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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

2019

Sunday
28th
April

IFSC CLIMBING WORLD CUPS CHONGQING 2019 FASTER AND STRONGER THAN EVER

The Speed and Bouldering climbing season continued this weekend in Chongqing, the first stop on the 2019 China Tour. With 4 Japanese in the bouldering Finals and a new World Record set by China's YiLing SONG, the Asian climbers demonstrated their home field advantage.

The only thing hotter than the temperature in Chongqing this weekend was the swiftness of the speed climbers. Closing out an incredible speed competition in this year's 2019 Chongqing World Cup, we were lucky enough to see world class performances from both the men and women.

New Speed World Record by Gold Medalist

QiXin ZHONG (CHN) made quick work of his opponents with almost flawless performances with times all below 6 seconds but failed to outperform Kostiantyn PAVLENKO (UKR) in the ½ finals as their almost perfectly synchronized choreography up the wall turned out only a 0.022 second difference advancing PAVLENKO to the next round. Unfortunately, his momentum was halted in the big finals by the extremely nimble Alfian MUHAMMAD (INA) leaving PAVLENKO with Silver and crowning MUHAMMAD as the 2019 Chongqing World Cup Speed Climbing Champion. ZHONG had a fighting chance for the bronze in the small finals, but after going head to head with Sergey RUKIN (RUS) fell prey to the pressure and humidity, slipping more than once and ultimately falling off the wall handing over the bronze medal to RUKIN.

What an evening it was for the women, putting numbers on the board that have never been seen in IFSC speed climbing competition history. Even qualifying for the final rounds had all 16 girls climbing comfortably under the 9 second mark. The ¼ finals gave us a real treat as YiLing SONG (CHN) exploded from the starting gate, quickly leaving Natalia KALUCKA (POL) in the dust while executing

unprecedented speed and agility and setting a new women's speed climbing world record of 7.101 seconds. She followed this up in the ½ finals against Anouck JAUBERT (the previous world record holder) with a time of 7.11 seconds, which was still faster than the previous world record of 7.32. Although losing the match, JAUBERT still finished with a time of 7.321 almost matching her old world record time. SONG continued this momentum and concentration finishing with her second consecutive gold medal this season and leaving Aleksandra RUDZINSKA (POL) with the silver medal. The battle for the bronze was a bit difficult for JAUBERT to swallow as she competed with one of her biggest rivals, Luliya KAPLINA. As the buzzer sounded both girls took off, but KAPLINA quickly lost her footing, which created some distance behind JAUBERT. This distance didn't last long as France's JAUBERT couldn't quite keep it together through the middle section, finally slipping on the very last foothold and falling, giving plenty of time for KAPLINA to catch up and finish in 3rd place.

Manuel CORNU Wins First Gold Medal

Without the competition of the 2 previous gold medalists in the Finals (ONDRA was sick and KRUDER failed to qualify for the Semis), the outcome was entirely uncertain. Finishing at the top was the French Climber Manuel CORNU who took this opportunity to climb onto the podium for the first time in an IFSC World Cup, winning at the same time his first gold medal. With time enough for only one more attempt to reach the zone on M3, Tomoa NARASAKI (JPN) succeeded winning his second silver medal this year.

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Anze PEHARC (SLO) finished with a personal best this season and a place on the podium with a bronze medal. With only 3 tops, Sascha LEHMANN (SUI), Aleksey RUBTSOV (RUS) and Kokoro FUJII (JPN) didn't reach the podium but ranked honorably at 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

With very challenging and impressive boulders, the women's finals had some of the most difficult problems that we have seen this year. Unfortunately for Katja KADIC (SLO), all four problems were too hard for her to be topped. The young Japanese Futaba ITO (JPN) achieved to top the first boulder as Petra KLINGLER (SUI) topped the third one. But with only 2 Zones, the Japanese ranked 5th while the Swiss climber finished at the foot of the podium with a 4th place finish. The Austrian climbing machine, Jessica PILZ, demonstrated that after winning almost everything in LEAD, she is ready for BOULDERING! With 3 Tops she jumped, for the first time, onto a boulder podium with the bronze medal. For the Gold medal, the very impressive battle took place between the Japanese Akiyo NOGUSHI and the Slovenian Janja GARNBRET. After both flashed the first boulder, Akiyo

took the lead of the competition with just one less attempt to reach W2 zone than Janja. But Janja wasn't finished and regained the lead with a flash on M3 and only needed two attempts to solve the fourth problem, whereas Akiyo needed 2 attempts for W3 and 5 for the last boulder leaving her with the silver medal.

With 3 consecutive Gold Medals this season, we can begin to ask ourselves if anyone will be able to stop Janja GARNBRET, who has already begun to take a strong lead in the 2019 Overall Rankings.

Next: IFSC World Cup is back in Wujiang

The China Tour continues next weekend in Wujiang, the 4th Bouldering and 3rd Speed event of the 2019 season. The schedule, starters and more can be found on the official [Wujiang event page](#), and tune-in to the IFSC homepage on May 03rd and 05th for live streaming of the semi-final and final rounds (complete programme at the end of this PR).

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RESULTS OF IFSC WORLD CUP CHONGQING 2019

Men Bouldering

#	NAME		NAT.	SCORE
1	CORNU	Manuel	FRA	3T 4z 5 5
2	NARASAKI	Tomoa	JPN	3T 4z 5 6
3	PEHARC	Anze	SLO	3T 4z 10 10
4	LEHMANN	Sascha	SUI	2T 4z 3 10
5	RUBTSOV	Aleksey	RUS	2T 4z 4 11
6	FUJII	Kokoro	JPN	2T 4z 7 9

Women Bouldering

#	NAME		NAT.	SCORE
1	GARNBRET	Janja	SLO	4T 4z 8 6
2	NOGUCHI	Akiyo	JPN	4T 4z 12 9
3	PILZ	Jessica	AUT	3T 4z 8 11
4	KLINGLER	Petra	SUI	1T 3z 2 8
5	ITO	Futaba	JPN	1T 2z 1 4
6	KADIC	Katja	SLO	0T 4z 0 10

Men Speed

#	NAME		NAT.	SCORE
1	MUHAMMAD	Alfian	INA	5.970
2	PAVLENKO	Kostiantyn	UKR	6.315
3	RUKIN	Sergey	RUS	6.808
4	ZHONG	QiXin	CHN	fall
5	ALIPOURSHENA	Reza	IRI	5.733
6	IARILOVETS	Nikolai	RUS	6.310
7	OU	ZhiYong	CHN	7.034
8	ROJI	Fatchur	INA	7.518

Women Speed

#	NAME		NAT.	SCORE
1	SONG	YiLing	CHN	7.673
2	RUDZINSKA	Aleksandra	POL	fall
3	KAPLINA	Iuliia	RUS	8.429
4	JAUBERT	Anouck	FRA	fall
5	SUSANTI RAHAYU	Aries	INA	7.429
6	TIMOFEEVA	Elena	RUS	7.934
7	KALUCKA	Natalia	POL	7.975
8	TSYGANOVA	Anna	RUS	fall

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IFSC WOLD CUP (B,S) WUJIANG (CHN)

Provisional Program (GMT +8)

Friday, May 3rd

12:45-15:15 Speed Qualifications

19:00-20:00 Speed Finals (Live)

After Award Ceremony for Speed

Saturday, May 4th

10:00-13:30 Bouldering Qualifications (Women)

15:00-20:00 Bouldering Qualifications (Men)

Sunday, May 5th

9:30-11:45 Bouldering Semi-Finals (Live)

17:00-20:00 Bouldering Finals (Live)

After Award Ceremony

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