

PREVIEW Men TEAM - LARGE HILL – Saturday 19 Jan 2019

Poland looking for another victory in front of home crowd

- Poland won the season opener in Wisla (large hill) and could now win successive World Cup team events for the first time.
- Poland's last two World Cup team event victories have come in front of a home crowd: Wisla November 2018 and Zakopane January 2018, also the last two World Cup team events in Poland.
- Poland could become the second nation to win three successive World Cup team events in front of a home crowd, after Norway (2017-2018).
- Three of the last four World Cup team events have been won by the host nation, with the only exception in that run Norway's victory in Planica on 24 March 2018.
- Poland is one of four nations to have won a record two World Cup team events in Poland, next to Slovenia, Norway and Germany. Apart from their two victories in front of a home crowd, Poland have also won twice in Germany.
- Since the start of 2016/17, Poland have finished on the podium in 10 of the 11 men's team large hill events, more than any other team.
- The exception was the event in Ruka on 25 November 2017, when they finished sixth.
- Kamil Stoch was born in Zakopane. Stoch is in equal 10th place for most podium finishes in World Cup team events together with Tom Hilde (21 podiums). Matti Hautamäki is in ninth place with 24 podium finishes.

Norway hoping to bounce back

- Last season, Norway won the Nations Cup, ahead of Germany (2nd) and Poland (3rd). Their lead over Germany was almost 1,200 points.
- Norway finished in 10th place in the season opener in Wisla on 17 November (large hill), ending a run of three World Cup victories in team events and a streak of 10 consecutive podium finishes.
- The last time Norway failed to claim a top-three finish in successive team events in the World Cup was in 2016/17, when Norway missed out on a podium spot in each of the first four events of the season (Klingenthal, Zakopane, Willingen, Oslo).
- Only Austria (28) has won more World Cup team events than Norway (24).

Other contenders

- **Germany** have won the first men's team World Cup event of the calendar year in three of the last four times, including twice in Zakopane. The only exception in this run was Poland's victory in Zakopane in 2018.
- **Richard Freitag** has claimed 26 podium finishes in World Cup team events and could equal Wolfgang Loitzl (27) in third place all-time. Only Gregor

Schlierenzauer (33) and Thomas Morgenstern (30) have recorded more top-three finishes.

- **Austria** have failed to win the last 11 World Cup team events, since a first-place finish in Oslo (large hill) on 11 March 2017. Austria have had only one longer winless run in World Cup team events: 14 between 2014 and 2017.
- Austria finished third in the season opener in Wisla and could claim successive podium finishes in a team event for the first time since January-March 2017 (Willingen, Oslo, Vikersund).
- Austria are equal with Poland on a record six team World Cup podiums in Poland. Austria's six podiums (3 second places, 3 third places) are a record for most podiums without winning a World Cup team event in a single host nation.
- **Japan** could claim their first podium finish in a World Cup team event since a third-place finish in Ruka (large hill) on 25 November 2017.
- Japan have failed to claim a podium finish in their previous seven World Cup team event participations in Poland, including five in Zakopane.

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