

PREVIEW MEN'S SLALOM GURGL – 18 Nov 2023

Various

- This is the fourth attempt to get the men's 2023/24 World Cup season underway when it comes to scoring points.
- On 29 October, the men's season-opening World Cup event in Sölden was cancelled due to strong winds. The giant slalom race got underway and 47 of the 73 skiers on the start list participated in the first of two runs, but the conditions did not allow the race to continue. Of the skiers who completed their first run, Austria's Marco Schwarz had the fastest time of 51.85 seconds, 0.29s ahead of Switzerland's Marco Odermatt in second place.
- Last weekend, both men's World Cup downhill events in Zermatt-Cervinia were cancelled due to the weather conditions.
- Last season, five of the first six men's World Cup events had to be cancelled or rescheduled because of bad weather conditions.
- Lucas Braathen will not defend his slalom crystal globe as he retired just a couple of days before the start of the season.
- This will mark the first-ever World Cup event held in Gurgl, Austria. Gurgl is the 24th Austrian venue to organise an alpine skiing World Cup event.

Henrik Kristoffersen

- Henrik Kristoffersen (494 points) finished runner-up in last season's World Cup slalom standings, 52 points behind compatriot Lucas Braathen (546).
- Only Ingemar Stenmark (8), Marcel Hirscher (6) and Alberto Tomba (4) have won the men's slalom crystal globe more often than Kristoffersen (3, 2015/16, 2019/20 and 2021/22).
- Only Braathen (6, including 2 wins) managed to record as many men's World Cup slalom podiums last season as Kristoffersen (4, including two wins). Kristoffersen triumphed in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Wengen.
- Kristoffersen has claimed 23 wins and 50 podium results in World Cup slalom events. The Norwegian has claimed 30 World Cup victories in total.
- Kristoffersen won the opening World Cup slalom events in three seasons (2014/15, 2015/16 and 2019/20). Only Ingemar Stenmark (7 times) managed to triumph in the first men's World Cup slalom event of the season on more occasions.
- Kristoffersen's last World Cup slalom victory in Austria dates back to 28 January 2020, when he took the victory in Schladming.
- Kristoffersen is the reigning world champion in the slalom. He held off AJ Ginnis (silver) and Alex Vinatzer (bronze) in the battle for gold in Courchevel on 19 February 2023.

Other contenders

- Lucas Braathen, Henrik Kristoffersen, **Ramon Zenhäusern** and **Daniel Yule** all won two World Cup slalom events last season (one victory apiece by Clément Noël and Alexander Steen Olsen).
- Zenhäusern won the final men's World Cup slalom event of last season, in Soldeu on 19 March 2023. Switzerland has not claimed back-to-back wins in men's World Cup slalom events since January 2020 (wins by Yule in Madonna di Campiglio and Adelboden).
- Zenhäusern and Yule hope to become the second Swiss male skier to top the overall World Cup slalom standings, after Dumeng Giovanoli in 1967/68 (the second World Cup season).
- The last Swiss athlete - male or female - to win the slalom World Cup was Vreni Schneider from 1991/92 to 1994/95 (four times in a row).
- **Austrian** skiers have failed to win any of the last 17 men's World Cup slalom events, a streak that stretches back to Johannes Strolz' victory in Adelboden on 9 January 2022.
- Austria are on their longest winning drought in men's World Cup slalom events since a streak of 22 events without a win from March 1984 to February 1986.
- **AJ Ginnis** finished second in the Chamonix slalom on 4 February to record the first and so far only World Cup podium result for Greece in this sport. Ginnis came runner-up in the slalom at the world championships 15 days later to make history for Greece again.
- Ginnis can become the first Greek winner of a World Cup event in any of the Olympic winter sports.
- The last four countries to win its first-ever World Cup event in alpine skiing achieved this maiden win in the slalom: Kalle Palander for Finland (Kitzbühel, January 2003), Šárka Strachová for Czech Republic (Aspen, January 2008), Veronika Velez-Zuzulová for Slovakia (Semmering, December 2012) and Dave Ryding for Great Britain (Kitzbühel, January 2022). **Note:** for Strachová and Velez-Zuzulová we have excluded wins by athletes representing Czechoslovakia.
- The full list of countries to have claimed a World Cup victory in alpine skiing (from A-Z): Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Germany (including West Germany), Great Britain, Italy, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and Yugoslavia.

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