

## PREVIEW MEN'S EVENTS VAL DI FIEMME (14-17 Jan 2021)

### Val di Fiemme

- German athletes won nine individual World Cup events in Val di Fiemme, two more than Norway (7). Finland won here six times.
- The last athlete to win two consecutive individual World Cup events in Val di Fiemme was Eric Frenzel on 13 and 15 January 2017.
- Hannu Manninen won a record three individual World Cup events here.
- Jørgen Graabak claimed a record eight podium finishes in individual World Cup events in Val di Fiemme: G2-S2-B4.
- In 1997, Andrea Longo became the first and so far only Italian to finish on the podium in an individual World Cup event in Val di Fiemme: 2nd on 14 January 1997.

### Team Sprint

- Norway won three of the last four World Cup team sprint events. Finland won the other (Lahti, February 2019).
- Last season, Norway's Jarl Magnus Riiber and Jørgen Graabak won the team sprint in Val di Fiemme, ahead of Germany and Austria.
- Norway has won six of the seven World Cup team sprint events in Val di Fiemme. Germany won here in 2018.
- Jørgen Graabak was a team member in five of Norway's six wins in Val di Fiemme.
- Norway has won 10 World Cup team sprint events and finished on the podium 20 times.
- Germany claimed 19 podium finishes, including six wins.

### The main contenders

#### Jarl Magnus Riiber (NOR)

- Jarl Magnus Riiber is leader in the overall standings after winning the first two World cup events in Ruka this season. He finished second in both events in Ramsau am Dachstein.
- Last season, Riiber led the standings after every World Cup event.
- Riiber did not win any of the last three individual World Cup events he appeared in. The last time he failed to win four consecutive individual World Cup events was in January 2019: five World Cups in Val di Fiemme (1) and Chaux-Neuve (3).
- Riiber (29 wins) can become the third Nordic combined skier to claim 30 individual World Cup wins, after Hannu Manninen (48) and Eric Frenzel (43).

#### Vinzenz Geiger (GER)

- Vinzenz Geiger has won five individual World Cup events, including each of the last two (in Ramsau).

- The last Nordic combined skier other than Jarl Magnus Riiber to win three successive individual World Cups was Fabian Rießle in March 2018 (1 in Trondheim, 2 in Klingenthal).
- Geiger won his five World Cup events in two venues: in Ramsau (3) and Val di Fiemme (2).
- Geiger won an individual World Cup in Val di Fiemme in 2019 and in 2020 and he could become the first to win here three years in a row.

### **Johannes Lamparter (AUT)**

- Johannes Lamparter is second in the overall World Cup standings behind Jarl Magnus Riiber, but ahead of Vinzenz Geiger.
- Lamparter claimed one podium spot this season - 2nd in Ruka - whereas Riiber and Geiger each won two World Cup events.
- At the age of 19, he could become the second-youngest Austrian to win an individual World Cup event, after Mario Stecher, who won his first World Cup at the age of 16 in 1994.
- The last Austrian to win an individual World Cup event was Bernard Gruber in Schonach on 16 March 2019.

### **Jens Lurås Oftebro (NOR)**

- Jens Lurås Oftebro claimed his first individual World Cup victory when he won the third event in Ruka this season.
- He is 20 years old and he could become the fifth Norwegian man to win multiple individual World Cup events before his 21st birthday, after Petter Tande (2), Geir Andersen (2), Trond Einar Elden (2) and Fred Børre Lundberg (2).

### **Fabian Rießle (GER)**

- Fabian Rießle has won nine individual World Cup events and has claimed 50 podium finishes. Only Ronny Ackermann (77) and Eric Frenzel (77) have finished on the podium more often among German Nordic combined skiers (including East and West Germany).
- Germany could win three individual World Cup events in a row. They last achieved this in March 2018, when Eric Frenzel and Rießle each won in Trondheim, and Rießle then won twice in Klingenthal.

### **Other contenders**

- **Johannes Rydzek** has won 17 individual World Cup events, tied with Björn Kircheisen in third place among German Nordic combined skiers (including East & West Germany), behind Eric Frenzel (43) and Ronny Ackermann (28).
- **Eric Frenzel** has won 43 individual World Cup events, only five fewer than Hannu Manninen (48). Frenzel's last victory was in Trondheim on 13 March 2018.

- Frenzel has finished on the podium in 77 individual World Cup events, equal to Ronny Ackermann (77) in second place all-time. Hannu Manninen leads the list on 90 podium finishes.
- **Ilkka Herola** hopes to become the first to win an individual World Cup event for Finland since Hannu Manninen won in Lahti on 6 March 2010.
- **Jørgen Graabak** has won six individual World Cup events. His last victory was in Lahti on 10 February 2019.
- Graabak has yet to finish on the podium in 2020/21. Last season, Graabak recorded 11 podium finishes: 2nd (8) and 3rd (3).
- **Manuel Faißt** finished fourth, fifth and third respectively in the three individual World Cup events in Ruka this season. He was the only man to finish in the top five in all three events. He did not finish inside the top-six in his next two World Cup starts: 16th and 7th.
- Faißt has claimed four podium finishes in his career, all third places.
- **Akito Watabe** (1) was one of two Nordic combined skiers besides Jarl Magnus Riiber (14) to win an individual World Cup in 2019/20. Vinzenz Geiger (2) was the other athlete.
- Watabe has won 18 individual World Cup events, only one fewer than Japan's record holder Kenji Ogiwara (19).
- **Kristjan Ilves** could become the first Estonian to win an individual World Cup event. His second place in Hakuba in February 2018 is his only podium finish. The other podium finish for an Estonian Nordic combined skier was a second place for Allar Levandi in Courchevel in December 1992.