



Press Release

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13./14. September – adidas ROCKSTARS:

A Spectacular Yet Difficult adidas ROCKSTARS Semifinal - Janja Garnbret and Florian Klingler Take the Top Spots

The qualification for adidas ROCKSTARS was held firmly in Japanese hands but in the semi-final on Saturday afternoon, the Europeans also showed up strong. 2019 Combined World Champion, Janja Garnbret (SLO) and Florian Klingler (AUT) took the top spots and will thus be the last pair to climb at the final on Saturday evening (20:15 CEST). Behind Garnbret were three Japanese boulderers: Miho Nonaka, Futaba Ito and Ai Mori. Jongwon Chon (KOR) came in second in the men's competition followed by Kai Harada (JPN). Completing the top-six heading to the final for the women are Lučka Rakovec (SLO) and Shauna Coxsey (GBR) while for the men, Yoshiyuki Ogata (JPN), Gregor Vezonik (SLO) and Kokoro Fujii (JPN) wrap up the group of finalists.

The route setters did a great job in the Porsche-Arena in Stuttgart, Germany. The eight total routes were a great level of difficulty for all the climbers and a few boulders were only solved once in the entire event. The fact that the best in the world could only just manage the routes is exactly what you're looking for as a route setter. Even Janja Garnbret ended up successfully completing merely three tops. On the women's side, Miho Nonaka and Garnbret were the lone duo who could brag about having topped three boulders.

World Champion Garnbret against Japan in final

"This isn't meant to be funny but I actually didn't find the routes so difficult," said the winner after the competition. "But it was hot and a bit slippery. Of course I am satisfied and I'm looking forward to this evening. However, I don't see myself as a true favorite because the others are also very strong, especially Miho, Futaba and Ai."

15-year-old, Kylie Cullen (USA), went away without accomplishing a single top but she wasn't too disappointed: "Those were really, really hard challenges and I just couldn't believe how the other climbers could even solve them. It was fun to watch some of the best in the world figure out how to top crazy hard routes and I really hope that I make it back next year so I can give it another shot."

Surprise winner at the men's semi-final

Florian Klingler had a great day. The 21-year-old left all of his comrades behind and though he had already impressed during qualification and obviously felt comfortable in Stuttgart, his first-place finish still came as a surprise. In this difficult semi-final two tops were enough



for him to place first. "Sometimes it just works out," he commented modestly. "The boulders today just fit my style. I try not to put any pressure on myself and since I came here without a team I can climb completely stress-free. If that works at the beginning, you can get into a flow and ride it to the end."

Florian will hope for such a flow when he steps onto the climbing platform again this evening at 20:15 CEST in the Porsche Arena, which will be packed with 4,000 spectators. To pull off an unlikely win he will have to out-climb Jongwon Chon and Kai Harada as well as Gregor Vezonik, Yoshiyuki Ogata and Kokoro Fujii.

Alex Waterhouse (GBR), who came out of relatively nowhere at this event and finished in the top ten at the semi-final, was totally okay with the "nearly impossible" routes: "They have to make the routes so challenging in order to separate the best from the rest. I thought it was fantastic! Just to get one top in front of such a crowd was unbelievable. It was so much fun and I hope I can make it back next year!"

The final, consisting of the top-six men and women, starts at 20:15 CEST in the Porsche Arena in Stuttgart, Germany. The event will also be broadcasted live on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube from start to finish.

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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