

PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - SKI FLYING – Friday 1 Feb 2019

First ski flying events of the World Cup season

- Oberstdorf will host the first three ski flying events of the 2018/19 World Cup season.
- Last season Andreas Stjernen won the overall ski flying World Cup, ahead of Robert Johansson and Kamil Stoch, who shared second place.
- Stjernen won the first ski flying event in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf and finished in second place in Vikersund, but failed to make the podium in the last two ski flying events of the season in Planica. Both of the Planica events were won by Kamil Stoch.
- Stefan Kraft holds the ski flying world record as he recorded a jump of 253.5 metres in Vikersund, Norway, on 18 March 2017.
- The hill record in Oberstdorf (Heini-Klopfer-Skiflugschanze) was set at 238.5 metres by Daniel-André Tande on 19 January 2018.

Kraft has found old form

- Stefan Kraft has won the last three individual World Cup events, in Zakopane and Sapporo (twice). His current winning run of three is already his longest in the World Cup.
- Earlier this season Ryoyu Kobayashi won six individual World Cup events in a row. The last Austrian ski jumper to record a four-event winning run was Thomas Morgenstern in December 2010 (4 victories).
- Prior to his current winning streak Kraft had not claimed a World Cup victory since 26 March 2017, when he won the ski flying event in Planica.
- Prior to his current winning streak Kraft was in fifth place on the 2018/19 individual World Cup standings (481 points). After his three victories he has climbed up to second place (781 points).
- These will be the first World Cup ski flying events in Oberstdorfsince 4 and 5 February 2017. Both those events were won by Kraft.
- Kraft is tied on a record two World Cup ski flying victories in Oberstdorf with Martin Koch, Matti Nykänen and Werner Rathmayer.

Kobayashi aiming to find old form back

- After having won nine of the first 12 individual World Cup events this season, current World Cup leader Ryoyu Kobayashi has now failed to win any of the last four.
- He only claimed one podium finish in those last four events, finishing in third place in Sapporo on 27 January.
- The last ski jumper with more than nine individual victories in a single 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's best result in a World Cup ski flying events was a 13th place in Planica on 23 March 2018.
- The last Japanese ski jumper to win an individual World Cup ski flying event was Noriaki Kasai in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf on 11 January 2014.

Stoch eyeing three ski flying victories in a row

- Kamil Stoch won the last two individual World Cup ski flying events, both in Planica last season.
- Those victories were also Stoch's last two wins in any individual World Cup event.
- Peter Prevc was the last ski jumper to win three individual World Cup ski flying events in a row, from February to March 2016.
- Stoch (31) is two victories shy of joining Jens Weißflog (33) in fifth place all-time for most individual World Cup wins.

Other contenders

- **Robert Johansson** has claimed one individual World Cup victory, winning the ski flying event in Vikersund on 18 March 2018.
- **Dawid 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).
- **Piotr Zyla** has claimed five podium finishes 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** (born 26 April 2000) finished in second place in the second event in Sapporo last weekend, becoming the first man born in this century to finish on the podium of an individual World Cup event.
- Aged 18, Zajc could become the first teenager to win an individual World Cup event since Domen Prevc won as a 17-year-old in Engelberg on 18 December 2016 (large hill).
- The last teenager to win an individual ski flying World Cup event was Gregor Schlierenzauer in Planica on 20 March 2009.

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