

PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - SKI FLYING – Saturday 13 Jan 2018

Stoch aiming to continue Four Hills form

- Kamil Stoch (POL) won the 2017/18 Four Hills Tournament, becoming the second jumper to win all four events in a single tournament after Sven Hannawald (GER) in 2001/02.
- Stoch had not won a single individual World Cup event this season prior to the Four Hills Tournament.
- In each of the last two World Cup seasons, the winner of the Four Hills Tournament also won the first individual World Cup event after - Peter Prevc (SLO) in 2016 (large hill in Willingen) and Stoch in 2017 (first three events after Four Hills).
- Stoch could become the first jumper to win five consecutive individual World Cup events since Gregor Schlierenzauer (AUT) in January-February 2009, who won six events in a row.
- If he wins both ski flying events in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf, he equals the record for most consecutive individual World Cup victories among men: six by Schlierenzauer, Thomas Morgenstern (AUT, December 2007), Matti Hautamäki (FIN, February-March 2005) and Janne Ahonen (FIN, December 2004-January 2005).
- Stoch could become the fourth athlete to win the first four individual World Cup events of a calendar year, after Peter Prevc (2016), Hannawald (2002) and Jens Weißflog (GDR, 1984).
- No jumper has ever won the first five individual World Cup events of a calendar year.
- Stoch has won 11 individual events in January, at least five more than in any other month (March next on 6).
- In total, Stoch has won 26 individual World Cup events, two shy of equalling Martin Schmitt (GER, 28) in sixth place all-time among men.
- Only two of his 26 victories came in ski flying events: in Planica on 20 March 2011 and in Vikersund last season (19 March 2017).

Kraft hoping to profit from Ski Flying return

- Last season, Stefan Kraft (AUT) won four of the five individual ski flying events including each of the last two in Planica in March 2017.
- He could become the first jumper to win three consecutive individual ski flying events in the World Cup since Peter Prevc in February-March 2016.
- Kraft also set a new world record for longest jump last season as he jumped to 253.5 meters in the team ski flying event in Vikersund on 18 March 2017.
- Kraft, who claimed eight individual World Cup victories last season (most of all jumpers), is still waiting for his first win of this season. His best results were third places in Wisla, Nizhny Tagil and Engelberg.
- No Austrian jumper has won an individual World Cup event this season. In the last 11 seasons, they had to wait longer for their first individual World

- Cup victory only once: in 2015/16, Kraft gave Austria their first win in the large hill event in Zakopane on 24 January 2016.
- Among Austrians, only Gregor Schlierenzauer (14) and Andreas Goldberger (AUT, 5) have won more individual ski flying events than Kraft (4).
 - The last Austrian jumper to win an individual World Cup event in front of a home crowd was Michael Hayböck (AUT) in Bischofshofen on 6 January 2015.
 - The last Austrian to win an individual ski flying on home snow was Schlierenzauer in Tauplitz on 10 January 2010.

Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf brings back memories

- Of all current active jumpers (excluding injured jumpers), only Gregor Schlierenzauer (3), Robert Kranjec (SLO, 2), Peter Prevc (1), Janne Ahonen (FIN, 1) and Noriaki Kasai (JPN, 1) have won an individual ski flying World Cup event in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf.
- The last time this event was held in Tauplitz (10 January 2015), Severin Freund (GER) won ahead of Stefan Kraft and Jurij Tepeš (SLO). Freund is out for the season due to injury.
- Schlierenzauer's three wins here are most of all ski jumpers, while only Andreas Goldberger (6) finished on the podium more often here than Schlierenzauer (5).
- Schlierenzauer's last individual podium finish came in Nizhny Tagil on 13 December 2014 (large hill, second place).
- In total, Schlierenzauer (14) has won most individual ski flying events in the World Cup ahead of Peter Prevc (7).
- Kasai, who was named in the Japanese squad for the Olympic Winter Games last weekend and will compete for a record eighth time, has claimed three of his last four individual podium finishes in ski flying events.

Other contenders

- Andreas Wellinger (GER) finished in third place in both Innsbruck and Bischofshofen and ended up in second place in the overall Four Hills standings.
- Last season, Wellinger finished in second place in four of the five individual ski flying events (all behind Stefan Kraft) with the exception of the competition in Vikersund.
- The last German ski jumper to win a ski flying event was Severin Freund in Vikersund on 15 February 2015.
- Norwegian jumpers have failed to win any of the last 27 individual World Cup ski flying events since Anders Bardal's win in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf on 15 January 2012.
- Last season, Norwegian jumpers did not finish on the podium in any of the five ski flying events. Johann André Forfang (NOR) was the last to finish on the podium (third place in Planica on 20 March 2016).



- Each of the three podiums in individual World Cup events in 2018 consisted of a Polish, German and Norwegian jumper.

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