

## PREVIEW WOMEN'S 2 X 7.5KM SKIATHLON PLANICA – Saturday 25 Feb 2023

### Sweden

- **Ebba Andersson** and **Frida Karlsson** are looking to become the first Swedish woman to win a skiathlon event at world championships.
- Marit Bjørgen and Therese Johaug (both 3) won the last six skiathlon events at world championships for Norway. Both cross-country skiers retired in 2022.
- Andersson won the three most recent individual World Cup distance events for women: 10 km freestyle and 20km mass start classic style in Les Rousses and 10km freestyle in Toblach.
- Andersson's best skiathlon result at the world championships is a bronze medal in Oberstdorf in 2021.
- Andersson's only participation in a distance event held in Planica resulted in a 5th place finish in the 10km classic style individual World Cup event on 21 January 2018.
- Karlsson finished in the top-5 in all three skiathlon events she participated in: fifth place at the 2019 World Championships, a silver medal at the 2021 World Championships and a fifth place at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Johaug won all those events.
- Karlsson (5) has won the most individual women's World Cup events this season. Andersson follows on four wins. Karlsson also has the most podium finishes (9).

### Other contenders

- **Jessica Diggins** can become the first USA cross-country skier (male or female) to win an individual distance event at the world championships. Until this year's world championships, USA had won one world title in cross-country skiing: the women's team sprint freestyle in 2013, when Diggins formed a team with Kikkan Randall.
- **Ingvild Flugstad Østberg** claimed a silver medal at the skiathlon event at the world championships in 2019. She is the only woman to have won medals in skiathlon events at the junior world championships (gold in 2009 and 2010), Under 23 world championships (gold in 2011) and senior world championships.
- **Finland** has won four world championships medals in the women's skiathlon, most recently silver for **Krista Pärmäkoski** in 2017. Virpi Kuitunen (2001) is Finland's only world champion in this event.
- **Heidi Weng** claimed bronze in the skiathlon in 2013. She can become the third woman after Marit Bjørgen (2005-2017) and Therese Johaug (2011-2021) to win a medal in this event at least 10 years after their first medal.
- **Tiril Udnes Weng** is leading the overall World Cup standings this season. Justyna Kowalczyk (2008/09) is the only woman to have won the skiathlon world title and the overall World Cup in the same season.



- **Kerttu Niskanen** (34y-257d) can become the third oldest medal winner in the women's skiathlon at the world championships, after Marit Bjørgen (36-341, gold in 2017) and Larissa Lazutina (35-262, silver in 2001).

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