

FACTS & FIGURES – Men's Slalom, Adelboden

- New Crystal Globe standings leader **Loic Meillard (SUI/Rossignol)** is set to inspire the home crowd in Adelboden, as the Swiss men's slalom team eagerly aim to shine and create memorable success on the legendary piste
- In the 22 World Cup races since 2000, there have been just two home town victories for the crowd to cheer (**Daniel Yule** in 2020 and **Marc Berthod** in 2007), and no additional podium places.
- If anyone can put that right, it is surely Meillard. The Swiss skier has finished on the podium in each of his past three World Cup races, the first time he has achieved such a streak in his career.
- Another podium place in Adelboden would not only make it four-in-a-row but would also be a fifth podium in six races this season. The only time Meillard has been absent from the Slalom World Cup podium this season was in Gurgl, where he finished fifth.
- The next challenge for Meillard is to consistently turn his podium finishes into wins, so far the 28-year-old has 10 podium places but just one win (March 2024 in Aspen).
- **Yule (SUI/FISCHER)** has been edging back towards the sort of form that makes an eighth career World Cup slalom victory a possibility, especially down a track he has such good memories of.
- Seventh in Madonna Di Campiglio on 8 January was his best finish since winning in Chamonix in February last year. It also marked a second successive top-10 finish.
- But it is **Henrik Kristoffersen (NOR/Van Deer)** who is Meillard's nearest challenger in the Crystal Globe standings and the reigning world champion is another with a great record in Adelboden.
- In his 12 SL World Cup races so far in the Swiss resort, Kristoffersen has two wins (2016 and 2017) and four additional podium places.
- Although it is worth noting that in three of his past four Adelboden Slaloms the Norwegian has failed to finish.
- Reigning Olympic champion and double World Cup winner this season **Clement Noël (FRA/Dynastar)** was one of several superstars to fail to finish in Madonna Di Campiglio.
- Compatriot Julien Lizeroux is the only Frenchman to win in Adelboden (in 2010) and while Noël does have a podium finish in the Swiss resort, it was back in 2019. In fact, he has failed to finish any of his past three Slalom runs in Adelboden and in total he has not made it to the end in five of seven attempts.
- Victory would take Noël up to second equal with Noël Augert (13 wins) in the list of France's all-time most successful World Cup slalom skiers. Perrine Pelen leads the way with 15 wins.
- **Atle Lie McGrath (NOR/ Head)** looked set to become the third different Norwegian in succession to claim Slalom victory on the World Cup tour before straddling when comfortably in the lead in the second run in Madonna Di Campiglio.
- That followed three successive podium finishes for McGrath - the best sequence of his career.
- The 24-year-old has come second in both the past two seasons in Adelboden.
- Victory this time around would be his first triumph since he won first in Flachau and then in Courchevel in March 2022.
- Austria has been by far the most successful nation in Adelboden to date, claiming victory in exactly half of the 22 races. **Manuel Feller (AUT/Atomic)** is one of three Austrians in the field to have stepped up to the top of the podium in Adelboden.

- The defending Crystal Globe champion was victorious 12 months ago but is struggling this season, having failed to finish in three of his six races.
- Fellow former Austrian Adelboden winners **Johannes Strolz (AUT/Head - winner in 2022)** and **Marco Schwarz (AUT/Atomic - winner in 2021)** are also yet to find their best in 2024/25. Strolz has a top finish of 11th, with Schwarz yet to finish one of his three Slalom races since returning to action in December following long-term injury.
- **Lucas Pinheiro Braathen (BRA/ Atomic)** won the last time he raced Slalom in Adelboden, in 2023 but the wait for a first Slalom World Cup title for Brazil goes on. So far this season, the 24-year-old has a best of two fourth-place finishes.
- A sixth place finish in Madonna Di Campiglio was a welcome respite for **Linus Strasser (GER/ Rossignol)** who had failed to score a point in his previous three races.
- Happy memories in Adelboden should help the German, he finished second in 2021 and third in 2022 and 2023.
- At the age of 38 **Dave Ryding (GBR/Head)** will extend his own record as the oldest man to finish on a World Cup Slalom podium should he match or better the third place he took in Adelboden in 2021.
- Finally, one man's grin may be wider than anyone else's on the startline in Adelboden. Just three days after winning his first World Cup and Bulgaria's second ever, and first for 45 years, **Albert Popov (BUL/Head)** will have plenty of new supporters watching on.
- **Samuel Kolega (CRO/Rossignol)** is enjoying the best form of his career this season. Following an impressive season start with top-10 finishes in Levi (9th), Gurgl (16th), Val d'Isère (6th), and Alta Badia (5th), the Croatian achieved a major milestone this week by claiming his first-ever World Cup podium, finishing 3rd in Madonna di Campiglio.
- As he takes on Adelboden, Kolega hope to follow the footsteps of Croatian skiing legend Ivica Kostelic, the only Croatian to have won (2011) and secured podium finishes (2002, 2010, 2012) in slalom on this iconic piste.