

PREVIEW MEN INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – 1-2 Dec 2018

Kobayashi looking for fourth podium in a row

- Ryoyu Kobayashi claimed his first individual World Cup victories last week, as he won both large hill events in Ruka.
- Kobayashi finished in third place in the season opener in Wisla on 18 November (large hill), his first podium finish in an individual World Cup event.
- Kobayashi can now become the first ski jumper to finish on the podium in each of the first four individual World Cup events of a season since Gregor Schlierenzauer in 2008/09. Schlierenzauer went on to claim the overall World Cup title that campaign.
- The last ski jumper to record a top-three finish in the opening five individual World Cup events was Thomas Morgenstern in 2007/08. Morgenstern also took the overall World Cup title that season.
- Kobayashi can become the first ski jumper from Japan to claim (at least) three individual World Cup wins in a single season since Daiki Ito in 2011/12 (4 wins).
- The last ski jumper from Japan to win three individual World Cup events in a row was Kazuyoshi Funaki in 1997/98.
- All previous eight individual World Cup events held in Russia have been won by European ski jumpers.
- Kobayashi is hoping to become the first ever non-European ski jumper to claim the overall World Cup title. The last non-European athlete to finish on the overall World Cup podium was Noriaki Kasai in 1998/99 (3rd).

Stoch needs double win to match Weißflog

- Kamil Stoch, who finished on the podium in both events in Ruka last weekend, won the overall World Cup standings last season. It was his second overall title, after 2013/14.
- Stoch has won 31 individual World Cup events, sixth most all-time among men. Stoch needs two more wins to join Jens Weißflog (33) in fifth place.
- Stoch has won eight individual World Cup events in this calendar year. The only other jumpers with multiple wins in 2018 are Daniel-André Tande (2) and Ryoyu Kobayashi (2).
- Only Adam Malysz in 2007 (9) and 2001 (17) managed to claim more than eight individual World Cup victories for Poland in a single calendar year.
- In the previous eight years (2010-2017), only three ski jumpers won more than eight 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 yet to claim his first podium finish in an individual World Cup event in Russia. His best result on Russian snow was a sixth-place finish in the large hill in Nizhny Tagil on 13 December 2015.

Can Wellinger end Germany's winning drought?

- Andreas Wellinger finished in second place in the final jump in Ruka last weekend, to claim his first podium spot in an individual World Cup event of the season.
- Wellinger's last individual World Cup win came on 3 December 2017, when he won the large hill event in Nizhny Tagil.
- Four of the last five individual World Cup events in Nizhny Tagil have been won by German ski jumpers. In that run only Peter Prevc avoided German success on 13 December 2015.
- German jumpers have failed to win any of the 17 individual World Cup events in 2018. On 17 December 2017, Richard Freitag was the last ski jumper to hand Germany an individual World Cup win (large hill in Engelberg).
- In 2010, Germany last failed to claim a single win in an individual World Cup event in a single calendar year.

Other contenders

- **Stefan Kraft** finished in 10th place in the final jump in Ruka last week. On 26 March 2017, Kraft was the last ski jumper from Austria to claim an individual World Cup victory, as he won the final event of the 2016/17 season in Planica (ski flying).
- Austria are now 25 individual World Cup events without a victory. The last time Austrian jumpers failed to win more consecutive individual World Cup events was between January 2005 and January 2006: 29 in a row.
- Kraft and **Peter Prevc** are the only ski jumpers to have reached the podium in an individual World Cup event in each of the previous six seasons. Both athletes have yet to record their first top-three finish of the 2018/19 season.
- **Domen Prevc** just missed out on a podium spot in the two large hill events in Ruka last weekend, as he finished in fourth place on both Saturday and Sunday.
- Domen Prevc failed to win any individual World Cup event last season. His last victory came in Engelberg (large hill) on 18 December 2016.
- **Daniel-André Tande** is the only ski jumper to have won at least one individual World Cup event in each of the previous three seasons. His best result in 2018/19 was a 24th-place finish in the second event in Ruka last week.
- Evergreen **Noriaki Kasai** is still going strong at the age of 46. Kasai finished in 38th place in both individual World Cup events in Ruka last week.
- On 29 November 2014, Kasai became the oldest ski jumper to win an individual World Cup event as he was 42 years and 176 days old when he won in Ruka. Kasai also holds the record for oldest ski jumper to reach the podium in an individual World Cup event. He finished in third place in Planica on 26 March 2017, at the age of 44 years and 293 days.



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