

## PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM NAEBA – Saturday 22 Feb 2020

### Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis Pinturault is the only male skier to have won multiple giant slalom races in this World Cup season as he was victorious in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (2 February 2020) and Sölden (27 October 2019).
- Pinturault could win more than two World Cup giant slalom races in a single season for the third time in his career, after 2015/16 (4) and 2016/17 (3).
- Pinturault has won 13 World Cup giant slalom races and is one short of joining Hermann Maier (14) and Benjamin Raich (14) in sixth place on the all-time men's list.
- Pinturault has claimed 31 World Cup podiums in this discipline, joint-sixth on the all-time men's list along Alberto Tomba. Next up is Benjamin Reich on 35 top-three finishes in World Cup giant slalom races.
- Pinturault won the most recent World Cup giant slalom in Naeba, as he triumphed ahead of Mathieu Faivre (2nd) and Massimiliano Blardone (3rd) on 13 February 2016.
- Pinturault could become the second male skier to claim multiple World Cup giant slalom victories on Japanese soil, after Ingemar Stenmark, who won in Naeba (1974/75) and Furano (1978/79). Stenmark's triumph in Naeba marked his first of 46 giant slalom victories in the World Cup (all-time record).

### Žan Kranjec

- Žan Kranjec, overall leader in the men's giant slalom World Cup standings, recorded top-five finishes in each of the previous five World Cup giant slalom races this season. He is the only male skier to stake that claim (Henrik Kristoffersen follows on three top-five spots).
- Kranjec finished in the top five in nine of the last 10 giant slaloms in the World Cup, with the only exception a ninth place in Kranjska Gora on 9 March 2019.
- Kranjec won the giant slalom in Adelboden on 11 January, his second World Cup win in this discipline after winning in Saalbach-Hinterglemm on 19 December 2018.
- Kranjec (2) could equal the record for most World Cup wins among male skiers representing Slovenia: three by Jure Kosir.

### Henrik Kristoffersen

- Only Kjetil André Aamodt (6) has won more World Cup giant slalom races among Norwegians than Henrik Kristoffersen (4). Aksel Lund Svindal and Erik Håker also won four.
- Among Norwegian alpine skiers, Kristoffersen (20) already holds the record for most World Cup podium finishes in this discipline. Aamodt follows on 17 podium spots in World Cup giant slalom races.

- Kristoffersen has won 21 World Cup races in all disciplines, joint third-most all time among Norwegian alpine skiers along Aamodt (21). Only Svindal (36) and Kjetil Jansrud (23) have won more.
- Kristoffersen has claimed 12 top-three finishes in World Cup giant slalom races since the start of 2017/18, joint-most in this period alongside Marcel Hirscher (12).
- Kristoffersen could become the third Norwegian male skier to take a World Cup giant slalom victory in Japan, after Erik Håker in 1972/73 (Naeba) and Ole Christian Furuseth in 1988/89 (Shiga-kogen).
- Only Austrian skiers (4) have won more World Cup giant slalom races in Japanese ski resorts than alpine skiers representing Norway (2).

### Other contenders

- Each of the last four giant slalom World Cup races have been won by different skiers. The last time five consecutive giant slalom races were won by as many different skiers was from January to December 2011.
- **Filip Zubcic** finished second in the Adelboden giant slalom, his first career World Cup podium. The only man representing Croatia to have won a World Cup event is Ivica Kostelic. Kostelic won 26 World Cup events, but none in the giant slalom.
- The only Croatian woman to have won a World Cup giant slalom event is Janica Kostelic who won in Špindleruv Mlýn (2005) and in Åre (2006).
- **Tommy Ford** can become the fifth skier from United States to win multiple men's World Cup giant slalom events, after Ted Ligety (24), Bode Miller (9), Phil Mahre (7) and Steven Mahre (2).
- **Ligety** (35 years, 175 days on 22 February) can become the oldest man to win a World Cup giant slalom race, breaking the record set by Didier Cucher (35 years, 70 days) in Sölden on 25 October 2009.
- **Mathieu Faivre** has won one World Cup giant slalom race in his career, in Val d'Isère on 4 December 2016. He finished on the podium in this discipline seven times, including in Naeba (2nd) in February 2016.
- **Aleksander Aamodt Kilde** won the men's super-G in Saalbach-Hinterglemm on 14 February. The last Norwegian male skier to win consecutive World Cup races in all disciplines was Kjetil Jansrud in December 2016.
- **Austria** have won at least one men's World Cup giant slalom race in each of the previous 26 seasons, since failing to win a single race in this discipline in 1992/93.
- The last Austrian man other than Marcel Hirscher to win a giant slalom in the World Cup was Philipp Schörghofer in Hinterstoder on 6 February 2011.

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