

PREVIEW WOMEN'S 10KM CLASSIC STYLE RUKA – Saturday 25 Nov 2023

Kerttu Niskanen

- Last season, Kerttu Niskanen (distance) became the first Finnish woman to win a crystal globe since Virpi Kuitunen in 2007/08 (distance, overall).
- This season, Niskanen could become the first woman to take the distance crystal globe in successive seasons since Therese Johaug (2018/19 - 2019/20).
- Niskanen won the 2022/23 distance crystal globe despite winning only two of the 17 WC distance events: the 10km classic style in Beitostølen (10 December 2022) and Falun (17 March 2023).
- Coming into Ruka, Niskanen claimed all five of her World Cup victories in 10km classic style events.
- Niskanen can become the first Finnish woman to win a World Cup event on home snow since Krista Pärmäkoski took the victory in the 10km classic style in Lahti on 4 March 2018. **Note:** this excludes the Ruka sprint classic style on 24 November.
- The last Finnish woman to win a World Cup event in Ruka was Aino-Kaisa Saarinen on 29 November 2008 (the 10km classic style). **Note:** this excludes the Ruka sprint on 24 November.
- Kerttu Niskanen's younger brother Iivo Niskanen claimed six of his eight World Cup victories in Finland (4 in Ruka, 2 in Lahti).

Jessica Diggins

- Jessica Diggins won the distance crystal globe in 2020/21. She finished runner-up in the distance standings last season.
- None of Diggins' 15 victories in World Cup events were achieved in the classic style. **Note:** her tally excludes the Ruka sprint on 24 November.
- Diggins could achieve her first World Cup victory in Finland (**note:** excluding the Ruka sprint on 24 November). She claimed her 15 WC victories in seven different countries.

Other contenders

- **Tiril Udnes Weng**, winner of the 2022/23 overall crystal globe, has one individual World Cup victory to her name: the 10km pursuit classic style in Val Müstair on 1 January 2023 (stage in the Tour de Ski). **Note:** excluding the result of the Ruka sprint on 24 November.
- Early November, Tiril Udnes Weng tested positive for COVID-19 following a training camp in Italy.
- **Frida Karlsson** (8 podiums, including 4 wins) and **Ebba Andersson** (6 podiums, including 4 wins) recorded the most victories and podium results in women's World Cup distance events last season. Despite this, Karlsson and Andersson finished only eighth and ninth respectively in the distance standings.

- Andersson won the 10km classic style in Ruka in last season's World Cup (26 November 2022). It was the first World Cup distance event that season as well.
- **Anne Kjersti Kalvå** took the victory in the most recent women's World Cup distance event: the 20km classic style in Lahti on 26 March. This marked her first and so far only individual World Cup win (**note**: excluding the Ruka sprint).
- Since the start of 2021, **Norwegian** women won only one of the 12 World Cup events in the 10km classic style. This win was achieved by Therese Johaug in Lahti on 27 February 2022.
- **Katharina Hennig** won the 15km classic style in the Tour de Ski in Val di Fiemme on 7 January 2023. She can join Claudia Nystad (4) and Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle (3) as the German woman to claim multiple individual World Cup victories.

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