

PREVIEW FOUR HILLS TOURNAMENT GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN – Monday 1 Jan 2024

Andreas Wellinger

- Andreas Wellinger won the Four Hills event in Oberstdorf on 29 December, his first victory in the tournament.
- In 22 of the previous 71 Four Hills Tournaments, the winner of the first event also won the second event, including in four of the last six editions (Kamil Stoch in 2017/18, Ryoyu Kobayashi in 2018/19 and 2021/22 and Halvor Egner Granerud in 2022/23).
- Of these 22 occasions, six ski jumpers failed to win the overall title: Aulis Kallakorpi in 1954/55, Ingolf Mork in 1970/71, Yukio Kasaya in 1971/72, Toni Innauer in 1975/76, Martin Schmitt in 1998/99 and Anders Jacobsen in 2012/13.
- The last German man to win the Four Hills event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen was Sven Hannawald in 2002. That season (2001/02), Hannawald made history by becoming the first ski jumper to achieve the *Grand Slam* in the Four Hills Tournament.
- The 2001/02 Four Hills Tournament was also the last time a German ski jumper won the first two events in the competition.
- Germany has recorded eight podium finishes in Garmisch-Partenkirchen since Hannawald's victory in 2002, including second places in 2018 (Richard Freitag), 2019 (Markus Eisenbichler), 2020 (Karl Geiger) and 2022 (Eisenbichler).
- At least one German man stood on the podium in all nine World Cup events this season (Wellinger 5, Pius Paschke 3, Geiger 2, Stephan Leyhe 1).
- Germany (4) has already doubled their number of individual World Cup wins of last season (2). This season, Austria (5) and Germany (4) are the only countries to have achieved men's individual World Cup wins.
- The last campaign in which German ski jumpers clinched more individual World Cup victories was in 2020/21 (5).

Stefan Kraft

- Stefan Kraft has won two Four Hills events, both in Oberstdorf (in 2014 and 2016). His best result in Garmisch-Partenkirchen was a third place in 2017.
- Kraft comes into Garmisch-Partenkirchen with five individual World Cup wins out of a possible nine this season. He secured podium finishes in three of the other four events (2nd, 9th, 3rd, 3rd).
- Kraft has won 35 individual men's World Cup events. He is one victory short of joining Janne Ahonen (36) in fifth place in the all-time men's list of individual World Cup wins.
- Kraft claimed his 10th podium finish in Four Hills events in Oberstdorf on Friday (3rd). Among Austrian ski jumpers, only Andreas Goldberger (17),

Thomas Morgenstern (15) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (15) claimed as many podiums in Four Hills events as Kraft (10).

- Only Norwegians (15) have won as many Four Hills events in Garmisch-Partenkirchen as Austrians (14).

Other contenders

- **Ryoyu Kobayashi** finished second in Oberstdorf on 29 December. He has won eight events in the tournament, fifth-most after Björn Wirkola (10), Jens Weißflog (10), Janne Ahonen (9) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (9).
- Kobayashi has won two Four Hills events in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (2019, 2022). He can become the fourth ski jumper to win the Four Hills event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen at least three times, after Weißflog (4), Wirkola (3) and Schlierenzauer (3).
- **Halvor Egner Granerud** won the event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in last season's Four Hills Tournament. Granerud can become the first ski jumper to win successive Four Hills events in Garmisch-Partenkirchen since Andreas Felder in 1991 (tied with Weißflog) and 1992. Weißflog had also won here in 1990.
- Granerud can become the second Norwegian man to win successive Four Hills events in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, after Wirkola won three in a row between 1967 and 1969.
- **Dawid Kubacki** won this event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2021. By recording 144.0 meters on his second jump, he still has the hill record on the Große Olympiaschanze.
- Kubacki finished on the podium in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in four of the last five years. Only Jens Weißflog (10), Janne Ahonen (6) and Simon Ammann (5) have claimed more podium finishes in the Four Hills event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen than Kubacki (4).
- **Anže Lanišek** aims to join Peter Prevc (3), Primož Peterka (2) and Peter Zonta (1) as men representing Slovenia to win a Four Hills event.
- **Poland** (99) can become the fifth country to reach 100 men's individual World Cup wins, after Austria, Finland, Norway and Germany (including former East and West Germany). Japan is on 98 wins.
- **Piotr Zyla**, 36 years old, can become the oldest man to win a Four Hills event. Sepp Bradl (35y-363d in Bischofshofen on 6 January 1954) currently holds the record.

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