

Press Release

5 September 2019

## 13/14 September – adidas ROCKSTARS Japan dominant in men's and women's qualifying round

**Ai Mori (JPN) and Kokoro Fujii (JPN) opened the professional competition of adidas ROCKSTARS 2019 and never looked back from their first-place positions. The two bouldering specialists from Japan were the first to climb the four routes set up in the Porsche-Arena in Stuttgart and in the end, it was these two who found the best solutions and thus took top spots headed to the semi-final on Saturday. Mori shared first place with her compatriot Miho Nonaka (JPN) as well as Jessica Pilz (AUT) while Gregor Vezonik (SLO) had an identical score with Fujii in the men's competition and Yoshiyuki Ogata (JPN) and Nathan Phillips (GBR) ended up splitting the third place position. The semi-final on Saturday (11:00 CEST) will also feature plenty of other climbing stars including reigning ROCKSTAR Jernej Kruder (SLO) and the superhuman Janja Garnbret (SLO) who finished 1st in the Lead World Cup 2019.**

In the adidas ROCKSTARS qualification, the athletes from the "Land of the Rising Sun" impressively demonstrated that Japan is the top nation in the world of climbing. Ai Mori, the youngest competitor at the age of 16, and defending champion adidas ROCKSTAR, Miho Nonaka, managed all the routes with a so-called "flash", meaning they reached the top of each boulder in their first attempt. Only Jessica Pilz from Austria could claim the same. "I like the rather static routes as they were built here for the qualification. It will certainly become more dynamic from the semi-final onwards," she said after her first appearance in this year's competition. "But of course it's nice to be able to save energy and skin. Flashing four times gives you a good feeling."

The top three in the men's category also left the Porsche-Arena satisfied with their day's work. Kokoro Fujii managed to reach the top on three routes in one try each and only once needed three attempts, a performance which secured him first place. Slovenia's Gregor Vezonik achieved an equal score with two flashes and two routes requiring two attempts. Yoshiyuki Ogata (JPN) and Nathan Phillips (GBR) wrapped up the top finishers with a tie which awarded them both a third-place finish.

Not everyone had success with the problems today, however, and Alma Bestvater (GER) just barely snuck into the semi-final at the bottom of the group. "Obviously the routes didn't suit me", Bestvater said afterwards. "After all, though, it was enough and now I can at least start from the pole position in the semi-final," she added with a smile.

The semi-final at adidas ROCKSTARS starts at 11:00 on Saturday and can be watched live on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. 20 female and 20 male professionals will be joined by 12 amateurs who all earned their way into the semi-final by their performances in the Ticket to Rockstars Final presented by GORE-TEX which was held on Friday night. Six of each gender will then qualify for the grand final, which starts at 20:30 CEST on Saturday.

For more information go to [www.adidas-rockstars.com](http://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:

**Server:** <http://rockstars.planet-talk.net>

**User:** adidasROCKSTARS

**Password:** media2019

Link to our comprehensive **adidas ROCKSTARS Media Guide 2019**

[https://www.adidasrockstars.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Press/Documents/2019/MEDIA\\_GUIDE\\_2019\\_ENGLISCH\\_digital.pdf](https://www.adidasrockstars.com/fileadmin/user_upload/Press/Documents/2019/MEDIA_GUIDE_2019_ENGLISCH_digital.pdf)

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