

March 1, 2023

Heerenveen, Netherlands

Speed Skating World Single Distances Championships (2-5 March 2023) - Men

Patrick Roest

- Patrick Roest is aiming to win his first individual title at the world single distances championships. In 2019, he took silver in both the 5000m and 10,000m. In 2021, he claimed bronze in the 1500m and silver in the 5000m. Roest won gold in the men's team pursuit with Netherlands in 2021.
- Only Wang Beixing (G0-S5-B1), Ivan Skobrev (G0-S1-B4) and Frank Dittrich (G0-S0-B5) won more individual medals at the world single distances championships without claiming gold than Patrick Roest (G0-S3-B1).
- Roest also did not win an Olympic gold medal in an individual event (G0-S3-B0). On world level, Roest did claim three allround titles (2018, 2019, 2020).
- Roest completed a treble of titles in the 1500m, 5000m and 10,000m at the Dutch championships this season, something only Sven Kramer (November 2006 and October-November 2008) had achieved.
- Only Kramer (2008, 2017) and Rintje Ritsma (1997) finished on the podium in the 1500m, 5000m and 10,000m at the same world single distances championships.
- Roest finished on the podium in 32 of his last 33 appearances in 5000m races at national, continental or world level, with a disqualification at the 2021 world single distances championships in Salt Lake City as the exception.

Kjeld Nuis and Thomas Krol

- Kjeld Nuis (2017, 2020) and Thomas Krol (2019, 2021) have divided the men's 1500m world titles between them at the last four world championships. In 2020, Nuis finished first and Krol second and in 2021 the roles were reversed. Nuis (gold) and Krol (silver) also finished 1-2 at the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games in this event.
- Both Nuis and Krol can equal Shani Davis and Denis Yuskov on a record three world titles in the men's 1500m.
- Nuis (2017) is one of three men to have completed the 1000m/1500m double at the same world single distances championships, alongside Erben Wennemars (2003) and Davis (2007).
- Nuis (G1-S3-B3) has won a joint-record seven medals in the men's 1000m at the world single distances championships, alongside Davis (G4-S0-B3).
- Krol can become the fourth man to win both the Olympic and world title in the 1000m, after Davis, Stefan Groothuis and Nuis.

Jordan Stolz

- Jordan Stolz, 18 years old, can become the youngest speed skater (male or female) to win an event at the world single distances championships.
- No man won as many World Cup events this season as Stolz. He claimed two wins in the 1000m and two in the 1500m.
- Last month, Stolz won five gold medals at the world junior speed skating championships: 500m, 1000m, 1500m, overall classification and team sprint.

Other contenders

- Since the format of the 500m changed to a single race, four different men have claimed the world title in this event: Jan Smeekens (2017), Ruslan Murashov (2019), Pavel Kulizhnikov (2020) and Laurent Dubreuil (2021).
- **Laurent Dubreuil**, 30 years old, can become the third male speed skater to claim the 500m world title after his 30th birthday, after Jeremy Wotherspoon (31 in 2008) and Lee Kyou-Hyuk (32 in 2011).
- **Hein Otterspeer** is aiming to win his first medal at the world single distances championships. He will compete in his first world single distances championships since 2015 (4th in the 500m, 5th in the 1000m).
- Otterspeer won the World Cup standings in the 1000m this season, ahead of Dubreuil and Stolz.
- Otterspeer, 34 years old, can become the oldest world champion in both the 500m and the 1000m.
- **Bart Swings** is looking to become the first ever Belgian speed skater with a world title in any event (male or female). The best result by a Belgian rider is a second place by Bart Veldkamp. He won silver in 1996 in the 10,000m and in the 5000m in 1999.
- Swings can become the second man to win both an Olympic and world title in the men's mass start, after Lee Seung-Hoon.
- **Japan** has won the men's 500m a record seven times. Republic of Korea (5), Canada (4), Russia (4) and Netherlands (1) follow.
- **Yuma Murakami** and **Wataru Morishige** hope to become the fourth Japanese winner of the men's 500m at the world single distances championships, after Hiroyasu Shimizu (5), Manabu Horii (1) and Joji Kato (1). It would be the first time a country other than the Netherlands has at least four different winners in an individual event.

Various

- The world single distances championships will be held for a 22nd time, and for a fifth time in Heerenveen (record). The inaugural edition was in 1996.
- **Netherlands has won 99 gold medals in the world single distances championships (63 more than any other country).**
- In the last two editions of the event, the men's 10,000m was won by non-Dutch speed skaters: Graeme Fish won in 2019, Nils van der Poel in 2021. Dutch skaters had won each of the first 19 editions of the event at the world single distances championships.
- Netherlands has won 16 of the 21 world titles in the men's 5000m but not since Sven Kramer's record-eighth gold medal in this event in 2017. The last three editions of the men's 5000m were won by Sverre Lunde Pedersen (2019), Ted-Jan Bloemen (2020) and Van der Poel (2021).
- Netherlands has won 12 of the 13 men's team pursuits held at the world single distances championships, with the only exception a third place in 2011 behind world champions United States and silver medallists Canada. In contrast, the Dutch team has won 'only' one Olympic title (2014) and finished outside of the podium at Beijing 2022 (fourth).
- **Norway** won the last two men's team pursuits at the Olympic Winter Games, but its best result at the world single distances championships are second-place finishes in 2016 and 2019.
- **Italy** (G0-S6-B2) is the country with the most medals without ever winning a world title in men's and women's events combined.