

Season Preview 2026 – Andreas Kolb

New chapter. Same hunger. Even more speed.

The offseason is done—and honestly, things feel better than ever. Form is high, everything is clicking, and the excitement for the season is real.

New team. New energy.

Joining the Santa Cruz Syndicate marks the start of a new chapter—and a big opportunity. The Syndicate isn't just a team. It's an institution in downhill. World-class structure, experience, and pure speed.

"The new crew is unreal. I've never been part of a team where everyone is this committed. That can only mean one thing—this is going to be a big year."

The goal is simple: deliver the best possible performance at every race. And the environment? It gives me exactly what I need to do that.

What's new? 2026 isn't just a new jersey—it's a full upgrade across the board:

- a top-tier team environment
- a refined bike setup focused on high-speed stability
- dialed-in training and recovery systems
- clear mental routines for race day

In short: less guesswork, more focus, more control.

New venues. New challenges.

This season will be tougher—and more exciting. New stops on the World Cup calendar mean fresh tracks, unknown lines, and exactly what I love:

- uncertainty, adaptability, and fun.
- High-speed sections, technical terrain, changing conditions—
- there's no such thing as a "business as usual" race.
- "I like not knowing what's coming. That's where I perform at my best."

New partners. More power behind the scenes.

With the new team comes a new setup:

Core Syndicate Partners

Santa Cruz Bicycles – Bike (V10 DH)
FOX – Suspension
FOX Racing – Apparel
Maxxis – Tires
Shimano – Drivetrain & Brakes
Burgtec – Saddle & Seatpost
OneUp Components – Handlebar
Reserve – Rims
Chris King – Hubs & Headset
Peaty's – Sealant & Lubricants

This setup isn't just about equipment—it's built around performance: from the bike to suspension, to nutrition and recovery. At the same time, the core stays the same: the people behind the scenes who've been part of this journey for years. Because in the end, it's not just the rider who wins—the whole system wins.

Locked in for the new season

After an intense offseason, one thing is clear: the hunger is bigger than ever. The past years showed what's possible: coming back from multiple injuries, stepping onto podiums, winning a World Cup in Leogang, and taking a World Championship medal.

Now it's about building on that. "I know what I'm capable of. Now it's about delivering it consistently when it counts." Looking ahead – 2026 won't be an easy season. That's exactly the point.

More risk.

More commitment.

More focus.

**And most importantly:
no half measures.**

Let's go. The season's on.

