

PREVIEW MEN'S INDIVIDUAL NORMAL HILL RASNOV – Saturday 18 Feb 2023

General

- Nine of the top ten men's ski jumpers in the overall World Cup rankings this season will not be competing in Râşnov to prepare for the world championships in Planica the following week. Only **Andreas Wellinger** will be present.
- The list of absentees this season includes the winners in the last two visits to Râşnov; Ryoyu Kobayashi (2021) and Stefan Kraft (2020).
- Halvor Egner Granerud (1,652) leads the men's World Cup overall standings this season by nearly 300 points over Dawid Kubacki (1,359). Neither ski jumper will be competing in Râşnov.
- Only Eva Pinkelnig (15) has finished on as many individual World Cup podiums as Granerud (15, G10-S4-B1) this season. Granerud has twice as many wins as his closest rival Kubacki (5).
- **Finland** will have no representation in this event in Râşnov. It is the first time they have not had representation in an individual men's World Cup event this season.

Germany

- Germany appear to have sent the strongest squad to Râşnov. In the top-16 ski jumpers in the men's overall World Cup rankings this season, the only three competing in Râşnov are all German; Andreas Wellinger (7th), **Karl Geiger** (12th), **Markus Eisenbichler** (16th).
- Geiger can become the first men's ski jumper to win multiple individual World Cup events in Râşnov. He won the first time the men's field came to the Romanian venue in 2020 (first event).
- Geiger is the only men's ski jumper to have finished on the podium in each individual World Cup event held in Râşnov (G1-S1-B1).
- Andreas Wellinger (7th) is the only ski jumper in the top-10 of the individual World Cup rankings this season competing in Râşnov. He won the World Cup event in Lake Placid, NY (first event) last week.
- The last German men's ski jumper to win at least one individual World Cup event in successive venues was Geiger (2 in Planica in the last event of 2020/21, 1 in Nizhny Tagil in the first event of 2021/22).
- Wellinger (4 wins) has never won multiple individual World Cup events in a single season.
- Markus Eisenbichler has not won an individual World Cup event since November 2020, when he won in both Wisla and Ruka.
- **Stephan Leyhe** and **Constantin Schmid** have one individual World Cup victory between them (Leyhe's win in Willingen in February 2020).

Other contenders

- **Žiga Jelar** will lead the Slovenian challenge in Râşnov. His most recent individual World Cup podium finishes were both in ski flying in 2021/22 (1st in Planica, 2nd in Oberstdorf). He finished eighth in Râşnov on 22 February 2020.
- **Slovenia** has achieved 192 podium finishes in men's individual World Cup events; 65 wins, 64 second-places and 63 third-places.
- Apart from Halvor Egner Granerud and Marius Lindvik (1), **Daniel-André Tande** is the only other Norwegian to finish on a men's individual World Cup podium in 2023 (3rd in Willingen). Tande has achieved multiple podium finishes in the first two months of a calendar year in five of the last seven years, the exceptions were 2019 and 2022.
- Tande (8) can draw level with Roger Ruud (9) in fourth-place of the most individual World Cup wins among Norwegian men. Granerud heads this list with 23 wins.
- **Austria** (264) has the most wins in men's individual World Cup events, with **Norway** in third position (147). Since 2013/14 Norway (54) has the most wins with **Poland** (47) in second place.
- **Japan's** Ryoyu Kobayashi won the last event held in Râşnov in 2021. This season, Japan's **Keiichi Sato** will have a chance of a podium with the reduced field. His previous best individual World Cup finish was fifth in Nizhny Tagil on 6 December 2020.
- Sato's teammate **Taku Takeuchi** has four podium finishes in individual World Cup events but not since February 2016 (normal hill) in Lahti (3rd place).

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