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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

2018

THURSDAY
27th
SEPTEMBER

IFSC CLIMBING WORLD CUP KRANJ 2018 WORLD CHAMPIONS HEAD TO KRANJ

Two weeks after the conclusion of the IFSC World Championships, Lead world champions Jessica Pilz and Jakob Schubert (AUT), Combined world champion Janja Garnbret of Slovenia and Bouldering world champion Kai Harada head to Kranj, Slovenia, for the 5th Lead event of the 2018 IFSC World Cup season.

Kranj, hosting Lead World Cup events since 1996, again plays a pivotal role in the Lead season this year. Lead athletes are competing for positioning in the season rankings before the two concluding events in October, and performances in Kranj could decide final podiums.

Garnbret-Pilz Rivalry Intensifies

Garnbret and Pilz have dominated all season long, occupying 1st and 2nd place among women athletes at the first four Lead events of 2018 in July. Pilz gained momentum on the biggest stage this month, arriving at the top hold quicker in finals to best Garnbret at the biannual IFSC World Championships. Garnbret ranks 1st in the IFSC World Cup season rankings for Lead after connecting back-to-back wins, and the reigning Lead season champion will be climbing at home where she won gold in 2017. Another medal for Garnbret and 1st place for Pilz would clinch spots on the Lead season podium for both athletes. Multiple athletes are strong contenders to join them on the Lead season podium, including Manon Hily of France and 2017 medallists Jain Kim (KOR) and Anak Verhoeven (BEL). Also keep an eye on Slovenia's own Tjasa Kalan and veteran Mina Markovic, both ranked in the top ten and set to climb alongside Garnbret in front of their home crowd.

Ghisolfi, Schubert, Skofic Yet to Miss Finals

Schubert is the only athlete to win multiple gold medals this year in Lead for the men, having won the most recent IFSC World Cup in Lead and the first Lead event

of the season. Fresh off his victories at the IFSC World Championships 2018, another triumph this weekend in Kranj would make it even more difficult to unseat Schubert from the Lead season podium. Reigning Lead season champion Romain Desgranges (FRA) and Stefano Ghisolfi (ITA) will try to end his winning streak, and Domen Skofic of Slovenia is also on the start list.

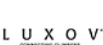
YOG Watch: Lukan, Rakovec Return to Slovenia

Qualified athletes for the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 have been game changers in the IFSC World Cup series this year, and three of them are registered to compete in Kranj before the debut of Sport Climbing on the Olympic stage in October. Vita Lukan and Lucka Rakovec are set to represent Slovenia at home. Since the previous IFSC World Cup in Lead, Lukan became Lead youth world champion at the IFSC Youth World Championships in the Juniors category, and Rakovec competed in Lead semi-finals at the IFSC World Championships. Nolwenn Arc (FRA), runner-up behind Lukan at IFSC Youth World Championships 2018, will join them in Kranj. Click [here](#) for the full list of starters.

Live Streaming

Tune-in to the [IFSC homepage](#) this weekend, September 29th-30th, to watch the LIVE streaming of semi-final and final rounds. The schedule, 2016 highlights and photos and more can be found on the official [Kranj event page](#), where results and replays will also be shared, and join the chat on Twitter during the show at [#IFSCwc](#).

IFSC Partners:



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IFSC WORLD CUP (L) KRANJ (SLO)

Provisional Programme (GMT+2)

Saturday, September 29th

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 08:00 | Lead Qualification Men |
| 13:00 | Lead Qualification Women |
| 20:00 | Lead Semi-Finals Men & Women (LIVE) |

Sunday, September 30th

- | | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 18:00 | Lead Finals (LIVE) |
| After | Award Ceremony |

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2018 LEAD SEASON RANKINGS

As of IFSC Climbing World Cup (L,S) - Arco (ITA) 2018 (27.07.2018)

MEN

#	NAME		NATION	POINTS
1	SCHUBERT	Jakob	AUT	335
2	GHISOLFI	Stefano	ITA	286
3	MEGOS	Alexander	GER	230
4	SKOFIC	Domen	SLO	228
5	DESGRANGES	Romain	FRA	201
6	LEHMANN	Sascha	SUI	148
7	TANAKA	Shuta	JPN	127
8	MIN	Hyunbin	KOR	121
9	HADA	Yuki	JPN	106
10	BAILEY	Sean	USA	103

WOMEN

#	NAME		NATION	POINTS
1	GARNBRET	Janja	SLO	380
2	PILZ	Jessica	AUT	340
3	VERHOEVEN	Anak	BEL	181
4	HILY	Manon	FRA	167
5	SHIRAISHI	Ashima	USA	159
6	KIM	Jain	KOR	130
7	MARKOVIC	Mina	SLO	127
8	KOTAKE	Mei	JPN	114
9	LUKAN	Vita	SLO	112
10	KALAN	Tjasa	SLO	111

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