

PREVIEW MEN'S INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Saturday 26 Jan 2019

Kraft back in winning mood

- Stefan Kraft won the men's large hill event in Zakopane on Sunday, ending his and Austria's winning drought of 45 men's World Cup events (including men's team events).
- The last time Kraft won back-to-back men's individual World Cup events was in Planica in March 2017 when he won both ski flying events.
- Kraft has won 13 individual World Cup events and is on 49 podium finishes. He can become the sixth Austrian jumper with a half century of individual World Cup podiums.
- Kraft is the only man to have finished on the podium in four of the last five individual World Cup events.
- Kraft finished third in both events in Sapporo two seasons ago. His only other podium finish in Sapporo was on 24 January 2015, when he finished second.
- Kraft has yet to finish four times on the podium on the same large hill in the World Cup.
- Of the seven large hills he has recorded three World Cup podium finishes, he has yet to win in Sapporo and Bischofshofen.

Kobayashi eyeing 10th victory

- Ryoyu Kobayashi has won nine of the 14 individual World Cup events this season. Last season, Kamil Stoch (9) won most individual World Cup events. The last ski jumper with more than nine individual victories in a World Cup season was Peter Prevc (15) in 2015/16.
- Kobayashi (9) already is the first Japanese ski jumper to claim more than six individual World Cup victories in a single season. Only three Japanese men have won nine or more individual World Cup events in total: Noriaki Kasai (17), Kazuyoshi Funaki (15) and Masahiko Harada (9).
- Kobayashi has finished on the podium in 11 of the 14 individual World Cup events this season, but finished seventh in the last two events: the second event in Val di Fiemme and in Zakopane.
- Only Funaki in 1998/99 (15) and Kasai in 1998/99 (14) had more than 11 podium finishes within a World Cup season representing Japan.
- Kobayashi (22 years old) could become the first ski jumper younger than 23 to win at least 10 individual events in a World Cup season since Gregor Schlierenzauer in 2008/09 (13).
- In the World Cup standings, Kobayashi (1,128 points) has a lead of more than 500 points over second-placed Stoch (624). Funaki has the best result in the overall World Cup among Japanese ski jumpers. He finished second in 1997/98, 19 points behind Primož Peterka.
- Daiki Ito is the last Japanese ski jumper to win an individual World Cup event in Sapporo. He won both events in 2011/12.

- Noriaki Kasai is the last Japanese man to reach the podium in front of a home crowd in an individual World Cup event. He finished third in Sapporo on 31 January 2016.

Other Contenders

- **Dawid Kubacki** has claimed a podium spot in three of the last four individual World Cup events, including his first ever victory in the second event in Val de Fiemme.
- Kubacki could become the fifth man representing Poland to claim multiple individual World Cup victories, after Adam Malysz (39), Kamil Stoch (31), Piotr Fijas (3) and Maciej Kot (2).
- **Kamil Stoch** won the last of two World Cup events in Sapporo two years ago.
- Stoch is in second place in the World Cup standings, 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) in fifth place all-time for most individual World Cup wins.
- **Piotr Zyla** has claimed five podiums this season in individual World Cup events, but has yet to win.
- Zyla has won one individual World Cup event in his career: the large hill event in Oslo on 17 March 2013.
- **Timi Zajc** could become the first ski 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.
- **Robert Johansson** finished second in Zakopane last week. He has one individual World Cup victory, winning the ski flying event in Vikersund on 18 March 2018.
- **Yukiya Sato** claimed his first individual podium finish last weekend, when he finished third in Zakopane.
- The last time more than one Japanese man finished on the same individual World Cup podium was on 28 November 2014, when Daiki Ito finished second and Noriaki Kasai third in Ruka.
- The only time in the last 20 years two Japanese ski jumpers finished on the same individual podium in front of a home crowd was on 22 January 2006, when Ito finished second and Takanobu Okabe third in Sapporo.
- **Jan Matura** is the last ski jumper to win multiple events in Sapporo in the same season. He achieved this in 2012/13 (2).

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