

PREVIEW WOMEN'S 10KM FREESTYLE LES ROUSSES – Friday 27 Jan 2023

General

- Les Rousses is a brand new venue in the World Cup. Last week, Livigno hosted the World Cup for the first time.
- Third time is a charm for Les Rousses, after having to postpone the events in the 2020/21 season for one year - and a cancellation in the 2021/22 season due to national Covid-19 restrictions.
- Les Rousses is the first venue in France to host the World Cup since La Clusaz on 17 and 18 December 2016. All four events were won by Norway that weekend, including the women's 10km mass start freestyle and women's 4 x 5km relay.

Contenders

- The last two women's World Cup distance events featured skiers from six different countries on the podium in total.
- No woman has recorded more than two podium finishes in the five women's World Cup freestyle distance races this season.
- Frida Karlsson - who won four of the 11 distance events in the women's World Cup this season - will miss the World Cup weekend in Les Rousses after catching a cold.
- **Delphine Claudel** won the 10km distance freestyle in Val di Fiemme (Tour de Ski) on 8 January, to become the first French woman to win an individual World Cup event.
- The only individual podium result by a French cross-country skier on home snow is a second place by Vincent Vittoz in the men's 15km freestyle in La Clusaz on 6 February 2004.
- **Jessica Diggins** won the 10km freestyle in Lillehammer on 2 December and the 20km freestyle in Davos on 18 December. Diggins and Karlsson (both 2) are the only women to win multiple freestyle distance events this World Cup season.
- **Sophia Laukli** finished third in the 10km freestyle in Val di Fiemme on 8 January (final stage of the Tour de Ski), claiming her first-ever World Cup podium finish.
- Before this season's Tour de Ski, Laukli had never finished higher than 17th in an individual World Cup event.
- **Heidi Weng** finished second in the 10km freestyle in Val di Fiemme on 8 January. Her last three individual World Cup podium finishes were in a 10km freestyle event, including a victory in Val di Fiemme on 4 January 2022 (Tour de Ski).
- Weng won the most recent women's World Cup distance event on French snow, a 10km freestyle in La Clusaz on 17 December 2016.
- Only Lyubov Yegorova, Stefania Belmondio and Marit Bjørgen (all 2) won multiple individual events on French snow in the women's World Cup.

- **Tiril Udnes Weng** is the only woman to have finished inside the top 10 in all 11 distance events in this season's World Cup: 9 - 3 - 7 - 2 - 7 - 4 - 1 - 4 - 3 - 7 - 10. She won the 10km pursuit classic style in Val Müstair on 1 January (Tour de Ski).
- **Krista Pärmäkoski** returns to competition after she had to abandon the Tour de Ski after stage 5 due to illness. She has not been on the podium in a 10km freestyle event in the World Cup since her third place in Davos on 16 December 2018.
- **Ebba Andersson** returns to the World Cup after a period of illness. Her last World Cup race was the 20km classic style in Lillehammer on 4 December (3rd place).

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