

PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Tuesday 1 Jan 2019

Kobayashi targets Oberstdorf - Garmisch-Partenkirchen double

- Ryoyu Kobayashi's win in Oberstdorf was the first Japanese victory in a Four Hills event since Noriaki Kasai won in Garmisch-Partenkirchen on 1 January 2001.
- Kobayashi is now looking to become the fourth ski jumper since 2005/06 to win the first two Four Hills events.
- Only Kamil Stoch (2017/18), Anders Jacobsen (2012/13) and Gregor Schlierenzauer (2011/12) achieved this feat in the last 13 seasons.
- In 19 of the previous 66 Four Hills tournaments the winner of the first event also won the second event.
- Of these 19 occasions, six ski jumpers failed to win the overall title: Jacobsen in 2012/13, Martin Schmitt in 1998/99, Toni Innauer in 1975/76, Yukio Kasaya in 1971/72, Ingolf Mork in 1970/71 and Aulis Kallakorpi in 1954/55.
- Kobayashi is the fourth Japanese winner of a Four Hills event, after Kazuyoshi Funaki (5), Kasai (3) and Kasaya (3).
- Kobayashi can become the third Japanese man to win multiple events in a single Four Hills tournament, after Funaki in 1997/98 (3) and Kasaya in 1971/72 (3).
- Kobayashi has now won five individual World Cup events this season, equal to Funaki in 1997/98 and Masahiko Harada (also 1997/98). The only Japanese man with more World Cup wins in a single campaign was Kasai in 1998/99 (6).

Nine of last 10 leaders after Garmisch-Partenkirchen winning overall

- Since 2008/09, nine of the 10 leaders of the Four Hills tournament after the second event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen went on to win the overall title.
- The only exception in this run was 2012/13 when Anders Jacobsen had the lead after Garmisch-Partenkirchen, but Gregor Schlierenzauer eventually won.
- That season Jacobsen won the first two events (Oberstdorf and Garmisch-Partenkirchen) ahead of Schlierenzauer (second twice), but Schlierenzauer won the final two events in Innsbruck and Bischofshofen.
- In 2017/18 and 2016/17, Kamil Stoch was the leader after Garmisch-Partenkirchen and went on to win the Four Hills tournaments.
- The only Japanese man to have won the Four Hills tournament is Kazuyoshi Funaki (1997/98). Funaki won the first three events in that campaign.

Norway and Germany one win short of equalling Austria's record wins in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

- Norway and Germany (including FRG & GDR) have both won 13 times in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the Four Hills tournament, one fewer than Austria's record 14 wins.
- Norwegian jumpers have won three of the last six times in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, including by Daniel-André Tande in 2017.
- At 13 wins, Garmisch-Partenkirchen is Norway's favourite hill in the Four Hills tournament (Bischofshofen 12, Innsbruck 12, Oberstdorf 8).
- Andreas Stjernen finished fourth in Oberstdorf, to equal his best result in a Four Hills event (4th in Innsbruck 2018). His only individual World Cup win was in the Ski Flying event in Tauplitz/Bad Mitterndorf in January 2018.
- The last German ski jumper to win in Garmisch-Partenkirchen was Sven Hannawald in 2002.
- Germany has recorded five podium finishes in Garmisch-Partenkirchen since Hannawald's victory, most recently Richard Freitag's second place in 2018.
- Markus Eisenbichler finished second in Oberstdorf, his best result in a Four Hills event. His previous best rank was a fourth place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2017.
- Japan has won four times in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, most recently in 2001, when Noriaki Kasai won. Japan has only won more Four Hills events in Innsbruck (5).

Kraft give Austria new hope

- Austrian ski jumpers have won a record 63 Four Hills events and have claimed 175 podium finishes in the competition.
- Stefan Kraft's third place in Oberstdorf ended a run without a podium finish for Austria since Michael Hayböck finished second in Bischofshofen in 2016/17.
- Austria's last victory was in Oberstdorf in 2016/17, when Kraft was victorious.
- Kraft has not won any other Four Hills event than Oberstdorf (2 wins). His best result in another Four Hills city is a second place in Innsbruck in 2014/15.
- 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.

Other contenders

- Last year's Four Hills winner **Kamil 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 (5) could equal Helmuth Recknagel and Sven Hannawald is sixth place all-time on six wins in the Four Hills tournament. Matti Nykänen (7) stands in fifth place.
- **Piotr Zyla** has finished on the podium in four of the last five individual World Cup events. His only podium finish in a Four Hills event was a third place in Bischofshofen in 2017.
- Zyla has claimed nine individual podium finishes in the World Cup, one of which is a victory (Oslo on 17 March 2013).

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