

PREVIEW MEN'S SPRINT CLASSIC STYLE ÖSTERSUND – Saturday 9 Dec 2023

Johannes Høsflot Klæbo

- Johannes Høsflot Klæbo won 20 out of a possible 31 individual World Cup events last season, equalling the record for most individual World Cup wins in a single season (20 by Therese Johaug in 2019/20). This season, he finished third in the sprint classic style event in Ruka, 14th in the 10km classic style and 21st in the 20km freestyle.
- Klæbo's third place in the sprint event in Ruka was his worst result in a World Cup individual sprint event since a 11th place in the freestyle event in Lillehammer during the 3-days Tour on 30 November 2018 (when his pole broke in the semi-finals). He recorded 32 wins and four second places in between.
- Klæbo (72) holds the record for most World Cup victories among men (all disciplines), 68 of Klæbo's 72 WC wins were achieved in individual events.
- **Klæbo (40) is tied alongside Marit Bjørgen (40) for most individual World Cup sprint victories.**
- Klæbo has won more individual World Cup sprint events in the freestyle (24) than in the classic style (16).
- Klæbo has won five individual World Cup sprint events on Swedish soil, in six participations (5th in Falun in January 2017). Only Bjørgen (5) has won as many in Sweden.

Other contenders

- This the second time that an individual men's World Cup sprint event will be staged in Östersund, after 14 February 2015, when Finn Hågen Krogh took the victory, ahead of Alex Harvey and Timo André Bakken.
- **Norway** has won 32 of the 35 individual men's World Cup events since the start of last season, including 11 of the 14 individual sprint events (10 wins by Johannes Høsflot Klæbo).
- **Erik Valnes** claimed his second individual World Cup win in the season opening event on 24 November: the classic style sprint in Ruka. His first career individual win also came in Ruka in the season opener: on 27 November 2020 (3-Days Tour).
- Valnes was the first Norwegian man other than Klæbo to win an individual World Cup sprint event since **Håvard Solås Taugbøl** in the freestyle in Dresden on 18 December 2021.
- **Richard Jouve** (2) was the only cross-country-skier besides Klæbo (10) to win multiple individual men's sprint events in the 2022/23 World Cup. Jouve won the most recent classic style World Cup sprint event held in Sweden, in Falun on 11 March 2022.

- Only Klæbo (40) has won as many individual World Cup sprint events among men as **Federico Pellegrino** (17). Only one of Pellegrino's 17 victories was achieved in the classic style (in Canmore during the Ski Tour Canada on 8 March 2016).
- **Calle Halfvarsson** could hand Sweden its first World Cup sprint victory on the men's side since Oskar Svensson's triumph in the freestyle in Ulricehamn on 6 February 2021.

International Ski Federation www.fis-ski.com
Gracenote Sports on Twitter [@GracenoteGold](https://twitter.com/GracenoteGold)