



Press Release

13th September 2019

13./14. September – adidas ROCKSTARS: Max Kleesattel Wins again and a Russian Veteran Earns His Wildcard in the Final Seconds

20 professionals and six wildcard winners will start in the adidas ROCKSTARS Semifinal on Saturday at 11:00. After the pros fought for qualification Friday morning, the amateur climbers followed with a show of their own in the evening. Max Kleesattel (GER) won the Ticket to Rockstars Final presented by GORE-TEX (Men) after prevailing in the end against Simon Benkert (USA) and Alex Waterhouse (GBR). Together with these three, Mikhail Kochetkov (RUS), Christoph Schweiger (GER) and Stephan Grimm (GER) earned a wildcard for the semi-final on Saturday morning. They competed in the amateur Open Jam - also held on Friday evening - and won against 56 other ambitious climbers.

For Max Kleesattel, winning this final didn't seem to be a big deal. The boulderer from the Stuttgart area solved seven out of eight bouldering problems and then looked on at the competition from a relaxed sitting position, comfortably in the lead. "I was really sure that I would get at least one of the wildcards with seven tops, and that I could have jumped in again if need be. But I'm definitely happy about first place and about reaching the semi-final."

Simon Benkert and Alex Waterhouse, who had both successfully completed seven routes but needed more attempts than Kleesattel, were quite pleased with their results. Waterhouse was very gracious afterwards as might be expected from a Brit. "I knew that I had trained well but you don't know in advance how strong the competition is. That's why I couldn't expect to be in the top three and I'm very happy at how it turned out. It will be great to compete in the semi-final and I hope that I can manage a few routes well."

Final decision in the last minute

The competitors in the Open Jam at the Ticket to Rockstars Final presented by GORE-TEX were spread over two climbing sessions. That meant that Christoph Schweiger and Stephan Grimm had to wait a long time before their final position was determined. It looked like they would finish as the top-two climbers but one minute before the end of the second session Mikhail Kochetkov got his seventh top and placed ahead of everyone else. "That was a very tight decision. In the end, I tried to stay calm and luckily I succeeded," the Russian said, clearly pleased. "I would say that I am one of the older ones here and maybe that helped too."

Together with the German duo, he will go to bed knowing that in the morning he will compete against the world elite and that perhaps once again, he will finish on top.



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:

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

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Media Contact adidas ROCKSTARS:

Sonja Güldner-Hamel

M_ +49 170 27 50 510

@_ sonja.hamel@planettalk.de

www.adidas-rockstars.com