

PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Thursday 4 Jan 2018

Stoch hoping to join ski jumping legends

- Kamil Stoch (POL) won both of the first two events in the 2017/18 Four Hills Tournament in Oberstdorf and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, making him the leader in the overall classification.
- He could become the 10th jumper to win the first three events of a single Four Hills Tournament, after Olav Bjørnstad (NOR, 1953/54), Helmuth Recknagel (GDR, 1958/59), Max Bolkart (FRG, 1959/60), Toralf Engan (NOR, 1962/63), Björn Wirkola (NOR, 1968/69), Yukio Kasaya (JPN, 1971/72), Kazuyoshi Funaki (JPN, 1997/98), Sven Hannawald (GER, 2001/02) and Janne Ahonen (FIN, 2004/05).
- Eight of those previous nine jumpers also won the overall Four Hills standings, with the exception of Kasaya in 1971/72.
- In the last 18 seasons, only once the leader after the Innsbruck event failed to win the Golden Eagle - last season, Daniel-André Tande (NOR) led after three events but was surpassed by Stoch in the final event.
- Including last season, Stoch has now won the last three Four Hills events. The only jumpers to win at least four Four Hills events in a row are Recknagel (1958-1959) and Hannawald (2001-2002) - they both won five consecutive events.
- Stoch has reached the podium at five of the last six Four Hills events, with the exception of the competition in Innsbruck last season when he finished in fourth place.
- Stoch's first two podium finishes in the Four Hills Tournament came in Innsbruck: a second place in 2012/13 and a third place in 2013/14.
- The first victory for a Polish jumper in a Four Hills event came in Innsbruck as Adam Malysz (POL) won here on 4 January 2001.
- Stoch has won 24 individual World Cup events and could join Andreas Felder (AUT, 25) in seventh place on the all-time list among men.

Freitag aiming to continue podium streak

- Richard Freitag (GER) has finished in the top-two in each of the last seven individual men's World Cup events, including a second place in both Oberstdorf and Garmisch-Partenkirchen.
- He could become the fourth man to record three successive second place finishes at the Four Hills Tournament, following Jiri Raska (TCH, 1970/71), Andreas Goldberger (AUT, 1994/95) and Janne Ahonen (1998/99).
- The last jumper to record eight consecutive podium finishes in individual men's World Cup events was Stefan Kraft (AUT) in January-March 2017 (nine in a row).
- The last German to do so was Sven Hannawald in December 2001 - March 2002 (10 consecutive) - the first four of those podium finishes came in the Four Hills tournament (all victories).

- Freitag's only victory in a Four Hills tournament came in Innsbruck, where he won in January 2015. He is the only German jumper to win here in the last 15 years.

Tande looking for back-to-back wins in Innsbruck

- Daniel-André Tande won the Four Hills event in Innsbruck last season. The last jumper to win here in back-to-back seasons was Kazuyoshi Funaki in 1997-1998.
- The only other ski jumpers to achieve this feat are Andreas Goldberger (1993-1994), Ari-Pekka Nikkola (FIN, 1990-1991), Björn Wirkola (1969-1970) and Helmuth Recknagel (1958-1959).
- Tande has not won an individual men's World Cup event since his victory in Innsbruck last season, when he was also leading the overall Four Hills standings. He has finished on the podium in only three of his 25 individual starts since, most recently in Titisee-Neustadt on 10 December 2017 (third place).
- Tande finished respectively in 20th (Oberstdorf) and 15th (Garmisch) place in this Four Hills Tournament, but only winner Kamil Stoch (139.5m, second jump) jumped further in the main event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen than Tande (139m, second jump).
- Only jumpers from Finland (14) and Austria (13) have won more often in Innsbruck in the Four Hills Tournament than Norwegian athletes (12).

Austrian jumpers poised to impress in front of home crowd

- Austrian jumpers have won a record 63 events and claimed 174 podium finishes in the Four Hills Tournament, but are still waiting for their first podium finish in the current edition.
- Reigning large hill world champion Stefan Kraft (AUT) finished in fourth place in Oberstdorf, but failed to reach the second round in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (31st place).
- In Garmisch, the best result for an Austrian was a 19th place for Gregor Schlierenzauer (AUT).
- The last time Austrian jumpers failed to reach the podium in a single Four Hills Tournament was in 2005/06.
- Austrian jumpers failed to reach the podium in Innsbruck in the last two seasons, since Stefan Kraft's second place in 2014/15.
- Only Finland (14) has won more Four Hills events in Innsbruck than Austria (13).
- The last Austrian jumper to win a Four Hills event on home snow was Michael Hayböck (AUT) in Bischofshofen in 2014/15.
- Schlierenzauer is the last Austrian jumper to win in Innsbruck, in 2013. He also won here in 2010.

Other contenders

- Junshiro Kobayashi (JPN), winner of this season's opening event in Wisla, has finished in sixth and fourth place respectively in the two Four Hills events this season.
- The last Japanese jumper to finish on the podium of a Four Hills event was Noriaki Kasai (JPN) in 2014/15, who finished in third place in Innsbruck and second place in Bischofshofen.
- Anders Fannemel (NOR) finished in third place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Only in 2014/15 (7) he finished on the podium more often during a World Cup season than in 2017/18 (2).
- Peter Prevc (SLO, 2016) and Noriaki Kasai (1999) already won once in Innsbruck in the Four Hills Tournament.

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