

## MEN INDIVIDUAL LARGE HILL – Saturday 2/Sunday 3 Dec 2017

### Russian World Cup event returns to the stage

- This will be the first men's World Cup ski jumping event held in Russia since December 2015, when there were also two different large hill jumps in Nizhny Tagil. Severin Freund (GER) won the first event on 12 December while Peter Prevc (SLO) emerged victorious on 13 December.
- The only other time a men's World Cup event was staged in Nizhny Tagil was in December 2014, when Anders Fannemel (NOR) won the first event and Freund the second.
- Freund (three times), who is out for the season due to injury, Fannemel (twice) and Peter Prevc (twice) are the only jumpers to finish on the podium of multiple World Cup events in Nizhny Tagil.
- The only other men's World Cup event in Russia was held in Sochi in December 2012, when both events were won by an Austrian jumper: Gregor Schlierenzauer (AUT) and Andreas Kofler (AUT).
- At the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Kamil Stoch (POL) won both of the individual men's events (large and normal hill) while Peter Prevc finished on the podium in both events.

### Surprise wins in opening World Cup events

- The first two individual men's World Cup events this season were won by Junshiro Kobayashi (JPN, Wisla) and Jernej Damjan (SLO) in Ruka last weekend.
- It was the first individual World Cup victory for Kobayashi, while Damjan claimed his second World Cup win after Sapporo in January 2014.
- Damjan could become the third male jumper to claim multiple individual World Cup victories after his 34th birthday, besides Noriaki Kasai (JPN, 2) and Robert Kranjec (SLO, 2).
- Damjan could become the fifth jumper representing Slovenia to win at least three individual men's World Cup events, after Peter Prevc (22), Primož Peterka (SLO, 15), Kranjec (7) and Domen Prevc (SLO, 4).
- The last time Slovenian jumpers won successive individual World Cup events was in December 2016, when Domen Prevc won in Klingenthal and Lillehammer.
- The last season in which four jumpers won only once after four events was in 2003/04, when Matti Hautamäki (FIN), Sigurd Pettersen (NOR), Roar Ljøkelsøy (NOR) and Tami Kiuru (FIN) all won once each.
- The last season in which the first four individual World Cup victories were divided among four different countries was 1996/97 (Germany, Norway, Japan, Slovenia).
- The last season in which four different countries won only once after four events was in 1996/97 (Germany, Norway, Japan, Slovenia).

## **Stoch hoping for inspiration on Russian soil**

- Kamil Stoch will return to Russian soil, where he won both of his gold medals during the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.
- Stoch has reached the podium in only one of his last four individual World Cup events, a second place in front of a home crowd in Wisla on 19 November. He finished in 20th place in Ruka last weekend.
- The last time he finished outside the top-10 at consecutive World Cup events was in Ruka in November 2016, where he finished 26th and 22nd in the two events successively.
- Stoch had a DNQ and a sixth place in his previous two participations in Nizhny Tagil, both in December 2015.
- The only Polish jumper to claim an individual World Cup victory in more different hosting cities than Stoch (15) is Adam Malysz (POL, 20).
- Stoch and Peter Prevc have both won 22 individual World Cup events. Next up for them are Simon Ammann (SUI) and Thomas Morgenstern (AUT) on 23 in joint-eighth place all-time.

## **Kraft aiming to repeat last season's success**

- Stefan Kraft (AUT) won five of the last seven individual World Cup events of the 2016/17 season and both the world title in the men's normal and large hill, but is still waiting for his first win of this season.
- He claimed a third place in the season opener in Wisla but finished only in 13th place in Ruka last weekend.
- Kraft has failed to reach the podium in consecutive individual World Cup events only once in 2017 - in January, he finished in 18th place in Innsbruck and in 25th place in Bischofshofen.
- In total, Kraft has finished on the podium in 14 individual World Cup events in 2017, more than any other jumper.
- The only Austrian jumper to finish on the podium of more World Cup events during a single calendar year is Gregor Schlierenzauer (17 in 2009, 15 in 2008).
- Kraft finished fourth and third during the first World Cup events in Nizhny Tagil in 2014, but only came in 22nd and 27th place there in 2015.
- In 2015, the first of two events in Nizhny Tagil was won by the reigning world champion in the men's large hill, Severin Freund.

## **Other contenders**

- Only Stefan Kraft (14) has finished on the podium of more different individual World Cup events in 2017 than Andreas Wellinger (GER, 13).
- Wellinger has finished on the podium in 12 of his last 15 individual World Cup events, including a third place in Ruka last weekend.
- Only one of Wellinger's podium finishes in 2017 was a first place, in the men's large hill in Willingen on 29 January.
- His only individual World Cup victory outside of Germany came in Wisla on 16 January 2014.

- The last individual World Cup victory for Richard Freitag (GER) came in the men's large hill in Innsbruck on 4 January 2015.
- Daniel-André Tande (NOR) already won two individual World Cup events in 2017 (Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Innsbruck in January) and could become the first Norwegian jumper with three individual World Cup victories in a single calendar year since Anders Jacobsen (NOR) in 2007.
- Tande has not reached the podium of an individual World Cup event since 15 January (second, Wisla) - this season, he finished in fifth place in Wisla and in fourth place in Ruka.
- The last time Johann André Forfang (NOR) reached the podium in consecutive individual World Cup events was in March 2016, when he did so in four straight (of which three in ski flying). The first of these podium finishes was his only victory to-date, in the men's large hill in Titisee-Neustadt on 12 March 2016.
- Stefan Hula (POL) is 31 years old and can become the second jumper over the age of 30 to record his first individual World Cup podium, after Jan Matura (CZE) who was 32 years and 356 days old when he won in Sapporo in January 2013.

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