

## PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Sunday 30 Dec 2018

### **Stoch poised to win record six Four Hills events in a row**

- Last year, Kamil Stoch became the second man to win all four events of the Four Hills Tournament in a single edition, after Sven Hannawald in 2001/02.
- If Stoch wins in Oberstdorf, he becomes the first man to win six Four Hills events in a row. Helmuth Recknagel (1958-1959) and Sven Hannawald (2001-2002) also won five in a row.
- Stoch (5) could equal Recknagel and Hannawald is sixth place all-time on six wins in the Four Hills tournament. Matti Nykänen (7) stands in fifth place.
- Stoch is still waiting for his first individual win this World Cup season. His best result so far is a second place in Ruka on 24 November.
- Stoch has won eight World Cup events in 2018 (all in 2017/18). No other man has won more than four.
- Only Adam Malysz in 2007 (9) and 2001 (17) managed to claim more than eight individual World Cup victories for Poland in a single calendar year.
- Stoch has won 31 individual World Cup events, sixth most all-time among men. Stoch needs two more wins to join Jens Weißflog (33) in fifth place.

### **Kobayashi poised to give Japan second Four Hills title**

- Current World Cup leader Ryoyu Kobayashi could become the second Japanese man to win the Four Hills Tournament, after Kazuyoshi Funaki in 1997/98.
- Funaki won the first three Four Hills events that season. Since then, only Noriaki Kasai managed to win Four Hills events for Japan: Innsbruck in 1998/99 and Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2000/01.
- Kobayashi's best result in one of the Four Hills events is a 12th place in Oberstdorf last season.
- The last Japanese ski jumper on the podium in one of the Four Hills events was also Noriaki Kasai, when he finished second in Bischofshofen in 2014/15.
- Kobayashi has claimed four individual World Cup victories this season. The last Japanese ski jumper with more victories in a single season was Kasai with a Japanese record of six wins in 1998/99.

### **Peter Prevc looking to complete Four Hills set**

- In 2015/16, Peter Prevc won the Four Hills events in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Innsbruck and Bischofshofen on his way to claiming the Golden Eagle.
- If he wins in Oberstdorf, Prevc will become the 11th ski jumper to win all four hills as well as the overall title in the Four Hills Tournament.

- Prevc finished on the podium only once in his last 31 individual World Cup appearances, when he finished third in Zakopane on 28 January 2018.
- Prevc's last individual World Cup victory was in Sapporo on 11 February 2017.

### **Kraft eyeing record-equalling third win in Oberstdorf**

- Stefan Kraft won the Four Hills opening event in Oberstdorf in 2014/15 and 2016/17. He can join Dieter Thoma and Martin Schmitt on a record three wins in this city.
- Gregor Schlierenzauer and Simon Ammann can also win the Oberstdorf event for a record-equalling third time.
- Kraft has not won any other Four Hills event than Oberstdorf. His best result in another Four Hills city is a second place in Innsbruck in 2014/15.
- Kraft's best result in an individual World Cup event this season is a fifth place finish in Nizhny Tagil on 1 December.
- Kraft and Peter Prevc are the only ski jumpers to have finished on the podium in an individual World Cup event in each of the previous six seasons. Both athletes have yet to record their first top-three finish of the 2018/19 season.

### **Austrians aiming to end podium drought**

- Austrian ski jumpers have won a record 63 Four Hills events and have claimed 174 podium finishes in the competition, but are waiting for their first podium finish since Michael Hayböck finished second in Bischofshofen in 2016/17.
- Their last victory was in Oberstdorf in 2016/17, when Stefan Kraft was victorious.
- Austria's last individual World Cup victory was also claimed by Kraft, when he won the ski flying event in Planica on 26 March 2017.
- Austria are now 29 individual World Cup events without a victory. The last time Austrian jumpers failed to win more consecutive individual World Cup events was from February 2000 to January 2002: 45 in a row.

### **Other contenders**

- **Daniel-André Tande** is the last person other than Kamil Stoch to have won a Four Hills event. He claimed victory in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Innsbruck in 2016/17.
- Tande's best result in 2018/19 is a 21st-place finish in the second event in Nizhny Tagil.
- Severin Freund is the only **German** in the last 15 years to win the Oberstdorf event at the Four Hills Tournament, when he claimed victory here in 2015/16.
- **Piotr Zyla** has finished on the podium in each of the last four individual World Cup events. He could become the second ski jumper this season to

- claim five successive individual podium finishes, after Ryoyu Kobayashi (Wisla - Ruka - Ruka - Nizhny Tagil - Nizhny Tagil)
- Zyla has claimed nine individual podium finishes in the World Cup, one of which is a victory (Oslo on 17 March 2013).
  - **Gregor Schlierenzauer** has won nine individual Four Hills events: three in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and two each in Oberstdorf, Innsbruck and Bischofshofen.
  - Schlierenzauer is one short of the record of 10 wins, held by Björn Wirkola and Jens Weißflog.
  - Schlierenzauer last won a Four Hills event on 6 January 2013, in Bischofshofen.

International Ski Federation    [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)  
Gracenote Sports on Twitter    [@GracenoteGold](https://twitter.com/GracenoteGold)