

## PREVIEW MEN'S SLALOM NAEBA – Sunday 23 Feb 2020

### Clément Noël

- Clément Noël has won three World Cup slalom events this season, including the most recent slalom in the World Cup, in Chamonix on 8 February.
- Noël could win successive World Cup slalom events for the second time in his career, after he triumphed in both Wengen and Kitzbühel in January 2019.
- The only two French male alpine skiers to have won more than three slalom events in a single World Cup season were Jean Noël Augert (5, 1970/71) and Patrick Russel (4, 1969/70).
- Noël (6) could become the fourth Frenchman to win at least seven men's World Cup slalom events, after Augert (13), Russel (9) and Jean-Baptiste Grange (8).
- Noël finished on the podium in six of the previous nine World Cup slalom events this season. No French male alpine skier has recorded seven top-three finishes in slalom events within a single World Cup season. Russel (1969/70) and Augert (1970/71) are also on six.
- Noël could become the third Frenchman to triumph in a World Cup slalom event on Japanese soil, after Augert in Naeba (1972/73) and Pierrick Bourgeat in Shiga-kogen (2, 2000/01).

### Daniel Yule

- Daniel Yule has won three World Cup slalom events this season, all in January 2020. The last Swiss men to win four World Cup events in a season were Beat Feuz (4) and Didier Cuche (4) in 2011/12.
- Yule (4) already holds the record for most World Cup slalom wins among Swiss men.
- Only Noël (6) collected more World Cup podiums in slalom events this season than Yule (5). Henrik Kristoffersen is also on five top-three finishes in 2019/20.
- Switzerland still waits for their first victory in a slalom event in the World Cup on Japanese snow. Their best result has been a fifth-place finish by Pirmin Zurbriggen in Shiga-kogen on 10 March 1989.
- Coming into this weekend, four Swiss male skiers have won a World Cup event in Japan: Michael von Grüningen (1997, giant slalom), Paul Accola (1992, super-G), Peter Müller (1987, downhill) and Daniel Mahrer (1985, super-G).

### Henrik Kristoffersen

- Henrik Kristoffersen is the overall leader in the men's giant slalom World Cup standings. Kristoffersen (552) currently has a two-point lead on Noël (550).
- Kristoffersen has won 17 World Cup slalom events, fourth-most on the all-time men's list. Marcel Hirscher is in third place on 32 wins.
- Coming into this weekend, Kristoffersen has won 21 World Cup events in all disciplines, equal to Kjetil André Aamodt (21) in third place all time

- among Norwegian alpine skiers. Only Aksel Lund Svindal (36) and Kjetil Jansrud (23) have won more.
- Kristoffersen could become the second Norwegian male skier to triumph in a World Cup slalom event on Japanese soil, after Ole Christian Furuseth in 1988/89 (Furano).
  - Kristoffersen has competed in one World Cup slalom event in Japan before, in Naeba: seventh (2016).

### Other contenders

- **Alexis Pinturault** has won three World Cup slalom races, in Val d'Isère in 2012, in Wengen in 2014 and in Val d'isère again last December.
- Alpine skier representing **Austria** have won eight of the previous 16 World Cup men's slalom events held in Japan, at least five wins more than any other country (France follows on 3).
- The last Austrian man to claim the victory in a World Cup slalom event in Japan was Reinfried Herbst in Shiga-kogen on 11 March 2006, as he finished joint-first along Kalle Palander.
- Austria have won at least one men's World Cup slalom event in each of the previous 27 seasons. They failed to win a slalom World Cup in 1991/92.
- Michael Matt (1) and his older brother Mario Matt (3) are the only Austrian skiers other than Marcel Hirscher to have won a men's World Cup slalom event since the start of 2010/11.
- **André Myhrer** broke his own record for oldest man to claim a World Cup slalom podium when he finished second in Val d'Isère on 15 December 2019 at the age of 36 years and 338 days.
- Myhrer has won seven World Cup slalom races, but not since Aspen on 19 March 2017.
- Myhrer (37 years, 43 days on 23 February) can become the oldest man to win a World Cup slalom event. This record now belongs to Mario Matt, who won in Val d'Isère on 15 December 2013 at the age of 34 years and 250 days.
- **Ramon Zenhäusern** could become the fifth Swiss alpine skier to win multiple slalom events in the World Cup. His only previous World Cup won in this discipline came in Kranjska Gora (10 March 2019).
- **Sebastian Foss Solevaag** claimed top-10 finishes in eight of the nine previous slalom events this World Cup season, the only exception a 14th place in Zagreb on 5 January. No other contender finished in the top-10 this many times this season (Kristoffersen, Yule and Noël are on 7).
- Solevaag has recorded two World Cup podium finishes in his career, both in the slalom event. He recorded third places in Zagreb (6 January 2015) and St. Moritz (20 March 2016).

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