



Press Release

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13./14. September – adidas ROCKSTARS:

## **It was a Japanese Festival at the adidas ROCKSTARS 2019 - Futuba Ito and Yoshiyuki Ogata are the newest ROCKSTARS**

4,000 enthusiastic spectators at the Porsche-Arena in Stuttgart, Germany witnessed a world-class climbing event which included the sport's top stars, a fun, Rock themed atmosphere and an exciting Superfinal. Futuba Ito (JPN) and Yoshiyuki Ogata (JPN) won the title this year against a very impressive collection of international athletes after they were able to pull off the final victory on the superboulder against Janja Garnbret (SLO) and Florian Klingler (AUT) respectively.

For the first time, two Japanese climbers slammed the buzzer at the top of the adidas ROCKSTARS superboulder in the same year. Ito especially, could hardly believe that she had won and slapped her hands to her face in shock when she reached the buzzer ahead of the Overall World Champion 2019, Garnbret. "I can't believe it. Unbelievable," she said after the competition. "That was so fun, but of course it was also very difficult." In the same state of mind as his compatriot, Ogata was glad about his triumph. "This is the best competition in the world, nowhere else is so much fun. Many thanks to the audience who gave me strength again and again."

Janja Garnbret and Yoshiyuki Ogata left the strongest impression on experts and fans alike before the Superfinal but in the end, only one of them would finish as a 2019 ROCKSTAR. The climbing evening in Stuttgart was opened by Lučka Rakovec (SLO) and Kokoro Fujii (JPN) at 20:15 CEST. The six ladies and six male finalists climbed the first two routes in the reverse order of the semi-final placings. As in the semi-final, the route setters managed to put together difficult problems that challenged the boulderers greatly. Garnbret and Ogata were the only ones to reach the top two times and thus safely made it to the second round of the final.

The top six became the top three after an elimination following the completion of the first two boulders. Besides Garnbret and Ogata, Futuba Ito and Ai Mori (JPN) made it to the last section of the final in the women's event while Florian Klingler and Jongwon Chon (KOR) did so for the men. With the successful top of the second boulder - practically as time expired - Klingler leap-frogged several big-name climbers and continued his run as one of the biggest surprises in adidas ROCKSTARS Final history.

Again, the world champion Garnbret demonstrated her class by flashing the third boulder and Futuba Ito also reached the top - in two attempts - and thus both entered the Superfinal. Overall third place (women) went to 16-year-old, Ai Mori.

Ogata needed two attempts for his third climbing route of the evening and just like Klingler, he did so by finding a shortcut in the boulder which the setters did not intend. This little



surprise led the already enthusiastic crowd to become extraordinarily loud and the two men were clearly energized by it. Last year's Superfinalist, Jongwon Chon, had to settle for third place this year as he wasn't able to solve the third problem.

#### **Quick victory for Ito - Ogata needs extra time**

In the Superfinal, the clock was again set to zero and both competitors climbed the same superboulder simultaneously while also not being able to see each other on the wall. Though Futaba Ito rather quickly reached the top of the climbing wall and slammed the buzzer down ahead of the favorite, Garnbret, the men's competition was a little extra exciting. In the first four minutes of the final, both men were unable to manage the fourth route in the time allotted and expressed their confusion to each other from across the mat. After a short break, Yoshiyuki had apparently recovered just slightly better than Klingler as the won just 30 seconds after the re-start.

Last year's winner Miho Nonaka (JPN) finished fourth, followed by Shauna Coxsey (GBR) and Lučka Rakovec (SLO). In the men's competition the order behind the podium finishers was Kai Harada (JPN), Kokoro Fujii (JPN) and Gregor Vezonik (SLO).

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>

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

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