

## PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Sat-Sun 12-13 Jan 2019

### **Kobayashi aiming to continue success after Four Hills victory**

- Last Sunday, Ryoyu Kobayashi claimed his first title in the Four Hills Tournament by also winning on the fourth hill in Bischofshofen. He was the third jumper to win all four events in a single Four Hills Tournament, after Sven Hannawald (2001/02) and Kamil Stoch (2017/18).
- Hannawald also won the first individual World Cup event after his Four Hills Grand Slam (large hill event in Willingen), while Stoch finished in 21st place after his Four Hills win last season (ski flying in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf).
- Kobayashi has won the last five individual World Cup events. He could now equal the all-time record of winning six individual World Cup events in a row. Janne Ahonen (2004-2005), Matti Hautamäki (2005), Thomas Morgenstern (2007) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (2009) are the jumpers to have done so.
- No male jumper has ever won seven successive individual World Cup events.
- In total, Kobayashi has won eight of the 11 individual World Cup events this season. Last season, Stoch (9) won most individual World Cup events. The last jumper with more than nine individual victories in a World Cup season was Peter Prevc (15) in 2015/16.
- Kobayashi already is the first Japanese jumper to claim more than six individual World Cup victories in a single season. Only three Japanese jumpers have won more individual World Cup events than Kobayashi (8): Noriaki Kasai (17), Kazuyoshi Funaki (15) and Masahiko Harada (9).
- Kobayashi has finished on the podium in 10 of the 11 individual World Cup events this season, with the exception of the first event in Engelberg on 15 December 2018 (7th). Last season, Stoch had 13 podium finishes in the World Cup.
- Only Funaki in 1998/99 (15) and Kasai in 1998/99 (14) had more than 10 podium finishes within a World Cup season representing Japan.
- Kobayashi (22 years) could become the first jumper younger than 23 to win at least nine individual events in a World Cup season since Schlierenzauer in 2008/09 (13).
- In the World Cup standings, Kobayashi (956 points) has a lead of more than 400 points over second-placed Piotr Zyla (529). Funaki has the best result in the overall World Cup among Japanese ski jumpers. He finished second in 1997/98.

### **Germans hoping to move forward**

- Behind Kobayashi, two German jumpers finished on the podium of the Four Hills Tournament: Markus Eisenbichler (2nd) and Stephan Leyhe (3rd).
- It was the first time since 1990/91 two German jumpers finished on the podium of the Four Hills Tournament, when Jens Weißflog won and Dieter Thoma finished in third place.

- Eisenbichler has finished on the podium of six individual World Cup events, but has yet to claim his first individual win. Only five jumpers have claimed more individual podium finishes without ever winning: Olav Hansson (11), Dmitriy Vassiliev (9), Lasse Ottesen (9), Miran Tepes (8) and Pentti Kokkonen (7).
- Leyhe has claimed one individual podium finish in his career, a second place in Wisla (large hill) on 18 November 2018. Leyhe finished in fourth place in both Innsbruck and Bischofshofen.
- Since the start of 2018, German jumpers have won only one of the 25 individual World Cup events: Karl Geiger won in Engelberg on 15 December 2018 (large hill).

### **Kraft closing in on win for Austria**

- Stefan Kraft finished on the podium in three of the four events in the Four Hills Tournament: third in Oberstdorf, second in Innsbruck and third in Bischofshofen.
- The last time Kraft finished on the podium in three successive individual World Cup events was in March-November 2017 (twice ski flying in Planica and large hill in Wisla). From January to March 2017, he had a run of nine consecutive individual podium finishes.
- Austria have failed to win the last 33 individual World Cup events, since Kraft's victory in Planica (ski flying) on 26 March 2017.
- Austria have had only one longer winless run in individual World Cup events: 45 successive jumps without a victory between February 2000 and January 2002. That run was ended by a victory for Andreas Widhölzl in Hakuba on 24 January 2002.
- Since the start of the 2017/18 season, Kraft has claimed 11 podium finishes in individual World Cup events, without claiming a victory. Only Kamil Stoch (16) has claimed at least 11 podium finishes in this span, including nine victories.
- Next to Kraft, two Austrians have finished on the podium of an individual event since the start of last season: Michael Hayböck in Oslo on 11 March 2018 (third, large hill) and Daniel Huber in Engelberg on 15 December 2018 (third, large hill).

### **Other contenders**

- **Kamil Stoch** won the Four Hills Tournament, Raw Air, the overall World Cup standings and the Olympic title in the large hill last season, but has yet to claim his first individual win this season.
- Stoch has won 31 individual World Cup events, two short of equalling Jens Weißflog (33) is fifth place all-time for most individual World Cup wins.
- Stoch won the last individual World Cup held in Val di Fiemme, the large hill on 5 February 2012. Stoch is one of three active jumpers to have won a World Cup event in Val di Fiemme, next to Gregor Schlierenzauer (4 February 2012) and Noriaki Kasai (23 January 1993).

- Three jumpers have won a record two individual World Cup events in Val di Fiemme: Adam Malysz, Tom Hilde and Andreas Widhölzl.
- **Piotr Zyla** (5) is the only other jumper next to Ryoyu Kobayashi (10) to claim more than three podium finishes in individual events this World Cup season.
- Zyla has won one individual World Cup event in his career: the large hill event in Oslo on 17 March 2013.
- **Dawid Kubacki** was the only Polish jumper to finish on the podium of a Four Hills event this season (third in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, second in Bischofshofen). Kubacki (5 podium finishes) has yet to win his first individual World Cup event.
- **Johann André Forfang** is the only Norwegian jumper to win an individual World Cup event this season as he won in Nizhny Tagil on 1 December 2018.
- The last time **Roman Koudelka** finished on the podium of an individual World Cup event was in Wisla (large hill) on 4 March 2016, when he won.
- **Timi Zajc** could become the first jumper born after 1 January 2000 to finish on the podium of an individual World Cup event.
- The last teenager to claim a podium finish in the World Cup was Zajc's compatriot Domen Prevc in the 2016/17 season.

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