30 March 2017

Tbilisi Grand Prix 2017, Georgia – DAY ONE

David KEVKHISHVILI, Georgian Judo Federation President, said: “Dear spectators, friends, ijf, honour to welcome to the Tbilisi Grand Prix 2018. This is a great responsibility for us, thank you IJF President Marius L. VIZER, also special thanks to the Ministry of Culture and Sport for Georgia who have always helped and supported us. Thank you to our spectators who always support Georgian judoka so well.”

Mikheil GIORGADZE, Minister of Culture and Sport of Georgia, said: “Dear participants of the Tbilisi Grand Prix, honourable guests, members of delegations, representatives from IJF, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the fifth edition of Georgia’s Grand Prix.

“We are hosting this very important for the fifth time and it is our pleasure to introduce our country to you all. On behalf of the Georgian Government thank the IJF and President Marius L. VIZER and thank you to the Georgian Judo Federation.

“Judo is very popular here and has a rich tradition. It is also important for us for Georgian judoka to win the highest honours in judo. Tbilisi Grand Prix 2018 will be a very successful event and I wish you all a fair competition and the best of luck.”

Vladimir BARTA, IJF Head Sport Director, said: “Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to be here in Georgia for the fifth edition of the Tbilisi Grand Prix.

“Georgia is a country which has a special place in the judo family as a nation of champions with an extraordinary passion for our sport. I thank the Georgian Judo Federation and their President David KEVKHISHVILI for their excellent organisation of this competition and their continued efforts to develop judo across the country.

“On behalf of the IJF President Marius L. VIZER I wish good luck to all the competitors and declare the Tbilisi Grand Prix 2018 open.”

Vladimir BARTA then presented the IJF Plaque to Tsezar CHOCHELI, the owner of the Zedazeni company, the main sponsor of Georgian Judo Federation.

**Women
-48kg: Slovenian youngster captures first IJF title**Agadir Grand Prix bronze medallist Marusa STANGAR (SLO) won her first IJF World Judo Tour gold medal at the expense of top seed Milica NIKOLIC (SRB). Junior World Championships bronze medallist STANGAR, 20, has now won back-to-back Grand Prix medals but crucially today’s result was gold and now her career is set to flourish. STANGAR opened the scoring with a waza-ari and promptly pinned down her opponent for 10 seconds to become the first winner at the Tbilisi Grand Prix 2018.

In the first semi-final NIKOLIC bested three-time Grand Prix medallist Noa MINSKER (ISR) by a waza-ari from a ippon seoi-nage as the favourite progressed into the gold medal contest.

In the second semi-final world number 39 Kimberley RENICKS (GBR) fell to STANGAR by a waza-ari score in a tightly-contested last four meeting.

The first bronze medal contest was won by London 2012 Olympic champion Sarah MENEZES (BRA) who made a successful return to -48kg. MENEZES defeated RENICKS, who was targeting her first IJF World Judo Tour honour, threw for a waza-ari and wrapped up a straight forward win with a ko-uchi-gari.

The second bronze medal was won by Düsseldorf Grand Slam bronze medallist Melanie CLEMENT (FRA) when three-time Grand Prix medallist MINSKER was penalised with a third shido in golden score after an evening four minutes of regulation time.

**Final**STANGAR, Marusa (SLO) vs NIKOLIC, Milica (SRB)

**Bronze Medal Fights**RENICKS, Kimberley (GBR) vs MENEZES, Sarah (BRA)
MINSKER, Noa (ISR) vs CLEMENT, Melanie (FRA)

**Final Results**

1. STANGAR, Marusa (SLO)
2. NIKOLIC, Milica (SRB)
3. MENEZES, Sarah (BRA)
3. CLEMENT, Melanie (FRA)
5. RENICKS, Kimberley (GBR)
5. MINSKER, Noa (ISR)
7. GERSJES, Amber (NED)
7. MILANI, Francesca (ITA)

**-52kg: French flyer BUCHARD wins the Tbilisi Grand Prix for the second year in a row**Paris Grand Slam silver medallist Amandine BUCHARD (FRA) won her fourth Grand Prix gold medal with a dominant win over Agadir Grand Prix winner Evelyne TSCHOPP (SUI). The 22-year-old former -48kg judoka now has five wins over TSCHOPP without ever tasting defeat at the hands of the Swiss. World number three BUCHARD extended her medal-winning run to four consecutive events to close in on the world lead. The French judoka won by waza-awasette-ippon and will be the judoka to watch at -52kg in the 2018 European Championships.

In the first semi-final BUCHARD defeated 19-year-old IJF World Judo Tour newcomer Zhadyra AMIRTAYEVA (KAZ) by ippon having first led by a waza-ari score.

In the second semi-final world number 13 Angelica DELGADO (USA) was thrown for a waza-ari by TSCHOPP (SUI) and the American was then held down for 10 seconds to win by waza-ari-awasette-ippon.

The first bronze medal was awarded to Agadir Grand Prix bronze medallist Gulbadam BABAMURATOVA (TKM) who tapped out DELGADO from an unorthodox position. Two-time Grand Prix bronze medallist DELGADO was forced to submit to the Turkmenistan judoka who won her sixth career Grand Prix medal by ippon.

The second bronze medal was won by Tunis Grand Prix bronze medallist Anja STANGAR (SLO) who defeated AMIRTAYEVA by ippon from a hold down. STANGAR was a comfortable winner by ippon in a one-sided contest and the 20-year-old Slovenian could be among the wildcards for the European Championships next month.

**Final**TSCHOPP, Evelyne (SUI) vs BUCHARD, Amandine (FRA)

**Bronze Medal Fights**DELGADO, Angelica (USA) vs BABAMURATOVA, Gulbadam (TKM)
AMIRTAYEVA, Zhadyra (KAZ) vs STANGAR, Anja (SLO)

**Final Results**

1. BUCHARD, Amandine (FRA)
2. TSCHOPP, Evelyne (SUI)
3. BABAMURATOVA, Gulbadam (TKM)
3. STANGAR, Anja (SLO)
5. DELGADO, Angelica (USA)
5. AMIRTAYEVA, Zhadyra (KAZ)
7. JANASHVILI, Mariam (GEO)
7. PIERUCCI, Giulia (ITA)

**-57kg: Germany’s STOLL sisters take gold and bronze after their quarter-final clash**

World number four Helene RECEVEAUX (FRA) was stunned in the -57kg final by The Hague Grand Prix silver medallist Theresa STOLL (GER). World bronze medallist RECEVEAUX strolled through the preliminaries but encountered a different level of opposition in the final as a game STOLL more than matched her French opponent. The young German judoka caught RECEVEAUX with a ko-soto-gake for a waza-ari score and held firm to win her second Grand Prix gold medal.

In the first semi-final RECEVEAUX rushed past Tashkent Grand Prix winner Anna BOROWSKA (POL) by ippon in the second minute with an ouchi-gari.

In the second semi-final Agadir Grand Prix winner Timna NELSON LEVY (ISR) was held down by STOLL, who had defeated her twin sister and and u23 European Championships winner Amelie STOLL (GER) in the quarter-final.

The first bronze medal was won by NELSON LEVY who trapped The Hague Grand Prix bronze medallist Martina LO GIUDICE (ITA) with a sankaku-gatame and there was no escape for the Italian as Israel won their first medal at the Tbilisi Grand Prix 2018.

The second bronze medal was won by Amelie STOLL (GER) after her adversary BOROWSKA was penalised for a third time to receive hansoku-make. Just as the scoreless contest was about to go into golden score with the regulation period complete a shido was given to the Polish judoka for a gripping infringement and BOROWSKA left in tears while STOLL left with a beaming smile.

**Final**RECEVEAUX, Helene (FRA) vs STOLL, Theresa (GER)

**Bronze Medal Fights**LO GIUDICE, Martina (ITA) vs NELSON LEVY, Timna (ISR)
BOROWSKA, Anna (POL) vs STOLL, Amelie (GER)

**Final Results**1. STOLL, Theresa (GER)
2. RECEVEAUX, Helene (FRA)
3. NELSON LEVY, Timna (ISR)
3. STOLL, Amelie (GER)
5. LO GIUDICE, Martina (ITA)
5. BOROWSKA, Anna (POL)
7. CRUDE, Tamires (BRA)
7. VERHAGEN, Sanne (NED)

**MEN**

 **-60kg: CHKHVIMIANI retains over PAPINASHVILI as it’s a clean sweep for Georgia**Düsseldorf Grand Slam bronze medallist Lukhumi CHKHVIMIANI (GEO) defeated top seed Amiran PAPINASHVILI (GEO) to win at home in the first men’s final. CHKHVIMIANI extended his head-to-head record over his teammate to 3-0 as four-time Grand Prix winner PAPINASHVILI was second best. Two-time Grand Slam bronze medallist CHKHVIMIANI successfully defended his 2017 title by countering his countryman in golden score with pure te-waza for a waza-ari. Both judoka will now expect to have done enough to earn selection to the European Championships next month in Israel.

In the first semi-final PAPINASHVILI eventually defeated world number 124 Albert MONGUSH (RUS) after 70 seconds of golden score. The Georian trailed to a waza-ari but fought back to level the score and then scored a second with a hip throw to secure his place in the final.

In the second semi-final Düsseldorf Grand Slam bronze medallist Lukhumi CHKHVIMIANI (GEO) defeated world number 203 Oruj VALIZADA (AZE) in golden score by waza-ari-awasette-ippon.

The first bronze medal was won by IJF World Judo Tour novice Lasha CHADUNELI (GEO) who sent Azeri outsider VALIZADA hurtling through the air with a makikomi effort for ippon. VALIZADA was undone after two minutes and will have to go again in search of a first IJF medal.

The second bronze medal went to 20-year-old IJF debutant Temur NOZADZE (GEO) who found a way past MONGUSH after three minutes of golden score. It took seven minutes for the first and last score of the contest as NOZADZE floored MONGUSH with an emphatic osoto-gari for ippon.

**Final**CHKHVIMIANI, Lukhumi (GEO) vs PAPINASHVILI, Amiran (GEO)

**Bronze Medal Fights**VALIZADA, Oruj (AZE) vs CHADUNELI, Lasha (GEO)
MONGUSH, Albert (RUS) vs NOZADZE, Temur (GEO)

**Final Results**

1. CHKHVIMIANI, Lukhumi (GEO)
2. PAPINASHVILI, Amiran (GEO)
3. CHADUNELI, Lasha (GEO)
3. NOZADZE, Temur (GEO)
5. VALIZADA, Oruj (AZE)
5. MONGUSH, Albert (RUS)
7. TSJAKADOEA, Tornike (NED)
7. SULTANBAEV, Doniyor (UZB)

**-66kg: Home win for MARGVELASHVILI over Brazil’s Junior World champion in fierce final**World Judo Masters bronze medallist Vazha MARGVELASHVILI (GEO) won a thrilling encounter in the -66kg final as the home star defeated Junior world champion Daniel CARGNIN (BRA) to win gold. CARGNIN, 20, stepped into the Georgian lion’s den without hesitation as he went about his craft in the most intense atmosphere he will ever have experienced courtesy of the Georgian fans who create arguably the loudest atmosphere on the IJF World Judo Tour. MARGVELASHVILI thought he had won it with 12 seconds left in regulation time but upon a video review his waza-ari was cancelled after his attack was made from a bear hug grip. The fierce force required golden score and after two minutes the young Brazilian was penalised for dropping to receive hansoku-make after a spirited effort from both men. CARGNIN, who is from Judo Sogipa which is the same club as Maria PORTELA and Mayra AGUIAR, will remain in Europe to compete at the Antalya Grand Prix next week.

In the first semi-final MARGVELASHVILI defeated defending champion Lasha GIUNASHVILI (GEO) by ippon from a ko-soto-gake having led by a waza-ari score.

In the second semi-final Junior Asian Championships silver medallist Alireza KHOJASTEH (IRI) received his marching orders in golden score against Junior world champion Daniel CARGNIN (BRA). The Iran judoka picked up a third shido to receive hansoku-make as CARGNIN booked a place in the final.

The first bronze medal was won by 21-year-old Agadir Grand Prix bronze medallist Daniel JEAN (FRA) who stormed past KHOJASTEH with a beautiful osoto-gari to win in style. France’s young -66kg hope has now won two Grand Prix bronze medals in a row and offers a source of excitement for his country’s men’s team who have endured a difficult time of late.

The second bronze medal went to 21-year-old Tunis Grand Prix winner Shakhram AKHADOV (UZB) who threw GIUNASHVILI on two separate occasions with his trademark seoi-nage and scored a waza-ari each time to outclass the home judoka.

**Final**MARGVELASHVILI, Vazha (GEO) vs CARGNIN, Daniel (BRA)

**Bronze Medal Fights**JEAN, Daniel (FRA) vs KHOJASTEH, Alireza (IRI)
GIUNASHVILI, Lasha (GEO) vs AKHADOV, Shakhram (UZB)

**Final Results**

1. MARGVELASHVILI, Vazha (GEO)
2. CARGNIN, Daniel (BRA)
3. JEAN, Daniel (FRA)
3. AKHADOV, Shakhram (UZB)
5. KHOJASTEH, Alireza (IRI)
5. GIUNASHVILI, Lasha (GEO)
7. MENAGED, Yarin (ISR)
7. TCHIKAIDZE, Niko (GEO)