

PREVIEW MEN'S EVENTS RUKA - 26-28 Nov 2021

Jarl Magnus Riiber

- Jarl Magnus Riiber won the opening individual World Cup event in each of the past two seasons, both in Ruka. He also claimed the overall victory in the Ruka Tour in those opening weekends.
- Riiber won five of the six individual World Cup events in Ruka events since the start of 2019/20. His five wins here are equal most with Ronny Ackermann (5, 2003-2008).
- Riiber has won 36 individual World Cup events. Hannu Manninen (48) and Eric Frenzel (43) are the only Nordic combined skiers on more wins.
- Riiber has been leading the World Cup classification after each of the last 52 individual World Cup events, ever since his win in Lillehammer on 30 November 2018, when he took over the yellow bib as leader in the standings from Mario Seidl who had won the 2018/19 season's opening event in Ruka the week before.
- Riiber can become the first Nordic combined skier to win the opening individual World Cup event of the season in three successive campaigns.

Akito Watabe

- Akito Watabe has won 19 individual World Cup events, equal most with Kenji Ogiwara among Japanese men.
- Watabe is the only Japanese man to have won an individual World Cup event in Ruka, on 25 November 2017. He also won the first edition of the Ruka Tour that weekend.
- The venues where Watabe claimed multiple individual World Cup wins are Oslo (4), Seefeld (3), Lahti (3) and Schonach (2).

Ilkka Herola

- Ilkka Herola hopes to claim the first individual World Cup event win for Finland since Hannu Manninen won the last of his record 48 victories in Lahti on 6 March 2010.
- The last Finnish Nordic combined skier to win an individual World Cup event on home snow in Ruka was Manninen, when he won the large hill/10km event on 29 November 2009.
- Herola has recorded nine podium finishes in individual World Cup events, but he has yet to claim his first victory. Two athletes recorded more podium finishes without having claimed a win in their career: Allar Levandi (11 podium finishes) and Georg Hettich (11).

Other contenders

- Johannes Rydzek has won four individual World Cup events in Ruka, one short of the record five wins here by Riiber and Ackermann.
- Vinzenz Geiger has won seven individual World Cup events. He won his events in three venues, Ramsau am Dachstein (3), Val Di Fiemme (2) and Klingenthal (2).
- Geiger has recorded one podium finish in 12 individual World Cup starts in Ruka, a second-place finish in the large hill/10km event on 30 November 2019.
- **Eric Frenzel** has won 43 individual World Cup events, second only to Hannu Manninen's 48 wins. Frenzel's last victory in an individual World Cup event was in Trondheim on 13 March 2018.
- Frenzel can become the fourth Nordic combined skier to win an individual World Cup event in at least 10 seasons, after Hannu Manninen (12 seasons), Magnus Moan (12) and Björn Kircheisen (10).
- Frenzel (79) is second on the list of most podium finishes in individual World Cups, behind Manninen (90).
- **Fabian Rießle** (9) needs one more win to claim his 10th individual World Cup victory.
- **Jens Lurås Oftebro** has won one individual World Cup, in Ruka last season.
- **Austria** has won 69 individual World Cup events. Its last win was by Bernhard Gruber in Schonach on 16 March 2019. Gruber was 36 years and 216 days old at the time and is the oldest winner of an individual World Cup event in men's Nordic combined.
- **Johannes Lamparter** won the men's large hill/10km event at the 2021 world championships. He has yet to win his first individual World Cup event.
- Lamparter (born 8 November 2001) can become the second youngest Austrian winner of an individual World Cup event, after Mario Stecher, who won five events before his 20th birthday.
- **Mario Seidl** won the opening individual World Cup event of the 2018/19 season in Ruka on 24 November 2018 to become the last man to lead the overall World Cup standings before Jarl Magnus Riiber took over the yellow bib a week later. Riiber has led the standings ever since.

Ruka

- Ruka has been on the Nordic combined World Cup calendar in every season since 2002/03, with the exception of 2015/16.
- This is the 18th season in which Ruka will host the opening individual World Cup, and the sixth season in a row. The last time it was not the host of the opening World Cup event was in 2015/16, when the season started in Lillehammer.
- Jarl Magnus Riiber (5) and Ronny Ackermann (5) has won most individual World Cup events in Ruka, ahead of Hannu Manninen (4), Johannes Rydzek (4) and Jason Lamy Chappuis (4).
- Hannu Manninen has finished on the podium a record 10 times in Ruka, ahead of Ackermann (7), Eric Frenzel (7), Johannes Rydzek (6) and Riiber (6).
- German Nordic combined skiers have won 12 individual World Cup events in Ruka. Norway (8) and Finland (5) are next on the list of most wins here.

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