

PREVIEW LADIES' DOWNHILL VAL GARDENA – Tuesday 18 Dec 2018

Schmidhofer eyeing third win of the season

- Nicole Schmidhofer won the opening two downhill races of this World Cup season, both in Lake Louise.
- Schmidhofer can join Ilka Štuhec (2016/17) and Lindsey Vonn (2009/10) as the only women this century to win the first three World Cup downhill races of a season.
- In the previous 11 World Cup seasons, only Vonn (8 occasions), Maria Höfl-Riesch (2 occasions) and Štuhec (2016/17) won at least three downhill races in one campaign.
- The last Austrian woman to win three World Cup downhill races in one season was Renate Götschl in 2006/07.
- Schmidhofer's two wins in Lake Louise are her first race wins on the World Cup.
- Schmidhofer's only other World Cup podium in downhill was a third place in Cortina d'Ampezzo on 24 January 2014.

Other contenders

- **Michelle Gisin** finished on both podiums in the first two downhill races of the season, in Lake Louise. She finished second in the first race and third in the second race.
- Gisin has now claimed three World Cup podiums in the downhill, all in Lake Louise. She has yet to win a World Cup race in any event.
- The last Swiss woman to win a downhill race on the World Cup was Lara Gut-Behrami in Cortina d'Ampezzo on 28 January 2017.
- **Gut-Behrami** has won 24 World Cup races in her career. She could become the fifth female Swiss skier to win at least 25 races, after Vreni Schneider (55), Erika Hess (31), Michaela Figini (26) and Maria Walliser (25).
- Gut-Behrami's last two World Cup wins came in Italy, both in Cortina d'Ampezzo (2017, 2018).
- **Ilka Štuhec** has won four World Cup downhill races, joint-most for a woman representing Slovenia alongside Tina Maze.
- **Mikaela Shiffrin** has won one downhill event on the World Cup, last year in Lake Louise. But she will skip the Val Gardena races to focus on training for the Courchevel technical events.
- **Viktoria Rebensburg** has claimed five World Cup podiums in downhill. Five women have collected more World Cup downhill podiums without a single win: Annie Famose (9), Carole Merle (9), Anna Veith (8), Veronika Stallmaier-Wallinger (7) and Florence Steurer (6).
- **Kira Weidle** finished third in the first downhill race of the season, in Lake Louise. This was her first World Cup podium in any event.



- The last German woman to win a World Cup downhill event was Maria Höfl-Riesch in Cortina d'Ampezzo on 24 January 2014.

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