

## PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM – Saturday 16 Mar 2024

### Marco Odermatt - King of the giant slalom

- Marco Odermatt (13) has equalled the men's record for most World Cup wins in a single season, set by Ingemar Stenmark (1978/79), Hermann Maier (2000/01) and Marcel Hirscher (2017/18), and Odermatt himself in 2022/23.
- **Odermatt can become the third alpine skier to claim more than 13 World Cup victories in a single season, after Mikaela Shiffrin (17 in 2018/19 and 14 in 2022/23) and Vreni Schneider (14 in 1988/89).**
- Odermatt has won each of the last 12 men's World Cup giant slaloms, including all nine this season.
- **Odermatt is the second skier - male or female - to have won at least 12 successive World Cup events in a specific discipline, after Ingemar Stenmark in the men's giant slalom (14, 1978-1979).**
- Odermatt's winning streak began after a victory by Marco Schwarz in Palisades Tahoe on 25 February 2023. Odermatt finished runner-up to Schwarz, by only 0.03 seconds.
- Odermatt is the second skier - male or female - to have won nine World Cup events in a discipline in a single season. Stenmark triumphed in all 10 men's World Cup giant slaloms in 1978/79.
- Odermatt finished on the podium in each of his last 26 World Cup starts in the giant slalom (including 21 victories). In all disciplines, only Ingemar Stenmark had such a run in World Cup history as he recorded a podium result in 37 consecutive WC starts in the giant slalom from March 1977 to December 1981.
- Odermatt (3) is the third Swiss man to win the giant slalom World Cup standings at least three times, after Michael von Grünigen (4) and Pirmin Zurbriggen (3).
- Odermatt (23) is joint-fourth in the all-time list for most men's World Cup giant slalom victories, alongside von Grünigen (23). Ingemar Stenmark (46), Marcel Hirscher (31) and Ted Ligety (24) make up the top three.
- Odermatt triumphed in the giant slalom at the World Cup Final in both 2021/22 (Méribel) and 2022/23 (Soldeu).
- Odermatt can equal Matthias Mayer (2), Stenmark (2) and Martin Hangl (2) for most World Cup victories in Saalbach-Hinterglemm. Odermatt won the super-G event at this venue in March 2021.
- Odermatt can become the second Swiss man to win a World Cup giant slalom in Saalbach-Hinterglemm, after Hangl in March 1988.

## Other contenders

- **Filip Zubcic** is ranked second in this season's men's World Cup giant slalom standings on 370 points. The gap to Marco Odermatt (900) is 530 points.
- Zubcic has won three World Cup giant slalom events: in Naeba (22 February 2020), Santa Catarina (5 December 2020) and Bansko (27 February 2021).
- **Loïc Meillard** finished runner-up to Odermatt in both World Cup giant slalom events in Aspen two weeks ago. His only giant slalom victory was on 25 January 2023 (Schladming).
- In total, Meillard claimed three World Cup podiums in his last three events (he also the Aspen slalom), more than in his previous 30 starts combined (2).
- **Alexander Steen Olsen** dropped down from first to 17th place in the second giant slalom run on the second day in Aspen (2 March 2024). Steen Olsen hopes to become the first Norwegian man to win a World Cup giant slalom since Lucas Braathen in Alta Badia on 18 December 2022 (Braathen has announced his comeback for next season when he intends to represent Brazil).
- **Žan Kranjec** won the most recent World Cup giant slalom in Saalbach-Hinterglemm, ahead of Meillard. It is one of two World Cup victories for Kranjec, alongside his giant slalom win in Adelboden (11 January 2020).
- Kranjec can become the first man to win multiple World Cup giant slalom events in Saalbach.
- The last **Austrian** man to win the World Cup giant slalom in Saalbach-Hinterglemm was Christian Mayer in December 1999.

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