

PREVIEW MEN'S DOWNHILL VAL GARDENA – Saturday 19 Dec 2020

Surprise podium

- The opening downhill event of this World Cup season had a surprising podium. The winner and runner-up both came outside of the top-20 starters.
- **Martin Cater** won his first career World Cup event wearing bib 41, the second-highest bib number to win a World Cup downhill in Val d'Isère after Josef Strobl (#61) on 16 December 1994. Val Gardena holds the men's record in this discipline as Markus Foser (#66) won on 17 December 1993.
- Cater's previous best result in a World Cup downhill race was eight place in Wengen on 19 January 2019.
- Cater became the third man representing Slovenia to win a World Cup downhill race, after Andrej Jerman (2 wins) and Boštjan Kline (1 win).
- The last man to win the opening two downhill races of a World Cup season was Aksel Lund Svindal in 2015/16 (won first 3).
- Runner-up **Otmar Striedinger** (bib 26) claimed his third World Cup podium in the downhill, after third places in Kitzbühel (25 January 2019) and Soldeu (13 March 2019).
- **Urs Krienbühl** finished in third place, his second career podium in the World Cup after placing second in the Bormio downhill on 28 December 2019.

Beat Feuz

- Beat Feuz has won 10 World Cup downhill races, including two in last season (Beaver Creek, Wengen). Feuz needs two more downhill victories to reach the all-time top 10 among men in this discipline. Didier Cuche and Kristian Ghedina currently share ninth place on 12 wins each.
- Among active alpine skiers, only Dominik Paris (14) has won more men's downhill events in the World Cup than Feuz (10).
- Feuz reached the podium in 18 of the last 23 downhill races in the World Cup (5 wins). The only exceptions in this period were four sixth places and a fourth place.
- Feuz (35) is one World Cup downhill podium shy of equalling Michael Walchhofer (36) in fourth place on the men's all-time list. Only Franz Klammer (41), Peter Müller (41) and Stephan Eberharter (38) have collected more.
- Swiss men have won the Val Gardena downhill 14 times, but only once in the last 28 years: Silvan Zurbriggen on 18 December 2010.

Dominik Paris

- Dominik Paris (14) is the active male skier to have won the most downhill events in the World Cup (next Beat Feuz on 10). On the all-time men's list, Paris shares sixth place alongside Aksel Lund Svindal and Michael

Walchhofer. Franz Heinzer and Hermann Maier (both 15) share fourth place.

- Paris finished in the top two in seven of his last nine downhill participations in the World Cup (5 wins). The only exceptions in this discipline were a 10th place in Val d'Isère last week and an 11th place in Beaver Creek on 7 December 2019.
- Paris can become the third Italian man to win the Val Gardena downhill in the World Cup, after Kristian Ghedina (4 times) and Herbert Plank (once). Ghedina was the last to achieve this on 15 December 2001.
- Paris has won a joint-record five men's World Cup downhill races in Italy, alongside Franz Klammer, Ghedina and Walchhofer. Paris claimed all five of those wins in Bormio.

Other contenders

- **Aleksander Aamodt Kilde** finished fourth in the Val d'Isère downhill last week, his ninth top-10 finish in a row in this discipline.
- Kilde has won two downhill races in the World Cup, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen on 30 January 2016 and in Val Gardena on 15 December 2018 (the most recent held there).
- Kilde can become the first man to win successive World Cup downhills in Val Gardena since Michael Walchhofer in 2007/08 and 2008/09.
- **Kjetil Jansrud** (4) has claimed the most World Cup downhill podiums in Val Gardena without ever winning.
- Jansrud (10, excluding super-G on 18 December 2020) holds the men's record for most World Cup podiums in Val Gardena in all disciplines.
- Jansrud has won eight downhill races in the World Cup, but not since winning in Kvitfjell on 25 February 2017.
- **Matthias Mayer** won two of the last five downhill events in the World Cup, both in 2020 (Kitzbühel, Kvitfjell). The last Austrian man to win three World Cup downhill races in a single calendar year was Hannes Reichelt in 2015 (3).
- **Hannes Reichelt** (40 years) and **Johan Clarey** (39 years) participate in the World Cup for another season. The record for oldest man to win a World Cup event belongs to Didier Cuche who won the Crans-Montana super-G on 24 February 2012 at age 37 years and 192 days.
- Reichelt has won six downhills in the World Cup, but not since Garmisch-Partenkirchen on 28 January 2017.
- Clarey has collected six World Cup podiums in the downhill, but failed to win one. The last Frenchman to win a World Cup downhill was Adrien Théaux in Santa Caterina on 29 December 2015.

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