

## PREVIEW MEN'S INDIVIDUAL - SKI FLYING – Friday 19 Jan 2018

### **Oberstdorf to host world championships for record equalling sixth time**

- Oberstdorf will host the ski flying world championships for the sixth time
- That equals the record of Planica, which has also hosted the world championships six times.
- Most recently, Gregor Schlierenzauer (AUT) was victorious here at the 2008 world championships.
- Hans-Georg Aschenbach (GDR) is the only German who won the ski flying world championships when it was hosted in Oberstdorf, as the then East German won the title in 1973 in what was then West Germany.
- The other winners in Oberstdorf are Jari Puikkonen (FIN, 1981), Ole Gunnar Fidjestøl (NOR, 1988) and Kazuyoshi Funaki (JPN, 1998).

### **Prevc out to defend title**

- Reigning world champion Peter Prevc (SLO) can join Roar Ljøkelsøy (NOR), Sven Hannawald (GER) and Walter Steiner (SUI) as only ski jumpers with two world titles in ski flying.
- Only Ljøkelsøy (2004, 2006) and Hannawald (2000, 2002) won their two titles in back-to-back editions.
- Apart from his victory in 2016, Prevc finished third at the world championships in 2014. Steiner (3), Hannawald (3), Janne Ahonen (FIN, 4) and Matti Nykänen (FIN, 5) are the only athletes to have finished on the podium at least three times.
- Nykänen (G1-S1-B3) is the only ski jumper to have completed the medal set at the ski flying world championships.
- Prevc has not finished on the podium of a ski flying World Cup event since his victory in Planica on 20 March 2016.

### **Stoch eyeing another notch on his belt**

- Kamil Stoch (POL) can become the second man to win all five major individual ski jumping trophies, after Matti Nykänen.
- These five are: the Olympic Games, the world championships, the ski flying world championships, the Four Hills Tournament and the individual overall World Cup.
- Raw Air is excluded from this list, as the inaugural edition was only last year.
- The best result by a Pole at the ski flying world championships was a third place by Pjotr Fijas (POL) in Planica in 1979.
- The best result for Stoch at these world championships was a fifth place in Harrachov in 2014.

### **Comeback looms for Freitag**

- Richard Freitag (GER) can make his comeback after he was injured in Innsbruck during the Four Hills Tournament.
- He can become the second German to win the ski flying world championships in Oberstdorf, after Hans-Georg Aschenbach won it for East Germany in 1973 when Oberstdorf was still West Germany.
- Severin Freund (GER) was the last German to win the ski flying world title, when he was victorious in 2014.
- Freitag's previous results at the ski flying world championships were: 28th in 2010, ninth in 2012 and eighth in 2016.
- Only once did Freitag finish on the podium of a ski flying event, winning in Oberstdorf in the World Cup on 16 February 2013.

### World record holder Kraft hoping to continue ski flying form

- Stefan Kraft is the current ski flying world record holder, jumping 253.5 metres at Vikersundbakken on 18 March 2017 during the inaugural Raw Air tournament which he also won.
- Kraft can become the fifth Austrian to claim the ski flying world title, after Armin Kogler (AUT, 1979), Andreas Felder (AUT, 1986), Andreas Goldberger (AUT, 1996) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (2008).
- Germany (GER, FRG and GDR combined) is the only other country to have five different winners of the ski flying world championships.
- Kraft finished third at the world championships in 2016.
- Kraft won four of the last six ski flying events in the World Cup, including both events in Oberstdorf last season (4 and 5 February 2017).

### Miscellaneous

- **Andreas Stjernen (NOR), Daniel-André Tande (NOR) and Robert Johansson (NOR)** finished first, second and fourth respectively last weekend at Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf, the first World Cup ski flying event of the season.
- The only two Norwegians to have won the ski flying world title are Roar Ljøkelsøy (2004, 2006) and Ole Gunnar Fidjestøl (1988)
- At the last three editions of the ski flying world championships, a Norwegian finished second: Rune Velta (NOR) in 2012, Anders Bardal (NOR) in 2014 and Kenneth Gangnes (NOR) in 2016.
- **Simon Amman (SUI)** finished third in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf last weekend. He won the ski flying world championships in 2010.
- Amman can join Roar Ljøkelsøy, Sven Hannawald and Walter Steiner as only ski jumpers with two world titles in ski flying.
- 45-year-old **Noriaki Kasai (JPN)**, ski flying world champion in 1992 at age 19, can also win his second world title.
- The oldest athlete to finish on the podium of the ski flying world championships is Anders Bardal, claiming a second place at the age of 31 years and 203 days in 2014.



- **Andreas Wellinger (GER)** finished second in four of his last six World Cup ski flying appearances, including twice in Oberstdorf last season (4 and 5 February 2017).

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