

## PREVIEW Men's INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Saturday 6 Jan 2018

### Stoch out to equal Hannawald

- Kamil Stoch (POL) can become the second ski jumper to win all four events of the Four Hills Tournament in a single season, after Sven Hannawald (GER) in 2001/02.
- Stoch is the 10th man to win the first three Four Hills events, after Olav Bjørnstad (NOR, in 1953/54), Helmut Recknagel (GDR, in 1958/59), Max Bolkart (GDR, 1959/60), Toralf Engan (NOR, 1962/63), Bjørn Wirkola (NOR, 1968/69), Yukio Kasaya (JPN, 1971/72), Kazuyoshi Funaki (JPN, 1997/98), Hannawald (2001/02) and Janne Ahonen (FIN, 2004/05)
- Of these previous nine ski jumpers, only Kasaya did not win the overall title that season (1971/72). He did not take part in the final Bischofshofen event, because he had to go back to Japan to prepare for the Olympic Winter Games.
- Stoch can become the third athlete to win a record five successive Four Hills events, as he also won in Bischofshofen last season. Hannawald (5 from 2001-2002) and Recknagel (GDR, 5 from 1958-1959) previously achieved this.
- Stoch can become the first man in 18 years to win the Bischofshofen event two years in a row, as Andreas Widhölzl (AUT) won in 1999 and 2000.
- The Pole can furthermore become the ninth man to successfully defend his Four Hills title and the first since Gregor Schlierenzauer (AUT) in 2012/13.
- The other seven are: Ahonen (successfully defended title in 2005/06), Ernst Vettori (AUT, 1986/87), Jens Weißflog (GDR, 1984/85), Hubert Neuper (AUT, 1980/81), Jochen Danneberg (GDR, 1976/77), Wirkola (1967/68 and again in 1968/69) and Recknagel (1958/59).
- Stoch can become the first Polish ski jumper to win the Four Hills Tournament twice. Adam Malysz (POL) won it in 2000/01.
- Stoch (833.2 points) holds a lead of 64.5 points over second placed Andreas Wellinger (GER, 768.7). Only three editions of the Four Hills Tournament had a bigger margin between the winner and runner-up. In 1987/88, Matti Nykänen (FIN) won by 99.0 points over Weißflog, in 1991/92, Toni Nieminen (FIN) had 69.1 points more than runner-up Martin Höllwarth (AUT) and in 2000/01, Malysz set the record of a winning margin of 104.4 over Ahonen.
- Stoch (30 years and 226 days old on 6 January) can become the fourth man to win the title in his thirties, after Sepp Bradl (AUT, 35-003, 1952/53), Weißflog (31-169, 1995/96) and Ahonen (30-240, 2007/08).
- In the last 18 seasons, only once the leader after the Innsbruck event failed to win the Golden Eagle - last season, Daniel-André Tande (NOR) led after three events but was surpassed by Stoch and Piotr Zyla (POL) in the final event.

## Wellinger eyeing first overall podium finish

- Andreas Wellinger (GER) is eyeing his first overall podium finish in the Four Hills Tournament.
- His previous overall finishes are: ninth in 2012/13, 10th in 2013/14, 12th in 2015/16 and 22nd in 2016/17.
- The only German in the last nine seasons on the overall podium was Severin Freund (GER), who finished second in 2015/16.
- Freund was also the last German to win a Four Hills event, when he won in Oberstdorf on 29 December 2015.
- In Innsbruck earlier this week Wellinger finished third, his best result in a Four Hills event.

## Kobayashi trying to follow in footsteps of Japanese trio

- Junshiro Kobayashi (JPN) currently ranks third in the overall standings of the Four Hills Tournament.
- Three Japanese ski jumpers have previously finished on the overall podium of the Four Hills Tournament: Noriaki Kasai (JPN, second in 1992/93 and in 1998/99), Kazuyoshi Funaki (JPN, first in 1997/98 and second in 1994/95) and Hideharu Miyahira (JPN, third in 1998/99).
- Three Japanese ski jumpers have won an event at the Four Hills Tournament, with Kasai's winning jump in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2000/01 the most recent Japanese victory.
- Kobayashi's best result in a Four Hills event is his fourth place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen this year.

## Other contenders

- Daniel-André Tande (NOR) is the last person other than Kamil Stoch to have won a Four Hills event. He claimed victory in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Innsbruck last season.
- Those were also Tande's last World Cup victories. He finished second in Innsbruck earlier this week.
- Last season, Tande finished third overall in the Four Hills standings, behind Stoch and Piotr Zyla.
- Just like last season with Stoch and Zyla, this season could also see two Polish ski jumpers on the overall podium as Dawid Kubacki (POL) currently ranks fourth.
- Gregor Schlierenzauer has won nine individual Four Hills events: three in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and two each in Oberstdorf, Innsbruck and Bischofshofen.
- Schlierenzauer is one short of the record of 10 wins, held by Björn Wirkola and Jens Weißflog.
- Schlierenzauer last claimed a Four Hills event victory on 6 January 2013, when he won in Bischofshofen.

### **Austrians in danger of not claiming a single podium finish**

- Austrian ski jumpers have won a record 63 Four Hills events and have claimed 174 podium finishes in the competition, but are still waiting for their first podium finish in the current edition.
- The last time Austrian jumpers failed to reach the podium in a single Four Hills Tournament was in 2005/06.
- At the last 11 Four Hills events in Bischofshofen an Austrian finished on the podium. The last time this did not happen was in 2005/06.
- Austrians have won the Bischofshofen event a record 23 times, most of all nations at a single Four Hills event.

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