

PREVIEW FOUR HILLS TOURNAMENT OBERSTDORF – Friday 29 Dec 2023

Stefan Kraft

- Stefan Kraft comes into Oberstdorf with five individual World Cup wins out of a possible eight this season. He secured podium finishes in two of the other three events (2nd, 9th, 3rd).
- Kraft has won 35 individual men's World Cup events. He is one victory short of joining Janne Ahonen (36) in fifth place in the all-time men's list of individual World Cup wins.
- Kraft won the Four Hills event in Oberstdorf twice: in 2014/15 and 2016/17. For Kraft, those are his only two Four Hills event victories.
- Andreas Goldberger (3, Innsbruck) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (3, Garmisch-Partenkirchen) are the Austrian ski jumpers to have claimed at least three wins at a specific venue in the Four Hills Tournament.
- Kraft claimed five individual World Cup victories in Oberstdorf, more than any other man. Besides those five World Cup wins, Kraft also claimed the individual large hill world title in Oberstdorf on 5 March 2021.
- Kraft (20 in 2023) is the second ski jumper to have achieved at least 20 individual World Cup podium finishes in a single calendar year, after Adam Malysz in 2001 (22).
- The winner of the opening Four Hills event went on to become the overall winner in 29 of the previous 71 editions (41%), including in each of the last two seasons.

Germany

- Germany is chasing their first overall victory in the Four Hills Tournament since 2001/02. Sven Hannawald made history by becoming the first ski jumper to achieve the *Grand Slam* in the Four Hills Tournament.
- Hannawald won all Four Hills events in 2001/02. Germany have won only four Four Hills events since: Hannawald in 2002/03 (Oberstdorf), Richard Freitag in 2014/15 (Innsbruck), Severin Freund in 2015/16 (Oberstdorf) and Geiger in 2020/21 (Oberstdorf).
- Germany (including East and West Germany) have won the Four Hills Event in Oberstdorf 22 times, more often than in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (13), Innsbruck (11) and Bischofshofen (10).
- At least one German man stood on the podium in all eight World Cup events this season (Wellinger 4, Paschke 3, Geiger 2, Stephan Leyhe 1). Geiger (both Klingenthal events) and Paschke (Engelberg) won a World Cup event this season.
- Germany (3) have already surpassed their number of individual World Cup wins of last season (2). This season, Austria (5) and Germany (3) are the only countries to have achieved men's individual World Cup wins.

- **Andreas Wellinger** finished in the top five in seven out of eight men's individual World Cup events this season, including four podium finishes. The only exception was a 12th place in Engelberg on 16 December.
- Wellinger has yet to win a Four Hills Event. His most recent of five individual World Cup victories came in Râșnov on 18 February 2023.
- **Karl Geiger** has recorded 39 individual World Cup podium finishes, including 15 wins. Geiger, born in Oberstdorf, won the Four Hills event in his place of birth in 2020/21.
- **Pius Paschke** achieved his first-ever individual World Cup victory in Engelberg on 16 December. At age 33, Paschke became the oldest first-time winner of an men's individual World Cup event.
- A victory in Oberstdorf would make Paschke, at 33 years old, the oldest winner of the Four Hills event in Oberstdorf. Simon Ammann was 32 years old on 29 December 2013 (exactly 10 years to the date of this event).

Other Contenders

- **Halvor Egner Granerud** (10) and Stefan Kraft (9) are the sole men on more than three individual World Cup wins in 2023. The last man to claim 11 World Cup wins in a single calendar year was Ryoyu Kobayashi (11 in 2019).
- Granerud aims to become the first man to win the Four Hills event in Oberstdorf in back-to-back seasons since Ryoyo Kobayashi in 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- **Ryoyu Kobayashi** achieved four individual World Cup wins in Oberstdorf, more than at any other venue. Three of those four wins were in the Four Hills Tournament (2018/19, 2019/20, 2021/22).
- Kobayashi, Dieter Thoma (1988/89, 1989/90, 1996/97) and Martin Schmitt (1998/99, 1999/2000, 2000/01) are the ski jumpers to have won the Four Hills event in Oberstdorf a record three times.
- **Kobayashi can equal the record for most Four Hills event victories at a specific hill: four by Jens Weißflog in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (1983/84, 1984/85, 1989/90 and 1990/91).**
- **Anže Lanišek** aims to join Peter Prevc (3), Primož Peterka (2) and Peter Zonta (1) in men to win a Four Hills Tournament event for Slovenia.
- The Oberstdorf hill is the only one of the Four Hills that has yet to be won by Slovenian ski jumpers. They won three times in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, twice in Innsbruck and once in Bischofshofen.
- **Timi Zajc** won non-Four Hills individual World Cup events in Oberstdorf on 1 February 2019 and 20 March 2022.
- **Jan Hörl** recorded three of his six career individual World Cup podium finishes this season. Hörl seeks his second individual World Cup win, having previously triumphed in Wisla on 5 December 2021.

- **Poland** (99) can become the fifth country to reach 100 men's individual World Cup wins, after Austria, Finland, Norway and Germany (including former East and West Germany).
- **Kamil Stoch** is joint-third alongside Adam Malysz (both 39) on most individual World Cup victories among men, behind only Gregor Schlierenzauer (53) and Matti Nykänen (46).
- Stoch celebrated individual World Cup victories in Oberstdorf on 30 December 2017 (Four Hills) and 3 February 2019.
- Stoch is looking for his first podium finish in an individual World Cup event since a third place in Klingenthal on 11 December 2021.
- **Simon Ammann** can take part in the Four Hills Tournament for the 25th time (he made his debut in 1997/98). Noriaki Kasai holds the all-time record on 28 participations.

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