

E: Ok

A: Well it's hard you know. How to explain it. They can't be so flexible.

E: Yeah, I can understand

A: Yeah you understand. It's not the easiest. You have to ask for everything. They have the official rights and notes.

E: Ok, so

A: So, if I say I have to work now for three weeks, every day, for 24 hours a day, they say no, it's not possible, it's official. So, just 8 hours and close.

E: yeah, of course ok.

E: But then how about the - the camera is probably ok - but how about then the microphone? You are also talking, if I understood right. At least I have seen a couple of times.

A: Yeah, the camera, it was also it, but you have to use it, of course. It's much speed, and you need to get used to it, because it's heavy. We did some really good pic on that, you see it on distance. You can still use it but then -

E: You have it here on the helmet's side

A: Yeah it's on, I have it on this side and you have to put weight also here in this side.

E: Ok

A: Yeah. But the microphone, it was disturbing a little bit. Because if you want to talk you totally lose the concentration on what you do. So it's really a problem. So when I started to talk, I did really awful jumps. Then I started to

train a little bit more with this. Because, you can't do it just so. It's too dangerous of course but also it was not working. And then I recognized: Hey am I usually jumping and breathing or not breathing? And I noticed I'm not breathing, I just for the whole time was not breathing, and so if you talk then you have to breathe. It was disturbing, but it was also interesting.

E: So you had to learn a new way

A: Yeah and more speed you get, so you have to speak louder because with the wind it was not so good. If you have some problems during the jump you know, I stop speaking. It's normal. But if everything is working you can talk.

E: Ok. Are you talking also in air?

A: Yeah, but there's something -

E: I have only seen - They are not showing in Finland really often. I have seen some but I can't remember hearing

A: If it's working good, and I told them: Oh wow it's good, high in the air now!

E: Hahaha

A: Yeah then it's working, but it's not so easy because if the speed is high. You just don't hear so good. But in in-run you can talk and notice take-off is coming nearer and nearer and now I have to concentrate and -- in your legs... yeah and I... it was awful

E: Do you kind of actively think there are the audience and you talk to them? How actively do you think there is someone watching live in ORF now.

A: Yeah of course a lot of them watch it because, hey it's good or cool, because now they really know, because I explain. So yeah they watch now the track, if it slow and it's icy or if it's good or not. If good weather, it's not a

problem but also in the bad weather, then you can explain them what's the reason, and they can imagine it more. How to say this. They like to watch it, because also directly after the jump I can tell them: So it was difficult because of this, but that is good, but that is difficult. You can just know it if you try it. Because if I watch it from the distance I can't, ok, maybe, maybe not. But if you try it yourself I can say to the audience: Oh, here you have to take care. That can be for some maybe a little problem if the outrun is blobby or if in take-off is something special or maybe in the night if the light is not so good.

E: So you can offer more as a commentator in that way

A: Yes of course

E: But you would not need camera for that? But it's just that you have jumped. But for the audience you can also offer more, also the feeling

A: And they like it, to jump also with you.

E: So you get feedback about that.

A: I get feedback, really, it was really lots of feedback. Usually from the television station they never say hey that's good. That's always normal. They just tell you if that's not ok. But they say: Hey it's good work.

E: Sometimes when you talk have they ever told you like: don't say that again or something? Is it ok for them that you say what you like to?

A: Yes, yes, because sometimes when you jump, then you have a reaction and sometimes then you don't say really good things.

E: Yeah, are there some rules what you can't say there?

A: Yeah but usually you know the rules. You don't say it. But sometimes it's the reaction

and..

E: You are in control, you are there. They cannot reach you and stop you. You are with the camera.

A: I think, people, they like it when you say something, which is not usual. Then they know it is this, what the jumper is sometimes thinking. If it's working or not working. And that's the reason. But usually it has not often happened and it was not really something stupid or awful thing. Yeah but you have to take care about this. So I always concentrate and prepare myself for it, before I say on how this should come or this should happen. So I should talk about this.

E: So it's kind of planned.

A: Yeah

E: The setup; you have one camera. Is it some special or?

A: It's quite old one but on the quality it's good. Because at the moment there are smaller ones and everything but that's not that good quality. They are easier to jump, but if you have to record for long distance it's not sharp anymore. So the quality is also important. And, so I have the camera in the helmet, then I have the microphone.

E: Is it a normal one?

A: Yes that's the normal one

E: Normal mic. And how about the ski-camera?

A: Yeah that was a bit difficult at the beginning when I tried it first time.

E: Where do you have it in ski?

A: On the back. Because that's not easy. That's really a small one. You need the cable. I have some belt you know, and then some like a little bit bigger piece where you have the battery and the chip, the microchip sensor is inside. You

put together, and then the cable wires and put it to the camera.

E: Not easy?

A: But it's total different. I also tried one with this but -- [camera pointing towards face]

E: Do you like it?

A: Yeah, but this was not so good.

E: Because of it was heavy or something or because you didn't like to show your face?

A: Yeah, but it didn't look so good. The best for me is on the ski. Because when on the ski you see the in-run position, everything. Then you see the power, or the pressure, and then you see in the air. And really the energy is working there. When the skies are coming, when you can see the body coming, you see this really well. Then we also turned it backwards. You can see how fast you leave, how fast you go. And in the ski - in the beginning it was really a problem, because of the balance. Because if we put it on the ski, the balance of the skies is difficult.

E: So you stopped jumping but you still continue jumping, but a little bit more difficult settings than for the others.

A: Yeah it's totally different, I don't train so much, but you have to train. Because if you don't train, it's so dangerous. And if you don't train you can't jump a really good technique or reach good lengths. That's important. And I want to give - because it's the sports I loved and it gave me so much. I want to bring the sports, why I like it so, I want to explain it to the audience. And also what I know. If I'm on channel or talking on television just normal co-commentating, and ask or explain to coach or someone, they just tell you something they want that you should tell. But if I jump myself, you are like inside the team. Then you get

totally different respect, you get much more from them. That's interesting, you are like of one of them. Because when I meet an athlete on top of the deck, and say hi, they talk in totally different, everything, in private also. It's funny, how they behave. You get really much more details.

E: So do you also enjoy it yourself? That you want to be there, still. Not only for the audience but it also gives something else for you?

A: Yeah it's cool. And the real good difference it that earlier you had to jump, you had to jump everyday, you had the jump training every day, now I can jump when I like. If it's too windy I say no that's nothing for me anymore, if it's dangerous or something.

E: So how often do you jump with the camera and do these live videos?

A: I did it the whole Four Hills Tournament this winter [2010]

E: Every -

A: Yes every hill in Four Hills Tournament

E: I don't know why they do not show them in Finland. They show only some, but like it's not all. Do they have some rules.

A: Yeah that is the - I don't know. Because, they show it I think in Innsbruck because the host broadcast has the rights. And just if we jump in Germany it's the German television. And then we do it just for Austria and they are not allowed to show it somewhere because then the Germans have to do it for the others. Okay it's difficult. I did it in ski flying in Kulm in Bad Mitterndorf that was really difficult. It worked everything perfect, but you know if everything like the helmet and the skies, the more speed the more air pressure so. Difficult to make it work. It was difficult but it worked

perfect.

E: And you were talking?

A: Not, just I told them before: If you don't hear me, don't be afraid, everything is fine but just I'm concentrating. But it's working good they hear me. And also the olympics.

E: In each of the competition?

A: Also in Torino and in Vancouver. Also in the nordic combined. And in the nordic combined it was really interesting because there was one competition where it was so snowing and windy. It was the last one. And so I also jumped there, then I really could tell them that it's very very difficult and very unfair, because you can tell them ok the in-run is not working because it's snowing. Oh it's difficult. Then you can tell them really. Then I told them when I was in the outrun: hopefully the weather will be better otherwise it will not be jumping today.

[Discussion about Finland ski jumping competitions]

A: Yeah I do a lot in winter with the children, the young children. And we had the finals competition then exactly this weekend when the Lahti games were. you have to watch, I give you a home page address (Goldi-cup) there you can watch what we do with the children that's fun. Because that's what I also do at the winter. I do 5 or 6 times a year. We are looking for new talent. We have about 600 children. So they are lot of them.

[More discussion about Goldi-cup and (non mobile) video capturing of it, in collaboration with Red Bull professionals. www.goldi-cup.at]

E: We already talked about the experience of jumping. How much, how did it change after

the first jump. You said it kind of becomes easier little by little but you are at the same time making it with all the new equipment all the time, kind of trying to make it better and better and better and reach the limits.

A: Yeah, I know. Comparing. When I tried it the first time it was really difficult and I was really, not afraid, but I was how to say, not afraid, but

E: Excited?

A: Yeah excited. And it's always getting easier and easier, but you know, I was in good physical shape afterwards I quitted my career, so now I'm not in this good physical shape anymore. So it's still the same excitement, it's always the same level. I'm getting used to do it but my body is not working so good anymore. So it's always in the balance. And with the new thing it's always in the balance, and every year I say it's the last time, but next spring, summer comes, autumn comes, maybe we try again. Every year. This time it was Olympics, It was so difficult and everything with the weather and so and really hard work to jump and a lot to do, everything, I was really out of power then, I said no. And now I think maybe, maybe, it's always that. It's always that but I was really stressed and I was excited. But I know how it works, how I behave: now I'm excited, is everything working and fast enough and so on.

E: And now you are kind of used to talking to people and showing it live so that's not the new thing anymore

A: Yeah but I don't have the pressure, because I can say if the weather is really not ok, I don't have to do it. But usually I don't know what's the limit. If I jump every day I know if it's windy or not windy and I know how to behave if it's windy. But if I don't jump so much and they say today it's windy I try if it's working or

not and that's dangerous. Then it's getting dangerous. If you are not doing it so more then it's dangerous. I know I should train more now to keep the level. But I don't have to do it, I don't have the pressure because I can take not the real competition equipment, the things, the skies. I can take something bigger or longer skies or I can take more speed. So it's easier. Because, I have to do it because you know I can't, they are too good, so you can't jump with them

E: Yeah, they have been doing that all the time

A: Because otherwise, if I do it like this, I shouldn't have stopped jumping

E: So after 5 years you still like it, there is still same kind of excitement and you still want to continue jumping

A: Yeah, of course it's good. It's still the same. But special, something special is to ski fly with this equipment. I never thought that I will do it but it worked.

E: Was it now the first time?

A: No I did it already 2006 but it was 3 years ago

E: And that's the only time you have been jumping in ski flying hills now

A: Yes, it frightened a little bit. Yeah it's scaring. And in ski flying you know, one small mistake is too much

E: It would be awful to see in camera also like --

A: Yeah. I always, I said the first time in ski flying, hopefully it works now because the first is always in the problems, because there can be something special

E: Yeah, huh

E: Have you seen these afterwards? These videos.

A: Yeah, I always do

E: So do you always watch them

A: Not always. But I want to watch it because then I always say maybe we can do it better, what can we do still better.

E: Ok, and do you get the feeling? At all. Like back to same. Because you said what you are kind of trying to do is that the audience feels how to do ski jumping. Do you get it yourself, kind of back, the same feeling?

A: Hm so what you mean, like what I feel or?

E: Yeah, so when you have been jumping normally, you have a certain kind of experience for you, and then when watching your own jumps afterwards, with your own view, do you go back to the moment?

A: Yeah, when I saw it for the first time, with the camera, I said this is cool. It really was. We have to show it because it really looks really so good, so exciting, and we all look at it. And also the Polish coach asked me if I can get him the videos for training purposes. Also you know the mental training is good. They can see it. They can use it.

E: Are they using it?

A: He said he wanted to have it and I gave him it and he said it's great. I think they will because it's good. I also wanted to. When I see it you can really imagine how it is. You **get the feeling** and. That was really -- When I saw it the first time, I was really also impressed because I never, I didn't see that looking so good. That's coming so close to watch. And really jump for it.

E: So you kind of can leave the moment again?

A: Yeah

E: I have done that same with riding, sometimes little bit,

A: Then you know how it --

A: Yeah. Because I always know I can't do so fast movement, I need to do everything small,

wait, and tell something and then go on, because if I do like this [turning/moving head fast]

E: Ok, so you have learned also how to

A: Yeah I have also learned it

E: Ok then. Feedback, you said you have it, and you think it's important or?

A: Of course it's important. Because if the most people say we don't want to see this, then I say ok, and then we should stop it, because it's always so.

E: And it looks like it gives some benefit to the audience

A: Yeah, because after I see them now, most of the people ask me: Hey are you next year jumping again. I don't know. And they say: When are you going to jump. I say it's best for the four hills tournament or so because always in the world cup you have the best hills, best prepared, usually the most difficult is the training, because the training hills are never so good, as the competition hills

E: Ok, And so you don't need to do anything to get there, you just select which competition you like to and you don't need to do any qualifications

A: No no no, I'm a fore-runner, I have to do this official things as for the ski federation and such but

E: Ok, yeah I know. So, you just can go when you like to

A: Yeah so but I don't need to do any qualifications

E: Hahaha. They trust that you can jump

A: Yeah of course. You do it with FIS and Austrian Ski Federation and with the television station and we have good preparation and we say because of tv we want to do it in because of the sports. Because I also think something is

that the people feel it is also good for the sports. That knows the ski federation, that knows the FIS. And that's the reason why they help us also. We work together.

E: So there is benefit for everyone

A: Yes there should be. Because if the people want to see the ski jumping then it's good for everything, It's good for the FIS, it's good for the federation, also for the television

E: Ok, so everybody's happy

A: Yes

E: That's good

E: Could you imagine using that for something, sharing live videos from some other situation. You said you have, there's videos from this Goldi-cup but

A: Hmm using these live videos. Of course it's, you can imagine because I think it's a lot of things, it's like YouTube. But so many videos are just private. You mean this private videos for other situations or?

E: There are, actually I don't know if you have ever seen these but there are for example videos in the internet in the services such as Qik and Ustream and this kind of services where I can just take a video with my mobile phone. Here just start Qik and start recording video and it goes directly to the internet so that everybody can see it.

A: No I don't

E: Everybody can see it there. I could actually do it.

A: No I never thought about this but I think it could be also good if you can do these videos directly also to others, not just to television, you can send it to everybody private. Because you are like, if I do it to YouTube, you can do it. But it's not for me because the rights have the Austrian television from this

E: Ok, for the Goldi-cup?

A: No no no no. For the jumping

E: Ok, but maybe for the Goldi-cup?

A: Yeah, but for the jumping. It could be possible for other things, but I'm not so really friend of that because it's, I think there are not always serious things happens, but it's not fun if you are somewhere and know everyone there they make videos if you are maybe on some soccer game or somewhere so everyone is: oh I met him and next day you can view it everywhere

E: Yeah

A: Because you know, it's good for the serious video, with serious video I have no problem, but you never know it

E: But you like to have you own, kind of privacy

A: Yeah of course

E: Control over

A: But of course I always say --

E: But what if you make the video? If you are the one with the camera?

A: Yeah I often make videos or the pictures. Then I say: why I should make the picture, I have it in my head.

E: Yeah. But anyways. It's possible there are some people who are watching and sending the live videos. You just don't know about it. And it's actually my research topic, that it is really happening that people take these videos with the phones and they publish then directly to the internet and anyone can be kind of having your own television program and it's like if it's private, if you happen to be in their video, then you are there.

A: Yes of course yeah I know it

E: It's happening

A: I just noticed YouTube. That I watch

sometimes and if you put in some names you can see everything and you know the most are private videos

E: Yeah

A: I think it's good but also there should be some censoring. They can't do everything. Because there you see sometimes really awful things, if it's like their fighting, some kids or the gangs are fighting. And they film and do some video. I think that's not good for the video.

E: Yeah

A: But otherwise it's also good because if, if I have friends or so and I see something special you can record this and say hey you should see this, I 'm sharing this. That's good. Like it's with the sms with the picture. You say: Hey I'm here. Make a photo and send it. It's good. If you want to share it's good with friends or with someone else, that's good. That's the reason it can be, but it should not be used for bad things. But you never know it.

E: Yeah. That's life

A: Yeah it's

E: But yeah, then usually, you can not --

A: Yeah I think, it's the future, you can't stop it. It will be the future, to do these private videos and everything. How should they do it. I don't know. They can't stop it. And the young ones they always want to do it more.

E: Yeah that's true. And you earlier told you are not that much on facebook.

A: Yeah

E: So maybe the people who are in the social media a lot they have this that they share facebook all the time, they also like to share with video all the time. Are the others interested or not but they want to, some people want to

A: Yeah. Normally it's cool you have to do it.

When you are teenager they always do it. They come home, I know it from friends they, boys, girls, they come home the first is facebook where my friends read everything. That's the time and that will go. Not so long, I think 20 years ago this never existed

E: Yeah that's true. I have been doing this research from, I think from 2005 or 2006. Then started to find something with live video things.

A: My first mobile phone I think I got 1993 or 1992. That time. And it was really big

E: I also had it

A: Yeah they are changing so much. That's also with this. But hey it's good. If you want to see something special then it's good. But not everyone. It's always not controlled. Because if you see something in television, then you see just what they show you.

E: Yes

A: Like I hate this all like Irak or somewhere where everything is, the parlament says that's not allowed, that's not allowed to say. And so you can now hear everything, then. You can watch everything.

E: You just have your phone. And if you like to share something with the world you just start your phone and you record it and --

A: It's good. If it's not negative. I think 100 things are positive and maybe 5 negative. And I think when it's over 50% then you should do it.

E: That's a good advice

A: Always for me it is. But it's usually because. It's this Austrian tele-, mobile company A1. There is so good commercial. With the skiing thing. There's one small girl and then I think it's Herman Maier, who is coming. She is sending it with the live stream to a friend. They

sitting in home, three girls just waiting and watching: Wow wow wow she's there she's meeting Herman Maier. She's phoning them and suddenly she's standing so close but she's still so away. And there is "There is some things you should not share with your friends". That's also lovely.

E: Haha yeah yeah ok, cool. I have not seen it

A: That is really great. She's watching and then she's getting really -- They are: Hey what's going on..

E: What was that

A: A1. It's the most --

E: Oh, teleoperator

A: Biggest Austrian. Maybe this is a good commercial to see

E: I have to see if I can find it from You Tube or --

A: I don't know. But it's really cool. There are some things you should not share with your friends. It's the reason why they send it. That's the thing. Yeah watch it. I think it's good. Because really that is so. You can share it live, not just record and then send it. I'm here in Bon Jovi concert, watch and then send home or friend. And I think It's good for them. But I'm not sure if it's good for Bon Jovi.

E: Yeah I don't know

A: But yeah I think. It's always also conflict with these music programs where you can sell it. Or the video films. Some are free, some you have to pay. But who controls if you pay or not. But I think it's the future anyways. It's like in television with the pay tv and everything. Free tv or pay tv.

E: So you could imagine using the mobile phone video in the future?

A: Of course.

E: But more with

A: I have never used it because --
E: more with the kind of situations for sharing with friends and family than starting your own Andi-tv or something with the mobile phone and sharing everything
A: Gregor Schlierenzauer is very interested in these things.
E: Ok
A: I know he's doing often he's own pictures and everything.
E: Ok, he might be then starting own "television" or --
A: Like Red Bull mobile did something like this
E: Ok I should take a look at that. To take a look at that, Red Bull mobile.
A: Yeah Red Bull Mobile. They do it. There can everyone have something special. Some sportsmen do something special. He can give it, he can send it to this Red Bull Mobile and then everyone can watch it.
E: Okay cool. Yeah. I need to see if I can find in the Internet something
A: It's like an own company.
E: Red Bull is a really cool. They get all the good ideas and make it happen
A: Yeah really they just don't get the Ideas they do it. That's so good
E: Exactly. That is the main point
A: Yeah they always do it. It's cool to be in that company also. They have amazing ideas. But yeah I never thought about this what you ask now about sharing but if you say it then I say: Yeah it's really good idea because if you have to say something important you can say it to everyone
E: Interesting to hear. Maybe tomorrow you will say hmmm how can I make this, haha.
A: Yeah haha
E: I didn't know. I think you have really been a

pioneer in this. Because I know you kind of like to share your view to the viewers. I think it's exactly the same thing but it's for professionally for you it's not like for the
A: Yeah because they say also for me, they said if this is if some "mr Sepp X" starts this it is not interesting, but when you do it then they believe you. Then they see, then they say oh it's difficult, it's easy and so then they really believe.
E: yeah. If some, like who ever, is doing it maybe it needs to be some really interesting topic such as shared hobby so that you are really interested in the topic he happens to be in the right place and you want to see what happens there. For example now if someone is sharing live video in University then I could think I really need to see it, I can see what is there now.
A: oh yeah, that's. I'm in the -- And maybe in 20 years it will be like this, you know in Austria now there is discussion in every restaurants, "non smoking", and maybe in 20 years when we are talking about restaurants "no live videos". I think it's, maybe the future.
E: Maybe or maybe the other way. You never know how it goes. If it's everywhere, no-one is interested anymore because you can not follow everything. It's not anymore like I want my privacy
A: Yeah. In 20 years ago there was no discussion. Everywhere was allowed to smoke. But now.
[Some more discussion about smoking in restaurants in Austria]
E: I think I can stop this now
A: Yeah, because I never-- Now I notice the reason for this.