15 March 2019

Ekaterinburg Grand Slam 2019, Russia - DAY ONE

**Women
-48kg: Olympic champion PARETO goes unbeaten in Ekaterinburg**

Beijing 2008 Olympic bronze medallist and Rio 2016 Olympic champion Paula PARETO (ARG) defeated Marrakech Grand Prix winner Julia FIGUEROA (ESP) in golden score to win her second Grand Slam title. The Argentine veteran marginally outworked her Spanish opponent who received her third shido in added time to hand the gold medal to PARETO.

In the first semi-final PARETO beat World Judo Masters bronze medallist Marusa STANGAR (SLO) by ippon while in the second semi-final World Judo Masters bronze medallist Irina DOLGOVA (RUS) was humbled at home by FIGUEROA by a waza-ari score.

The first bronze medal contest was won by DOLGOVA who literally swept Budapest Grand Prix silver medallist YAMAZAKI Tamami (JPN) aside. Russia claimed the first medal of the competition through the ever reliable DOLGOVA who scored with ashi-waza and dropped under her Japanese rival for a second and matchw-inning waza-ari score.

The second bronze medal was won by world number nine Milica NIKOLIC (SRB) who edged out STANGAR by a waza-ari score. NIKOLIC earned her seventh Grand Slam medal in golden score and was ecstatic with taking her first Grand Slam honour since February 2018.

**Final**FIGUEROA, Julia (ESP) vs PARETO, Paula (ARG)

**Bronze Medal Fights**DOLGOVA, Irina (RUS) vs YAMAZAKI, Tamami (JPN)
STANGAR, Marusa (SLO) vs NIKOLIC, Milica (SRB)

**Final Results**

1. PARETO, Paula (ARG)
2. FIGUEROA, Julia (ESP)
3. DOLGOVA, Irina (RUS)
3. NIKOLIC, Milica (SRB)
5. YAMAZAKI, Tamami (JPN)
5. STANGAR, Marusa (SLO)
7. GILIAZOVA, Sabina (RUS)
7. UNGUREANU, Monica (ROU)

**-52kg: Israel’s COHEN captures second Grand Slam crown**

Tel Aviv Grand Prix silver medallist Gili COHEN (ISR) won her second Grand Slam gold medal by defeating Marrakech Grand Prix silver medallist Ana PEREZ BOX (ESP) in the -52kg final. Former Baku Grand Slam winner COHEN floored her Spanish opponent, who was appearing in a Grand Slam final for the first time, with a ko-uchi-gari which was one of the best ippons on day one.

In the first semi-final **Olympic bronze medallist Natalia KUZIUTINA (RUS)was shocked by** PEREZ BOX by ippon. In the second semi-final London 2012 Olympic bronze medallist Charline VAN SNICK (BEL) lost out to COHEN in golden score by a waza-ari score.

The first bronze medal was awarded to VAN SNICK who tapped out Cancun Grand Prix bronze medallist Joana RAMOS (POR) with shime-waza.

The second bronze medal was won by KUZIUTINA as world number 71 Daria BOBRIKOVA (RUS) could not compete due to injury.

**Final**COHEN, Gili (ISR) vs PEREZ BOX, Ana (ESP)

**Bronze Medal Fights**VAN SNICK, Charline (BEL) vs RAMOS, Joana (POR)
KUZIUTINA, Natalia (RUS) vs BOBRIKOVA, Daria (RUS)

**Final Results**

1. PEREZ BOX, Ana (ESP)
2. COHEN, Gili (ISR)
3. VAN SNICK, Charline (BEL)
3. KUZIUTINA, Natalia (RUS)
5. RAMOS, Joana (POR)
5. BOBRIKOVA, Daria (RUS)
7. PRIMO, Gefen (ISR)
7. PERENC, Agata (POL)

**-57kg: Canadian class from DEGUCHI who completes Grand Slam hat-trick**

Paris Grand Slam winner Christa DEGUCHI (CAN) defeated Marrakech Grand Prix winner LIEN Chen-Ling (TPE) to win the -57kg gold medal in Ekaterinburg. DEGUCHI pinned down LIEN for 20 seconds to seal her second Grand Slam title in as many months having won in the French capital in February. Tokyo-based LIEN was supported by fans from her company team, Komatsu, but lost out to the in-form former Japanese international.

In the first semi-final Junior World Championships gold medallist FUNAKUBO Haruka (JPN) lost out to LIEN by a waza-ari score while in the second semi-final DEGUCHI (CAN) defeated Olympic bronze medallist Telma MONTEIRO (POR) by ippon.

The first bronze medal was won by Osaka Grand Slam winner Jessica KLIMKAIT (CAN) who thwarted MONTEIRO in golden score with a seoi-nage for a match-winning waza-ari.

The second bronze medal was won by FUNAKUBO who rushed past 2010 world bronze medallist Sabrina FILZMOSER (AUT) in 51 seconds with a yoko-shiho-gatame hold.

**Final**DEGUCHI, Christa (CAN) vs LIEN, Chen-Ling (TPE)

**Bronze Medal Fights**MONTEIRO, Telma (POR) vs KLIMKAIT, Jessica (CAN)
FUNAKUBO, Haruka (JPN) vs FILZMOSER, Sabrina (AUT)

**Final Results**

1. DEGUCHI, Christa (CAN)
2. LIEN, Chen-Ling (TPE)
3. KLIMKAIT, Jessica (CAN)
3. FUNAKUBO, Haruka (JPN)
5. MONTEIRO, Telma (POR)
5. FILZMOSER, Sabrina (AUT)
7. DZHIGAROS, Diana (RUS)
7. MEZHETSKAIA, Daria (RUS)

**MEN**

 **-60kg: Unseeded Mongolian upstages Japanese favourite**

**F**ormer Junior World Championships bronze medallist LKHAGVAJAMTS Unubold (MGL) won IJF World Judo Tour gold at his third attempt as the young Mongolian beat Osaka Grand Slam bronze medallist OSHIMA Yuma (JPN) in the -60kg final. **World number 169 world number** LKHAGVAJAMTS was unseeded but proved too strong for the experienced Japanese judoka who received his third and final shido in golden score for ducking under the grip of his opponent.

In the first semi-final LKHAGVAJAMTS saw off European champion Islam YASHUEV (RUS) who was given a direct hansoku-make. In the second semi-final Düsseldorf Grand Slam bronze medallist Tornike TSJAKADOEA (NED) received three penalties against OSHIMA and was disqualified.

The first bronze medal was won by TSJAKADOEA who denied Düsseldorf Grand Slam bronze medallist Lukhumi CHKHVIMIANI (GEO) a place on the podium ahead of the Tbilisi Grand Prix. TSJAKADOEA scored a waza-ari after two and a half minutes of added time to claim his second Grand Prix medal.

The second bronze medal went to Tel Aviv Grand Prix bronze medallist Albert OGUZOV (RUS) as YASHUEV was restricted from taking part after his direct hansoku-make.

**Final**OSHIMA, Yuma (JPN) vs LKHAGVAJAMTS, Unubold (MGL)

**Bronze Medal Fights**TSJAKADOEA, Tornike (NED) vs CHKHVIMIANI, Lukhumi (GEO)
OGUZOV, Albert (RUS) vs YASHUEV, Islam (RUS)

**Final Results**

1. LKHAGVAJAMTS, Unubold (MGL)
2. OSHIMA, Yuma (JPN)
3. TSJAKADOEA, Tornike (NED)
3. OGUZOV, Albert (RUS)
5. CHKHVIMIANI, Lukhumi (GEO)
5. YASHUEV, Islam (RUS)
7. GADZHIEV, Sakhavat (RUS)
7. TAKABATAKE, Eric (BRA)

**-66kg: Career-best outing for flying Frenchman LE BLOUCH**

Rome European Open gold medallist Kilian LE BLOUCH (FRA) topped an IJF Grand Slam medal podium for the first time at the expense of world number 130 Isa ISAEV (RUS) who was unable to win gold for the hosts. Both judoka were in unchartered territory as they graced a Grand Slam final for the first time and it was the world number 46 from France who had the decisive say as he caught the home judoka with an o-uchi-gari for a waza-ari score.

In the first semi-final ISAEV benefitted from an error-strewn display by Antalya Grand Prix winner Bagrati NINIASHVILI (GEO) who was disqualified after receiving three shidos.

In the second semi-final Zagreb Grand Prix winner Tal FLICKER (ISR) was second best against LE BLOUCH.

The first bronze medal was won by Paris Grand Slam bronze medallist Baruch SHMAILOV (ISR) who conquered his teammate FLICKER. The latter was disqualified for his third shido after three minutes of golden score for passivity.

The second bronze medal went to NINIASHVILI who stunned Tunis Grand Prix silver medallist FUJISAKA Taroh (JPN) by throwing the Japanese on two occasions. Georgia’s NINIASHVILI launched FUJISAKA with a front uchi-mata for a waza-ari and added a second to leave the Japanese reeling.

**Final**LE BLOUCH, Kilian (FRA) vs ISAEV, Isa (RUS)

**Bronze Medal Fights**FLICKER, Tal (ISR) vs SHMAILOV, Baruch (ISR)
FUJISAKA, Taroh (JPN) vs NINIASHVILI, Bagrati (GEO)

**Final Results**

1. LE BLOUCH, Kilian (FRA)
2. ISAEV, Isa (RUS)
3. SHMAILOV, Baruch (ISR)
3. NINIASHVILI, Bagrati (GEO)
5. FLICKER, Tal (ISR)
5. FUJISAKA, Taroh (JPN)
7. JEAN, Daniel (FRA)
7. CARGNIN, Daniel (BRA)