

PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Sunday 18 Nov 2018

Opening of World Cup season again in Wisla

- For the second season in a row, the first men's World Cup events of the ski jumping season will be held in Wisla. Last season marked the first time the World Cup season kicked off in Poland.
- Junshiro Kobayashi won the individual large hill event in Wisla on 19 November 2017, ahead of Kamil Stoch and Stefan Kraft. It is Kobayashi's only podium finish in an individual World Cup event to-date.
- Kobayashi could become the first jumper to win the opening individual World Cup event in consecutive seasons since Andreas Kofler in 2010-2011, who won the first large hill event in Ruka in both seasons.
- The only other jumpers to win successive opening World Cup events are Dieter Thoma (1988-1989, 1996-1997) and Martin Schmitt (three in a row, 1998-2000).
- Only one ski jumper has won multiple individual World Cup events in Wisla. Kamil Stoch won both large hill events held in Wisla in January 2017.
- Stoch (4), Stefan Kraft (3) and Andreas Wellinger (2) are the only ski jumpers with multiple podium finishes in individual World Cup events in Wisla. Both Wellinger (January 2014) and Kraft (January 2015) have won a World Cup event in Wisla.
- In total, Stoch has won six individual World Cup events on Polish soil, more than any other jumper. Gregor Schlierenzauer (5) and Kraft (2) are the only other active jumpers with multiple victories in Poland.
- Stoch's nine podium finishes in Poland are also most of all ski jumpers, one more than his compatriot Adam Malysz and the Finnish jumper Janne Ahonen (both 8).
- Stoch has only won more individual World Cup events and claimed more podium finishes in Germany (7 wins, 13 podium finishes) than in Poland (6, 9).

Stoch looking for more victories

- Kamil Stoch won the overall World Cup standings last season. It was his second overall title, after 2013/14.
- Stoch is hoping to become the fourth ski jumper to win at least three overall World Cup titles among men, after compatriot Adam Malysz (4), Matti Nykänen (4) and Andreas Goldberger (3).
- Stoch has won 31 individual World Cup events, sixth most all-time among men. Jens Weißflog is in fifth place with 33 wins.
- Stoch won four of the last five individual World Cup events of the 2017/18 season, including the last two (ski flying events in Planica in March 2018).
- In total, Stoch has won eight individual World Cup events in the calendar year 2018. The only other jumper to win multiple events in 2018 is Daniel-André Tande (2).

- In the previous eight years (2010-2017), only three ski jumpers won more individual World Cup events in a single calendar year: Peter Prevc in 2016 (12), Severin Freund in 2015 (11) and Gregor Schlierenzauer in 2013 (9).
- Stoch has never won the opening individual event of a World Cup season. The only Polish jumpers to do so were Malysz in Kuopio in 2001/02 and Krzysztof Biegun in Klingenthal in 2013/14.

German jumpers hoping to repeat last season's start

- Last season, German jumpers won four of the first seven individual World Cup events: three wins by Richard Freitag and one by Andreas Wellinger. They failed to win any of the next 15 individual events, including all 14 in 2018.
- Freitag's victory in the large hill event in Engelberg on 17 December 2017 was the last German win in an individual men's World Cup event.
- Freitag finished in second place in the overall World Cup standings in 2017/18, behind Kamil Stoch, while Wellinger won gold in the men's normal hill and silver in the men's large hill (behind Stoch) at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.
- Since start of the 2016/17 season, only Stoch (25) and Stefan Kraft (25) have claimed more podium finishes in individual World Cup events than Wellinger (18).
- Wellinger's first of three individual World Cup wins came in the large hill event in Wisla on 16 January 2014, when he was 18 years old. That was the last time a German jumper won in Poland.
- Between 1996 and 2000, German ski jumper won the opening event of the World Cup five times in a row: Dieter Thoma in 1996 and 1997 and Martin Schmitt in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Since then, only one German ski jumper has won the season opener: Severin Freund in Lillehammer in 2012 (normal hill).

Other contenders

- Fourteen of the last 15 individual World Cup events have been won by either jumpers from Poland (9) or Norway (5). The only exception was Anze Semenic' (Slovenia) victory in the large hill in Zakopane on 28 January, the most-recent men's World Cup event in Poland.
- All of Poland's nine victories in this run were claimed by Kamil Stoch. Norway's five victories were divided among four jumpers: Daniel-André Tande (2), Robert Johansson (1), Andreas Stjernen (1) and Johann André Forfang (1).
- Tande is the only ski jumper to have won at least one individual World Cup event in each of the last three seasons.
- Tande won the opener of the men's World Cup season in Klingenthal in 2015 and could become the first Norwegian jumper to win multiple season opening events.

- Austrian ski jumpers failed to win any of the 22 individual World Cup events last season. The last victory for Austria was claimed by Stefan Kraft in the final event of 2016/17 (ski flying in Planica on 26 March 2017).
- The last time Austrian jumpers failed to win more consecutive individual men's World Cup events was between January 2005 and January 2006: 30 events.
- Kraft and Peter Prevc are the only ski jumpers to have reached the podium in an individual World cup event in each of the last six seasons.
- Gregor Schlierenzauer has won most individual World Cup events among men (53), while only Janne Ahonen (108) and Adam Malysz (92) have finished on the podium more often than him (88). Schlierenzauer's last podium finish came in Nizhny Tagil on 13 December 2014 (second in large hill).
- Noriaki Kasai is both the oldest ski jumper to win an individual World Cup event (42 years, 176 days in Ruka on 29 November 2014) and the oldest jumper to finish on the podium (44 years, 293 days in Planica on 26 March 2017).
- Kasai will participate in his 30th different World Cup season - since 1988/89, when he made his debut, he has only missed out on the 1994/95 season due to injury.

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