

PREVIEW MEN'S INDIVIDUAL LARGE HILL SAPPORO – 20-22 Jan 2023

Sapporo

- This will be the first men's World Cup events in Sapporo in three years. In February 2020, Yukiya Sato and Stefan Kraft were the most recent male winners in Sapporo.
- Those World Cup events in Sapporo in February 2020 were also the most recent men's World Cup events that took place outside Europe.
- Only Planica (76) has hosted as many men's individual World Cup events as Sapporo (73).
- In 1972, the Olympic Winter Games were held in Sapporo. Wojciech Fortuna won gold for Poland in the large hill event which was held in Okurayama. Fortuna's gold medal is one of seven gold medals won by Poland at the Winter Games and the only one that was won before 2010.
- The hill record in Okurayama is 148.5 meters, set by Kamil Stoch in 2019.

Dawid Kubacki

- Coming into Sapporo, Dawid Kubacki (1010) leads the overall World Cup standings by over 100 points over Halvor Egner Granerud (896). Kubacki's best final overall World Cup ranking was a fourth place in 2019/20.
- **Kubacki has finished on the podium in each of the last nine men's individual World Cup events. In World Cup history, there have been three occasions in which a man recorded 10 successive podium finishes in individual events: Janne Ahonen in 2004/05 (13), Peter Prevc in 2015/16 (12) and Kubacki himself in 2019/20 (10).**
- Kubacki has won as many individual World Cup events this season (5) as in all of his previous seasons combined (5).
- Kubacki has recorded one podium finish in 14 individual World Cup appearances in Sapporo, a third place on 1 February 2020.
- There have been three Polish individual World Cup event winners in Sapporo: Adam Malysz (1997, twice in 2001), Maciej Kot (2017) and Kamil Stoch (2017).
- Only Stoch (17) has won as many men's individual World Cup events after his 30th birthday as Kubacki (6). Of the last 25 men's individual World Cup events that were won by ski jumpers over age 30, 24 were won by Polish men. The exception was Robert Johansson for Norway in Lahti in January 2021.

Halvor Egner Granerud

- Halvor Egner Granerud has won four of the last five individual World Cup events (Kubacki won the other one). Three of those wins came in the Four Hills Tournament en route to his overall victory.
- Granerud is second in the overall World Cup standings this season. Last season, Ryoyu Kobayashi won the Four Hills Tournament and the overall World Cup.

- Granerud can become the first men's ski jumper to win at least three successive individual World Cup events since Kobayashi in December 2021-January 2022 (4). Granerud himself achieved five in a row in November-December 2020.
- The only Norwegian men to record as many individual World Cup podium finishes as Granerud (30) are Anders Bardal (34) and Roar Ljøkelsøy (32).
- During the most recent men's World Cup events in Sapporo (February 2020), Granerud had yet to claim his first podium finish in a World Cup event.

Other contenders

- **Anže Lanišek** has won three individual World Cup events this season. Only Kubacki (11) has recorded as many podium finishes in individual World Cup events this season as Lanišek (9).
- Lanišek can become the third Slovenian to win an individual World Cup event in Sapporo, after Peter Prevc (4) and Jernej Damjan (1).
- **Stefan Kraft** is one of four men to win an individual World Cup event this season (a shared win with Halvor Egner Granerud in Ruka on 27 November). Kraft was also part of the Austrian men's team that won the first team event of this season, in Zakopane last week.
- Kraft has won three of the last four individual men's World Cup events held in Sapporo; two in January 2019, one in February 2020.
- Kraft (86) needs two individual World Cup podium finishes to equal Gregor Schlierenzauer's Austrian men's record of 88. Schlierenzauer was 24 years old when he achieved his last podium, Kraft is 29.
- **Manual Fettner** (37) and **Piotr Żyła** (36) can become the third-oldest men to win an individual World Cup event, after Noriaki Kasai (won his last in 2014 at age 42) and Takanobu Okabe (won his last in 2009 at age 38).
- **Karl Geiger**'s most recent wins in individual World Cup events were one year ago, when he won both events in Titisee-Neustadt on 22 and 23 January 2022.
- **Giovanni Bresadola** could become the first Italian man to finish on the podium in an individual World Cup event since Andrea Morassi in Obertsdorf in January 2007.
- **Ryoyu Kobayashi** hopes to reach his first individual World Cup podium of this season. After winning the World Cup overall standings last season, his best finish this season was in the opening event, a seventh place in Wisla.
- **Naoki Nakamura** is the only Japanese male ski jumper to claim an individual World Cup podium this season: third in Ruka on 27 November. Yukiyo Sato won one of the two men's events in Sapporo the last time the World Cup visited the venue, in February 2020.

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