

MEN INDIVIDUAL LARGE HILL – Sunday 26 Nov 2017

Ruka again part of World Cup season

- Ruka will host an individual World Cup event for men for the 16th time (all large hill) and for the 15th time in the last 16 seasons. Only in 2015/16, no events were staged in Ruka as the events in November 2015 were cancelled.
- Last season, two events were held with Domen Prevc (SLO) winning the first on 25 November while Severin Freund (GER) emerged victorious in the second event on 26 November.
- The last Finnish jumper to win the individual event in front of a home crowd at Ruka was Arttu Lappi (FIN) in 2006/07.
- Simon Ammann (SUI) has won three men's large hill World Cup events in Ruka, most of all jumpers. His last victory here came on 29 November 2014, when he had to share the win with then 42-year-old Noriaki Kasai (JPN).
- With 42 years and 176 days, Kasai became the oldest winner of an individual World Cup event that day, a record that still stands.
- Ammann has reached the podium in six individual World Cup events in Ruka, joint-most together with Janne Ahonen (FIN).

Kobayashi hoping to surprise field again

- The season opener in Wisla last weekend had a surprising winner as Junshiro Kobayashi (JPN) claimed his first ever individual World Cup victory. His previous best result was a 13th place in Trondheim in March 2015.
- Kobayashi was the first Japanese male jumper to win an individual World Cup event since Noriaki Kasai (JPN) in Ruka in 2014/15.
- The last Japanese jumper to win consecutive individual men's World Cup events was Daiki Ito (JPN) in March 2012, when he won the normal hill event in Lahti and the large hill event in Trondheim.
- Ito was also the last jumper from Japan to win consecutive large hill events as he won both events in Sapporo in January 2012.
- The last Japanese jumper to win successive men's large hill events at different venues was Kazuyoshi Funaki (JPN) in 1997/98, who won in Oberstdorf, Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Innsbruck on his way to victory in the Four Hills Tournament. Funaki is still the only Japanese winner of the Four Hills Tournament.
- The last male jumper to win both of the opening two individual events of a World Cup season was Andreas Kofler (AUT) in 2011/12.

Kraft looking for first podium finish in Ruka

- Stefan Kraft (AUT) started his individual World Cup season by finishing third in Wisla, behind Junshiro Kobayashi (JPN) and Kamil Stoch (POL).

- Kraft has never reached the podium of an individual World Cup event in Ruka - his best result was a fourth place last season.
- Ruka could become the 22nd host city where Kraft reaches the podium of an individual World Cup event, surpassing Andreas Felder in sixth place among Austrians
- Kraft's only World Cup victory in Finland came in the large hill event in Lahti on 8 March 2015.
- The last Austrian winner of the large hill event in Ruka was Gregor Schlierenzauer (AUT) in November 2013.
- Kraft has reached the podium at 12 of the last 13 individual World Cup events he participated in, with the exception of the ski flying event in Vikersund on 19 March 2017 when he finished in fifth place.

Other contenders

- Kamil Stoch (POL) finished second in the season opener in Wisla. The last time he reached the podium at consecutive individual World Cup events was in February 2017 (first in Sapporo, third in PyeongChang).
- Stoch has won three individual World Cup events in Finland, but none of those victories came in Ruka. His best finish there was a fourth place in November 2011.
- The only Polish jumper to claim an individual World Cup victory in more different hosting cities than Stoch (15) is Adam Malysz (POL, 20).
- No Polish jumper has ever won an individual men's large hill World Cup event in Ruka.
- Stoch and Peter Prevc (SLO) 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.
- 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.
- The last individual World Cup victory for Richard Freitag (GER) came in the men's large hill in Innsbruck on 4 January 2015.
- Daniel Huber (AUT) and Stefan Hula (POL) are both looking for their first individual World Cup podium finish. Both have recorded a personal best sixth place, Huber last weekend and Hula in Kuopio in February 2016.
- Hula 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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