

## PREVIEW MEN'S GIANT SLALOM LENZERHEIDE – Saturday 20 Mar 2021

### Pinturault v Odermatt

- Alexis Pinturault and Marco Odermatt are battling for the overall World Cup and for the giant slalom crystal globe. Filip Zubcic mathematically also still has a chance to win the giant slalom globe, but is trailing Odermatt by 99 points.
- Pinturault is hoping to become the third Frenchman to win the overall globe, after Jean-Claude Killy (1966/67, 1967/68) and Luc Alphand (1996/97).
- Odermatt could join Peter Lüscher (1978/79), Pirmin Zurbriggen (1983/84, 1986/87, 1987/88, 1989/90), Paul Accola (1991/92) and Carlo Janka (2009/10) as Swiss winners of the men's overall.
- The men's giant slalom crystal globe was won by a French skier on four previous occasions: Killy in 1966/67 and 1967/78, Patrick Russel in 1970/71 and Frederic Covili in 2001/02.
- Swiss skiers have won the men's giant slalom globe 11 times, only trailing Austrian skiers (15) for most. Didier Cuche was in 2008/09 the most recent Swiss man to win this globe.
- Killy (1966/67, 1967/68) is the only Frenchman to win the overall and giant slalom globes in the same season. Zurbriggen (1983/84, 1986/87) is the only Swiss man to achieve this.
- Pinturault has already won seven World Cup classifications, but they came in the men's Alpine combined (6 times) and parallel event (2020/21).
- Coming into this season, Odermatt's best result in a World Cup classification was a seventh place in the 2019/20 super-G. This season, he will be guaranteed at least a top-three finish in the super-G and giant slalom, and at least a top-four finish in the overall.

### Alexis Pinturault

- Alexis Pinturault finished in the top-five in each of the nine giant slalom events this World Cup season. He claimed three successive wins in Alta Badia and Adelboden (2).
- Pinturault could claim more than three giant slalom wins in a World Cup season for the second time, after 2015/16 (4).
- Pinturault can become the first man to win three giant slalom events on Swiss snow in a World Cup season.
- Pinturault has achieved 17 World Cup wins in the giant slalom, ranking him in fifth place on the all-time men's list. Michael von Grünigen is in fourth place on 23 wins.
- Ahead of the super-G in Lenzerheide, Pinturault shares ninth place on the men's list for most World Cup wins in all disciplines with Bode Miller (both 33 wins). Benjamin Raich and Aksel Lund Svindal are in seventh place on 36 wins each.

## Marco Odermatt

- Marco Odermatt finished in the top-five in each of the last 11 giant slalom events in the World Cup. In this run, he claimed his first career World Cup wins in the giant slalom as he emerged victorious in Santa Caterina on 7 December 2020 and in Kranjska Gora on 13 March 2021.
- Odermatt can become the first Swiss man to win successive World Cup giant slalom events since Michael von Grünigen from November to December 2002.
- Von Grünigen (3) was in 2002/03 also the last Swiss man to claim more than two giant slalom wins in a World Cup season.
- The last Swiss man to win a World Cup giant slalom event on Swiss snow was Marc Berthod in Adelboden on 5 January 2008.
- Among Swiss men, only Pirmin Zurbriggen (5) and Carlo Janka (3) won more than two World Cup giant slalom events before their 24th birthday.

## Other contenders

- **Filip Zubcic** mathematically still has a chance to win the giant slalom globe, but is trailing Marco Odermatt by 99 points.
- Only two skiers representing Croatia have won a World Cup standing: siblings Janica (10) and Ivica Kostelic (6). The Kostelic siblings won crystal globes in the overall, the slalom and Alpine combined, but never in the giant slalom.
- Zubcic (3) is one of only three skiers representing Croatia to win a World Cup event, alongside siblings Janica (30) and Ivica Kostelic (26).
- **Mathieu Faivre** finished in the top-two in three of his last four giant slalom appearances: first at the world championships, second in Bansko on 27 February and first in Bansko on 28 February.
- Ahead of the 2021 world championships, Faivre's only individual win in a competition at world level was a World Cup giant slalom victory in Val d'Isère on 4 December 2016.
- French male skiers have only won more World Cup giant slalom events in 1966/67 (5) and 2015/16 (5) than in current season (4).
- **Luca De Aliprandini**, silver medallist in this event at the world championships, can become the first Italian man to reach a World Cup podium in the giant slalom since Florian Eisath came third in Alta Badia on 18 December 2016. The last Italian man to win a giant slalom in the World Cup was Massimiliano Blardone in Crans-Montana on 26 February 2012.
- Last season, **Austria** failed to win a single men's giant slalom event for the first time since the 1992/93 season. The last Austrian other than Marcel Hirscher to win a men's giant slalom in the World Cup was Philipp Schörghofer in Hinterstoder on 6 February 2011.
- **Henrik Kristoffersen** (4) could become the second Norwegian to win at least five giant slalom events in the World Cup, after Kjetil André Aamodt (6). He now shares second place with Aksel Lund Svindal (4) and Erik Håker (4).



- **Žan Kranjec** (2 wins in giant slalom) could equal Jure Kosir's record for most World Cup wins among male skiers representing Slovenia (3).

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