

Preview Ski Jumping 2018/2019 Four Hills Tournament

Stoch aiming for rare Four Hills hat-tick

- Kamil Stoch won the Four Hills Tournament in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and could become the second man to win the competition three editions in a row, following Björn Wirkola who was victorious in 1966/67, 1967/68 and 1968/69.
- The only other men to have won the Four Hills Tournament at least three times are Janne Ahonen (5 times), Jens Weißflog (4) and Helmuth Recknagel (3).
- Last year, Stoch became the second man to win all four events of the Four Hills Tournament in a single edition, after Sven Hannawald in 2001/02. Hannawald also won the first event the following season.
- Stoch has won five Four Hills events in total (also Bischofshofen in January 2017) and needs one more to equal Recknagel and Hannawald is sixth place all-time on six wins. Matti Nykänen (7) stands in fifth place.
- If Stoch wins in Oberstdorf, he becomes the first man to win six Four Hills events in a row. Recknagel (1958-1959) and Hannawald (2001-2002) also won five in a row.
- Stoch currently ranks third in the World Cup standings, his compatriot Piotr Zyla second. Either can give Poland its fourth overall Four Hills victory, after Stoch's two victories and Adam Malysz's victory in 2000/01.
- Stoch (31 years and 226 days old on 6 January in Bischofshofen) or Zyla (31 years and 355 days) could become the second oldest man to win the title, after Sepp Bradl (35-003, 1952/53).
- Stoch is still waiting for his first individual win this World Cup season. His best result so far is a second place in Ruka on 24 November.

Kobayashi poised to give Japan second Four Hills title

- Current World Cup leader Ryoyu Kobayashi could become the second Japanese man to win the Four Hills Tournament, after Kazuyoshi Funaki in 1997/98.
- Funaki won the first three Four Hills events that season. Since then, only Noriaki Kasai managed to win Four Hills events for Japan: Innsbruck in 1998/99 and Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2000/01.
- Kobayashi's best result in one of the Four Hills events is a 12th place in Oberstdorf last season.

Austria, Finland and Germany competing for bragging rights

- Austria, Finland and Germany (including East Germany and West Germany) have all won the Four Hills Tournament a record 16 times.
- Germany's 16 victories break down as follows: 11 for East Germany, three for Germany and two for West Germany.

- Stefan Kraft (2014/15) was the last winner from Austria, Janne Ahonen (2007/08) was the last winner from Finland and Sven Hannawald (2001/02) was the last German winner.

New set of Germans looking to follow in Hannawald's footsteps

- Karl Geiger, Stephan Leyhe and Andreas Wellinger all hope to become the first German winner of the Four Hills Tournament since Sven Hannawald in 2001/02.
- Germany's current winning drought of 17 seasons is the longest for all German states combined.
- In total, 10 different German ski jumpers have won the Four Hills Tournament (including East Germany and West Germany).
- Germany is the only country with three men in the top-10 of the current World Cup standings: Geiger in fourth place, Leyhe in sixth place and Wellinger in ninth place.
- Geiger won the World Cup large hill event in Engelberg on 15 December, his first individual World Cup victory. His only other World Cup podium finish was a second place in Lathi (normal hill) on 21 February 2016.
- Leyhe finished second in this season's opening weekend in Wisla on 18 November, his first and so far only individual podium finish in the World Cup.
- Wellinger has claimed 25 individual podium finishes in the World Cup, three of which were victories.
- Geiger's best result in a Four Hills event is a seventh place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen last season. Leyhe's best result is an eighth place in Garmisch and in Bischofshofen in January 2017. Wellinger finished on the podium twice: third place finishes in Innsbruck and Bischofshofen last season.

Forfang and Johansson hoping to end Norway's winning drought

- Johann André Forfang (No.5 in the World Cup standings) and Robert Johansson (No.8) could become the first Norwegians to win the Four Hills Tournament since Anders Jacobsen in 2006/07.
- After Jacobsen's victory in 2006/07, Norwegian ski jumpers have won six Four Hills events, second most behind only Austria's 22 victories.
- Forfang's best result in a Four Hills event is a fourth place finish in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Innsbruck in January 2016.
- Johansson has one podium finish in one of the Four Hills events, a second place in Innsbruck in January 2017.

Other contenders

- **Stefan Kraft** (winner in 2014/15) and **Peter Prevc** (winner in 2015/16) are both looking for their second overall Four Hills victory. Currently, 12 men have won the Four Hills trophy twice.
- Kraft won the Four Hills opening event in Oberstdorf in 2014/15 and 2016/17. He can join Dieter Thoma and Martin Schmitt on a record three wins in this city.
- **Gregor Schlierenzauer** can win his third overall title. He would become the fifth man to achieve this, after Janne Ahonen (5), Jens Weißflog (4), Björn Wirkola (3) and Helmuth Recknagel (3).
- Schlierenzauer has won nine individual Four Hills events: three in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and two each in Oberstdorf, Innsbruck and Bischofshofen.
- Schlierenzauer is one short of the record of 10 wins, held by Wirkola and Weißflog.
- Schlierenzauer last won a Four Hills event on 6 January 2013, in Bischofshofen.

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