

## PREVIEW Men INDIVIDUAL - LARGE HILL – Friday 4 Jan 2019

### **Kobayashi seeking triple victory in Four Hills**

- Ryoyu Kobayashi could become the 11th jumper, and the third Japanese, to win the first three events of a single Four Hills Tournament, after Olav Björnstad (1953/54), Helmuth Recknagel (1958/59), Max Bolkart (1959/60), Toralf Engan (1962/63), Björn Wirkola (1968/69), Yukio Kasaya (1971/72), Kazuyoshi Funaki (1997/98), Sven Hannawald (2001/02), Janne Ahonen (2004/05) and Kamil Stoch (2017/18).
- Nine of those previous 10 jumpers also won the overall Four Hills standings, with the exception of Kasaya in 1971/72.
- In the last 19 seasons, only once the leader after the Innsbruck event failed to win the Golden Eagle - in 2016/17, Daniel-André Tande led after three events but was surpassed by Stoch in the final event.
- Kobayashi has now won six individual World Cup events this season, equal to Noriaki Kasai in 1998/99 (6) and he could become the first Japanese ski jumper to win seven individual World Cup events in a season.
- Japan could win in Innsbruck for the sixth time in the Four Hills tournament. Japan claimed five wins in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and three in Oberstdorf.
- Japan's last win in Innsbruck was in 1999, when Kasai won ahead of Janne Ahonen and Hideharu Miyahira.
- Finland (14), Austria (13), Norway (12) and Germany (11, including East and West Germany) have won more often in Innsbruck.
- The Kobayashi brothers Ryoyu and Junshiro have yet to finish on the podium together in the same individual World Cup event. The event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen was the first in which both brothers finished in the top-5 in an individual World Cup event.

### **Eisenbichler wants to avoid hat-trick of second places**

- Markus Eisenbichler finished second in Oberstdorf and in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and he could become the second ski jumper to finish runner up at the first three hills, after Andreas Goldberger in 1994/95.
- Only two other ski jumpers finished runner up three times in a row Janne Ahonen in 1998/99 and Jiri Raska in 1970/71.
- Raska, Goldberger and Ahonen all won the overall classification in these seasons.
- Eisenbichler is hoping to claim his first individual World Cup win. He has six podium finishes. The record for most individual podium finishes without a victory is 11, set by Olav Hansson.
- Germany's last win in a Four Hills event was in Oberstdorf in 2015/16, when Severin Freund won. The last German winner in Innsbruck was Richard Freitag in 2014/15.

- Germany (including East and West) has claimed 11 wins in Innsbruck in the Four Hills tournament. It has won 21 times in Oberstdorf, 13 times in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and 10 times in Bischofshofen.
- Germany have only finished second more often in Oberstdorf (18) than in Innsbruck (17). In 2016, Freund was the last German ski jumper to finish second in Innsbruck.

### **Poland eyeing third win in Innsbruck**

- Poland have won twice in Innsbruck and finished on the podium nine times. They have only won more often in Bischofshofen - three wins and also nine podiums places.
- Kamil Stoch is the only Polish ski jumper to finish on the podium at Innsbruck in the last seven seasons. He won in 2018, finished third in 2014 and was runner-up in 2013.
- Adam Malysz (1st in 2001, 2nd in 2002, 2005, 2011) and Jozef Przbyla (3rd in 1964, 1965) are the other Polish athletes to have recorded podium finishes in Innsbruck.
- 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 in sixth place all-time on six wins in the Four Hills tournament. Matti Nykänen (7) is in fifth place.
- Dawid Kubacki finished fifth in Oberstdorf this season and third in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. His best result in Innsbruck is a 17th place in 2017.
- Kubacki hopes to become the third Polish ski jumper to win an event in the Four Hills tournament after Kamil Stoch (5) and Adam Malysz (2). Both Stoch (2018) and Malysz (2001) have won in Innsbruck.
- Kubacki has yet to finish higher than third in a Four Hills event. He also came in third in Oberstdorf in 2017/18.
- Kubacki's best result in an individual World Cup event was a second place in Lillehammer in March 2018.

### **Austria in search of podium finish**

- Austrian ski jumpers have won a record 63 Four Hills events and have claimed 176 podium finishes in the competition.
- Austrian jumpers have not reached the podium in Innsbruck since Stefan Kraft finished second 2014/15.
- The last time Austria did not finish on the podium in Innsbruck in four successive seasons was from 1982 to 1986 (5 years in a row).
- Gregor Schlierenzauer is the last Austrian jumper to win in Innsbruck, in 2013. He also won here in 2010.
- Only Finland (14) has won more Four Hills events in Innsbruck than Austria (13).

- The last Austrian jumper to win a Four Hills event on home snow was Michael Hayböck in Bischofshofen in 2014/15.

### Other contenders

- **Timi Zajc** (18 years old) finished ninth in Oberstdorf and eighth in Garmisch-Partenkirchen this season. He is already the first ski jumper born in this century to finish in the top-10 of a Four Hills event.
- The last ski jumper younger than 19 years old to finish in the top-three was Gregor Schlierenzauer with a second place in Innsbruck in 2009 (18 years old).
- Two of **Daniel-André Tande's** three podium finishes in a Four Hills event have come in Innsbruck - first in 2017 and second in 2018. The only Norwegian to have recorded more podium finishes in Innsbruck is Björn Wirkola (G3-S2-B0).
- Norway have not won any of the last seven Four Hills events since Tande won in Innsbruck in 2017. The last time Norway had a longer winless streak was a run of 16 events that started after Anders Jacobsen's win in Innsbruck in 2007 and lasted until Tom Hilde's victory in Bischofshofen in 2011.
- **Roman Koudelka** finished fourth in Garmisch-Partenkirchen to claim his best result in an individual World Cup since his victory in Wisla in March 2016.
- Koudelka equalled his best result in a Four Hills event (also 4th in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2008).
- The last Czech ski jumper to finish on the podium of a Four Hills event was Jakub Janda in 2005/06, finishing third in Oberstdorf, first in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and second in Innsbruck and in Bischofshofen.

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