

Press Release

5 September 2019

13/14 September – adidas ROCKSTARS The world's top competition climbers meet in Stuttgart for a stellar season finale

Impressive, gravity-defying moves on state-of-the-art climbing walls are guaranteed when the world's best bouldering athletes fight for an entry to the super-final at the annual adidas ROCKSTARS invitational that is hosted in Germany next weekend, on the 13th and 14th of September. The prestigious event draws the top stars of the climbing scene to Stuttgart's Porsche-Arena, because it stages enthralling competition bouldering as intoxicating show.

The popular invitational contest for the international climbing elite takes place for the ninth consecutive time and this year, too, sees a top line-up. Around 4,000 spectators can share the excitement when World and European champions, World Cup winners, national champions and potentially some future Olympic gold medallists impressively demonstrate why bouldering, i.e. climbing without a rope over a crash pad, is considered one of the most difficult disciplines in sport climbing. Admission to the event is free, which is why the arena is always packed to the last seat.

Global Event Series

adidas ROCKSTARS is not just a stand-alone global invitational. Over the past years, an entire series of qualifying events for amateurs has developed around it. These "Ticket to Rockstars" grassroots events are held in climbing gyms in New York, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Tokyo, Shanghai, Berlin or Zurich. With a total of 21 events in eight countries on three continents and with 5,000 participants in total, Ticket to Rockstars has become the largest amateur bouldering series in the world. The winners (m/f) of each "tour stop" win a ticket for the global ROCKSTARS event, meaning they are invited to the global T2R Final presented by GORE-TEX in Stuttgart, where they spend the weekend at the official athlete hotel, side by side with the stars of scene, and can even win a WILDCARD into the semi-final of the pros if they reach the TOP 3 in the T2R Final. Three favourites to win one of the coveted slots this year are the freshly crowned double youth world champion Oriane Bertone (FRA) – winner of T2R Paris/Fontaineblau – who was the youngest climber ever to master an 8B+ problem, 14-year old hotshot Kylie Cullen (USA) who just beat adidas ROCKSTAR 2017, Alex Puccio, in the final of the Women Up climbing competition, as well as the multiple European Youth Cup winner, Léo Favot (FRA).

Climbing meets Music

The goal of competitive bouldering is to solve short and complex climbing problems in a limited time using as few attempts as possible. Apart from power, extreme flexibility and creativity, athletes need motivation and adrenaline to reach maximum performance, which is why adidas ROCKSTARS combines white-knuckle competition bouldering with show acts and live music. Hot DJ battles between ROCKSTARS veterans Chainsaw and Sungod facing UK's Madame Electrifie fresh from festival stages at Glastonbury and American creator Prodeezzy who has proven himself in Vegas and LA, will build the intoxicating atmosphere the event is famed for.

World-class line-up

Only invited athletes can participate in adidas ROCKSTARS. The start list reads like the who's who of bouldering. After the world cup final in June and the first ever Olympic qualifying event – the World Championships in Hachioji last month - some athletes can relax, because they've already bagged their ticket for Tokyo2020, marking the first display of climbing in the Olympic program. Others, however, have to stay in top form for their next chance, the IFSC Combined Qualifier held in Toulouse in November.

Among the competitors of adidas ROCKSTARS 2019 are the defending champions Miho Nonaka (JPN) and Jernej Kruder (SLO), the incredibly gifted Janja Garnbret (SLO), who won this year's overall bouldering world cup as well as a triple World Champion title (Boulder, Lead, Olympic Combined), the triple adidas ROCKSTAR Sean McColl (CAN) and the two-time overall bouldering world cup winners, Shauna Coxsey (GBR) and Jongwon Chon (KOR).

Head-to-head duel in the super-final

World class athletes from 17 different countries were invited to adidas ROCKSTARS this year. They first have to make it through the qualification and semi-final. The top 6 men and women advance to the stellar final on Saturday evening. They fight in two rounds for the entry to the super-final. Here, the top 2 compete in direct comparison on a so-called "super boulder" that was specifically created for the event. The athletes climb simultaneously an identical route on two sides of the same boulder. In this thrilling duel the two super-finalists need both, excellent skills and good nerves. Although the climbers cannot see each other, the cheers of the crowd adumbrate what is happening on the other side.

Ticket to Rockstars Final presented by GORE-TEX - a steppingstone for amateurs

In addition to the Ticket to Rockstars Champions from around the world who were invited to the global final in Stuttgart, 100 aspiring amateurs from 18 different countries will participate in the Ticket to Rockstars Final presented by GORE-TEX on Friday, attempting to win one of six wildcards (3 for men, 3 for women) into the semi-final of the pros and compete side by side with the stars of the international climbing community.

Speaker Kevin Jorgeson

Kevin Jorgeson, who together with big wall ace Tommy Caldwell was the first to successfully complete a free climb of the Dawn Wall of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, will take the audience in Stuttgart onto his 19-day journey of the 3,000ft climb that is considered one of the most difficult big-wall climbs in the world.

Climbing added to 2020 Olympics

Sport climbing has become an international high-performance sport and the IOC has now put a spotlight on it by officially approving climbing for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The olympic competition combines three disciplines: lead climbing, bouldering and speed climbing. Bouldering is also known as maximal strength discipline. The difficulties of boulder "problems" range between boulder grade 7c to 8a+ and may be compared with single moves of grade 10 or 11 lead routes.

Sport climbing is booming

In recent years, climbing has truly become a popular sport, not least because of numerous climbing gyms: more and more athletes are attracted by vertical challenges, both indoor and outdoor, and the trend continues. According to the international Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) more than 140 countries have climbing walls. In Germany alone, there are more than 350 climbing gyms open to the public. There are 35 million climbers around the world; in

Germany alone, there are around 700,000 climbers; around 40 percent of them are female.

For more information go to www.adidas-rockstars.com.

For the latest schedule please refer to

<https://www.adidas-rockstars.com/en/event-info/schedule>

High res photos of our event photographers Christian Waldegger, Vladek Zumr, Bert Willer, Michael Baierl, Björn Pohl and Eddie Fowke are available free of charge for editorial use on our download platform:

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