

Preview Ski Jumping 2017/2018 Four Hills Tournament

Austria, Finland and Germany competing for bragging rights

- Austria, Finland and Germany (including East Germany and West Germany) have all won the Four Hills Tournament a record 16 times.
- Germany's 16 victories break down as follows: 11 for East Germany, three for Germany and two for West Germany.
- Stefan Kraft (AUT, 2014/15) was the last winner from Austria, Janne Ahonen (FIN, 2007/08) was the last winner from Finland and Sven Hannawald (GER, 2001/02) was the last German winner.

Freitag and Wellinger looking to follow in Hannawald's footsteps

- Richard Freitag (GER) and Andreas Wellinger (GER) hope to become the first German winner of the Four Hills Tournament since Sven Hannawald in 2001/02.
- Their current winning drought of 15 seasons is the longest for all German states combined.
- In total 10 different German ski jumpers have won the Four Hills Tournament, including East Germany and West Germany.
- Freitag (550 points) leads the World Cup standings, ahead of Wellinger (399) and Daniel-André Tande (NOR, 356).
- Freitag has won three individual World Cup events this season. No other ski jumper has won more than one.
- Freitag once won an individual event at the Four Hills Tournament, when he claimed the victory in Innsbruck in 2014/15.
- Wellinger's best result at an individual Four Hills event is a fifth place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2013/14.

Stoch aiming to defend title

- Kamil Stoch (POL) sets out to become the ninth man to successfully defend his Four Hills title and the first since Gregor Schlierenzauer (AUT) in 2012/13.
- The other seven are: Janne Ahonen (successfully defended title in 2005/06), Ernst Vettori (AUT, 1986/87), Jens Weißflog (GDR, 1984/85), Hubert Neuper (AUT, 1980/81), Jochen Danneberg (GDR, 1976/77), Björn Wirkola (NOR, 1967/68 and again in 1968/69) and Helmuth Recknagel (GDR, 1958/59).
- Stoch can become the first Polish ski jumper to win the Four Hills Tournament twice. Adam Malysz (POL) won it in 2000/01.
- Stoch (30 years and 226 days old on 6 January in Bischofshofen) and can become the fourth man to win the title in his thirties, after Sepp Bradl (AUT, 35-003, 1952/53), Weißflog (31-169, 1995/96) and Ahonen (30-240, 2007/08).

- Stoch is still waiting for his first individual win this World Cup season. His best result so far is a second place in Wisla (19 November) and Engelberg (17 December).

Tande intends to continue good Four Hills form

- Daniel-André Tande can become the first Norwegian to win the Four Hills Tournament since Anders Jacobsen (NOR) in 2006/07.
- Since Jacobsen's victory in 2006/07, Norwegian ski jumpers won six individual Four Hills events, second only to Austria's 22 wins.
- Tande himself won the events in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Innsbruck last season. Björn Wirkola (10), Anders Jacobsen (4), Ingolf Mork (NOR, 3), Olav Björnstad (NOR, 3), Sigurd Pettersen (NOR, 3) and Toralf Engan (NOR, 3) are the only Norwegians with more individual Four Hills event wins.

Kraft eyes second Golden Eagle

- Since winning the 2014/15 edition, Stefan Kraft finished fifth (2015/16) and sixth (2016/17) at the Four Hills Tournament.
- Kraft can join Gregor Schlierenzauer, Ernst Vettori, Hubert Neuper and Andreas Goldberger (AUT) on a record two Four Hills wins by Austrian ski jumpers.
- Kraft won the Four Hills opening event in Oberstdorf in 2014/15 and 2016/17. He can join Dieter Thoma (GER) and Martin Schmitt (GER) on a record three wins in this city.
- In March, Kraft became the winner of the inaugural Raw Air tournament in Norway, a no break ten-day competition.

Schlierenzauer targets record-equalling 10th individual Four Hills event victory

- Gregor Schlierenzauer has won nine individual Four Hills events: three in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and two each in Oberstdorf, Innsbruck and Bischofshofen.
- Schlierenzauer is one short of the record of 10 wins, held by Björn Wirkola and Jens Weißflog.
- Schlierenzauer last claimed a Four Hill event victory on 6 January 2013, when he won in Bischofshofen.
- Schlierenzauer has won a record 53 individual men's World Cup events, while only Janne Ahonen (108) and Adam Malysz (92) have finished on the podium more often than him (88).
- His last podium finish came on 13 December 2014, when he finished second in Nizhny Tagil. His last victory came in Lillehammer on 6 December 2014.

Miscellaneous

- The Four Hills tournament is the only major individual ski jumping trophy **Simon Ammann** (SUI) has not won.
- Ammann has won Olympic gold (four times), world championship gold (2007), ski flying world championship gold (2010) and the World Cup overall title (2010).
- If Ammann adds the Four Hills title to the list, he will join Matti Nykänen (FIN) as the only men to have won all five major individual ski jumping trophies.
- Aged 36, Ammann could become the oldest man to win the Four Hills Tournament. That record currently belongs to Sepp Bradl who was 35 years old when he won in 1952/53.
- **Noriaki Kasai** (JPN, 45-year-old) can break the record for oldest jumper on a Four Hills podium. That record currently belongs to Sepp Bradl, who finished second on his 38th birthday in 1956, the fourth edition of the Four Hills Tournament.
- Kasai and **Junshiro Kobayashi** (JPN) can become the second Japanese winner of the Four Hills Tournament, after Kazuyoshi Funaki (JPN) in 1997/98.
- Kasai has finished second on two occasions, 1992/93 and 1998/1999.
- **Domen Prevc** (SLO) is hoping to follow in the footsteps of his older brother **Peter Prevc** (SLO), who won the Four Hills tournament in 2015/16.
- The Prevc brothers can become the first brother pair to both win the Four Hills Tournament.

International Ski Federation www.fis-ski.com
Gracenote Sports on Twitter @GracenoteGold