

## PREVIEW Men's INDIVIDUAL - NORMAL HILL – Friday 1 March 2019

### Eisenbichler looking to claim men's individual double

- Markus Eisenbichler won the men's large hill event on 23 February. He could become the sixth man to win both individual men's events at a single edition of the world championships.
- The five athletes to have won the men's large and normal hill event at a single edition of the world championships are: Björn Wirkola (1966), Gari Napalkov (1970), Hans-Georg Aschenbach (1974), Adam Malysz (2003) and Stefan Kraft (2017).
- Eisenbichler's large hill world title was his first victory in 133 participation in an individual event at the world championships, Olympic Games or World Cup.
- Eisenbichler, or any other German, could become the first ski jumper representing a German nation to win the world title in this event since Jens Weißflog proved victorious in 1989 while representing East Germany.
- Eisenbichler also won the world title with Germany in the men's team large hill event on 24 February. Gregor Schlierenzauer (2011, individual large hill, team normal hill and team large hill) and Thomas Morgnstern (2011, individual normal hill, team normal hill and team large hill) are the only two ski jumpers to have won three gold medals at a single edition of the world championships.

### Kobayashi looking to win Japan's fifth gold medal in men's normal hill

- Ryoyu Kobayashi could become the fifth Japanese ski jumper to win the men's normal hill world title, after Yukio Kasaya (1972, Olympic title which also counts as world title), Masahiko Harada (1993), Takanobu Okabe (1995) and Kazuyoshi Funaki (1999).
- Five world titles in the men's normal hill would put Japan on par with (East) Germany as the second-most successful nation in this event at the world championships, behind only Austria (6 world titles).
- The last Japanese ski jumper to win a medal in this event at the world championships was Noriaki Kasai. He finished third in Val di Fiemme in 2003.
- This century, three ski jumpers have won the Four Hills Tournament and the normal hill world title in the same calendar year: Adam Malysz in 2001, Wolfgang Loitzl in 2009 and Thomas Morgenstern in 2011.

### Kraft out to defend world title

- Stefan Kraft is the reigning world champion in the men's normal hill event.
- Kraft could become the third ski jumper to successfully defend his title in this event, after Hans-Georg Aschenbach (1974-1976) and Adam Malysz (2001-2003). Note: Aschenbach won the Olympic title in 1976, which is also considered a world title.

- Kraft could join Malysz (3), Aschenbach (2) and Jens Weißflog (2) as the only ski jumpers to win multiple world titles in the men's normal hill event. Note: Aschenbach won the Olympic title in 1976, which is also considered a world title.
- Kraft also won the bronze medal in this event in 2015. Only Malysz (4, G3-S0-B1) and Masahiko Harada (3, G1-S1-B1) have won at least three medals in the men's normal hill at the world championships.

### Reining Olympic champion Wellinger hoping to follow in Weißflog's footsteps

- Andreas Wellinger is the reigning Olympic champion in the men's normal hill event.
- The only ski jumper to have won the normal hill world title as reigning Olympic champion is Jens Weißflog, who claimed the world title in Seefeld in 1985 after winning the Olympic title in Sarajevo in 1984.
- Weißflog also won the world title in this event in 1989. Since then, no ski jumper has managed to win both the Olympic and world title in the men's normal hill event.
- Wellinger won the silver medal in the men's normal hill event at the world championships in 2017 in Lahti.
- Wellinger, or any other German, could become the first ski jumper representing a German nation to win the world title in this event since Weißflog proved victorious in 1989 while representing East Germany.

### Other contenders

- **Kamil Stoch** could win his first world championship medal in the men's normal hill event. He finished in fourth place in 2009 and 2017.
- Stoch, **Dawid Kubacki** and **Piotr Zyla** all hope to become the second Polish ski jumper to win the normal hill world title, after Adam Malysz who was victorious in 2001, 2003 and 2007.
- Stoch (31) and Zyla (32) could become the oldest ski jumpers to win the normal hill world title. Currently, Anders Bardal holds this record as he was 30 years old when he won the gold medal in 2013.
- The last five world titles in the men's normal hill event were won by ski jumpers from either Austria or Norway: Wolfgang Loitzl in 2009, Thomas Morgenstern in 2011, Anders Bardal in 2013, Rune Velta in 2015 and Stefan Kraft in 2017.
- **Johann André Forfang** and **Robert Johansson** could become the fifth Norwegian ski jumper to win the world title in this event, after Velta (2015), Bardal (2013), Björn Wirkola (1966) and Toralf Engan (1962).



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