

PREVIEW WOMEN'S 20KM CLASSIC STYLE LAHTI – Sunday 26 Mar 2023

Overall crystal globe

- **Tiril Udnes Weng** goes into Lahti with a 110-point lead over **Jessica Diggins** in second place in the overall standings.
- Weng could become the sixth different winner of the women's overall crystal globe in the last six seasons after Heidi Weng (2017/18), Ingvild Flugstad Østberg (2018/19), Therese Johaug (2019/20), Jessica Diggins (2020/21) and Natalia Nepryaeva (2021/22). It would be the first time that six different skiers claim the overall crystal globe (men's or women's) in six successive seasons.
- Despite leading the overall standings, Weng has won only one individual event this season, which is also her sole career individual World Cup triumph: the 10km pursuit classic style in Val Müstair on 1 January this year (Tour de Ski). **Note:** does not include the result of the sprint classic style on 25 March.
- Weng can become the second woman to claim the overall crystal globe while winning only as few as one individual event, after Larisa Lazutina in 1989/90 (11 individual events in that season).
- **Diggins** finished runner-up in the 2021/22 overall women's World Cup behind Natalia Nepryaeva. Diggins won the crystal globe in 2020/21.
- Diggins could become the 12th woman to win the overall World Cup more than once, and the first skier from outside Europe to achieve this feat.

Distance crystal globe

- **Kerttu Niskanen** (1,070) has a 22-point lead over **Jessica Diggins** (1,048) in the women's distance standings.
- Niskanen is aiming to become the first Finnish woman to win an individual crystal globe since Virpi Kuitunen won the distance and overall World Cups in 2007/08.
- Niskanen (34 years old) is aiming to become the fourth woman aged 34 years or older to claim a crystal globe, after Marit Bjørgen (overall, sprint and distance at 34 in 2014/15), Larissa Lazutina (long distance at 34 in 1999/2000) and Gabriella Paruzzi (overall at 34 in 2003/04).
- Her brother Iivo Niskanen won the men's distance crystal globe last season.
- Niskanen recorded 12 of her 14 podium finishes in World Cup distance events in the classic style. The exceptions were third places in the skiathlon at the World Cup Final in Falun on 15 March 2014 and in the 9km pursuit in the Tour de Ski in Val di Fiemme in January 2017.
- Niskanen has yet to record an individual World Cup victory on home snow. Her best result in Finland is a third-place finish in the 10km pursuit classic style event during the 3-Days Tour in November 2015.

- **Diggins** won the distance crystal globe in 2020/21 and she can become the first non-European woman to claim multiple distance World Cups.
- Of Diggins' 47 individual World Cup podium finishes, only three were in classic style distance events: third places in 10km events in the Ski Tour Canada (12 March 2016) and Tour de Ski (2 and 6 January 2021).

Sweden

- **Frida Karlsson** (5) and **Ebba Andersson** (4) are the women on the most individual World Cup wins this season, alongside Kristine Stavås Skistad (4). Both Karlsson and Andersson won two classic style distance events.
- Karlsson (in Lillehammer on 4 December) and Andersson (in Les Rousses on 29 January) won the two 20km classic style events this season.
- Andersson has won each of the last three women's individual distance events she started in, becoming the first Swedish woman to do so.
- Andersson won five of the last six individual distance events she competed in at the World Cup and world championships. The exception was a third-place finish in the 10km freestyle at the world championships.
- Marie Risby is the only Swedish woman to have won an individual distance event in the World Cup Lahti (5km classic style in 1985). Andersson's best result in an individual distance World Cup event in Lahti is a second place in the 10km classic style in February 2020. Karlsson finished fourth in that race (her best result in Lahti).
- Karlsson won two junior world titles in Lahti in 2019: 5km freestyle and 15km classic style.

Other contenders

- This is the third 20km classic style event of the season. Before this season, a 20km classic style had not been held in the women's World Cup since 1987.
- **Rosie Brennan** is in fourth in the distance standings this season. There have never been multiple non-European skiers in the top three of a World Cup final standings.
- None of Brennan's seven individual World Cup podiums have come in classic style distance events (two fourth places).
- Only one **non-European** woman has ever won a classic style distance event in the World Cup: Canada's Beckie Scott won the 15km classic style in Canmore on 17 December 2005.
- **Heidi Weng** has 105 podium finishes in individual World Cup events, fourth-most behind Marit Bjørgen (186), Therese Johaug (149) and Justyna Kowalczyk (106).
- Weng has claimed 14 individual podium finishes in Finland without ever winning. It marks the joint-most individual podiums in the World Cup in a host country without claiming a win, alongside Weng's own tally of 14 on Swedish soil.



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