

PREVIEW WOMEN'S SPRINT CLASSIC STYLE RUKA – Friday 24 Nov 2023

Maja Dahlqvist

- Maja Dahlqvist has become the first woman to win the sprint crystal globe in successive seasons since Maiken Caspersen Falla in 2015/16 to 2017/18 (3 in a row).
- Remarkably, Dahlqvist failed to win any of the 13 individual World Cup sprint events last season. Dahlqvist did finish on the podium six times in those 13 events (four second places and two third places).
- Dahlqvist is eyeing her first World Cup victory in the individual sprint since she won five sprint events in a row from February to December 2021 (including the sprint classic style in Ruka).
- Swedish women took the sprint crystal globe in four of the last five seasons (Slovenia's Anamarija Lampic topped the standings in 2020/21), after they had never won this specific globe before (it was introduced in 1996/97).
- In each of the last three seasons, the opening individual sprint event of the women's World Cup season was won by a Swedish woman (all held in Ruka). Those wins were achieved by Linn Svahn (2020/21), Dahlqvist (2021/22) and Emma Ribom (2022/23).

Kristine Stavås Skistad

- Kristine Stavås Skistad won five of the 13 individual World Cup sprint events last season, most of all women. This includes each of the last four events.
- Skistad's five victories were all achieved from January 2023 onwards: in Les Rousses (classic), Drammen (classic), Falun (freestyle), Tallinn (freestyle) and Lahti (classic). She had not achieved a World Cup podium finish - individual or in a team event - prior to 2023.
- Skistad is the first Norwegian woman to have claimed four consecutive victories in individual World Cup sprint events since Maiken Caspersen Falla in February-March 2016.
- **Skistad could become the third woman to win at least five individual World Cup sprint events in a row, after Marit Bjørgen (11, December 2003 - January 2005) and Maja Dahlqvist (5, February-December 2021).**
- Skistad has won each of the last five individual World Cup sprint events she participated in. In between she missed the event in Toblach.

Other contenders

- Last season, Kristine Stavås Skistad (5), **Nadine Fähndrich** (3), **Emma Ribom** (2), **Jonna Sundling** (2) and **Lotto Udnes Weng** (1) won an individual women's World Cup sprint event.
- Only Maja Dahlqvist (6, no wins) recorded as many podium finishes in women's individual World Cup sprints last season as Sundling (two wins, four second places).
- **Linn Svahn** and Sundling (both 7) are the **active** female cross-country skiers to have claimed the most individual World Cup sprint wins.
- **Tiril Udnes Weng** - winner of the overall World Cup last season - has yet to win an individual World Cup sprint event. Her best result is a second-place finish in the Val di Fiemme classic style on 6 January 2023 (stage in the Tour de Ski).
- Tiril Udnes Weng only individual World Cup victory came in the 10km pursuit classic style in Val Müstair on New Year's Day 2023 (stage in the Tour de Ski).
- Tiril Udnes Weng is uncertain for the World Cup events in Ruka after she tested for COVID-19 following a training camp in Italy.

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