22 February 2019

Düsseldorf Grand Slam 2019, Germany - DAY ONE

Japan four, rest of the world one

**Women
-48kg: TONAKI completes Grand Slam treble to remain in Tokyo 2020 frame**

**Former world champion TONAKI Funa (JPN) defeated** former Paris Grand Slam silver medallist KANG Yujeong (KOR) by ippon in the -48kg final to keep her Tokyo 2020 ambitions alive. World number three TONAKI clinched her third Grand Slam title at the expense of the world number 15 who was dispatched with a sumi-gaeshi for ippon. The Japanese has a prolific medal record on the IJF World Judo Tour but has an 0-3 record **against Daria BILODID (UKR), the current and youngest world judo champion of all time, while her colleague KONDO Ami (JPN) is yet to tangle with the Ukrainian wonderkid.**

In the first semi-final TONAKI held down Tel Aviv Grand Prix bronze medallist Nathalia BRIGIDA (BRA) for ippon while in the second semi-final KANG saw off Junior World Championships bronze medallist Laura MARTINEZ ABELENDA (ESP) by a waza-ari score.

The first bronze medal contest was won by Cancun Grand Prix silver medallist Catarina COSTA (POR) who took MARTINEZ ABELENDA down with a delightful piece of opportunistic ashi-waza for ippon.

The second bronze medal was won by BRIGIDA who submitted Ekaterinburg Grand Slam bronze medallist Katharina MENZ (GER) with a juji-gatame for ippon after three and a half minutes of golden score.

**Final**KANG, Yujeong (KOR) vs **TONAKI, Funa (JPN)**

**Bronze Medal Fights**MARTINEZ ABELENDA, Laura (ESP) vs COSTA, Catarina (POR)
BRIGIDA, Nathalia (BRA) vs MENZ, Katharina (GER)

**Final Results**

1. **TONAKI, Funa (JPN)**
2. KANG, Yujeong (KOR)
3. COSTA, Catarina (POR)
3. BRIGIDA, Nathalia (BRA)
5. MARTINEZ ABELENDA, Laura (ESP)
5. MENZ, Katharina (GER)
7. RISHONY, Shira (ISR)
7. LI, Yanan (CHN)

**-52kg: Olympic champion KELMENDI wins her second IJF gold of 2019**

**Olympic champion Majlinda KELMENDI (KOS) earned her sixth Grand Slam title with a straightforward win over** Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games silver medallist LKHAGVASUREN Sosorbaram (MGL). KELMENDI was not at her explosive best in Germany as she won three of her five contests by hansoku-make (three shidos). LKHAGVASUREN, 17, fell in the same manner but will be thrilled to open her IJF World Judo Tour medal account at his early stage of her career. KELMENDI is edging closer to an inevitiable and mouthwatering showdown with world champion ABE Uta (JPN) which could be on the cards for the Tokyo 2019 World Championships.

In the first semi-final former Junior World Championships silver medallist MAEDA Chishima (JPN) lost out by two scores to LKHAGVASUREN.

In the second semi-final Olympic silver medallist Odette GIUFFRIDA (ITA) was thrown with a gigantic harai-goshi for ippon by **KELMENDI in a rematch of the Rio 2016 Olympic final.**

The first bronze medal was awarded to GIUFFRIDA who bounced back from her semi-final disappointment to defeat 2013 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix winner Yulia KAZARINA (RUS) with a foot sweep which earned a waza-ari score.

The second bronze medal was won by MAEDA who saw off Olympic silver medallist JEONG Bokyeong (KOR) by a waza-ari score. MAEDA, 21, medalled at her first international IJF assignment as JEONG is still early in her transition from -48kg to -52kg.

**Final
KELMENDI, Majlinda (KOS)** vs LKHAGVASUREN, Sosorbaram (MGL)

**Bronze Medal Fights**GIUFFRIDA, Odette (ITA) vs KAZARINA, Yulia (RUS)
MAEDA, Chishima (JPN) vs JEONG, Bokyeong (KOR)

**Final Results**

1. **KELMENDI, Majlinda (KOS)**
2. LKHAGVASUREN, Sosorbaram (MGL)
3. GIUFFRIDA, Odette (ITA)
3. MAEDA, Chishima (JPN)
5. KAZARINA, Yulia (RUS)
5. JEONG, Bokyeong (KOR)
7. GNETO, Astride (FRA)
7. CHITU, Andreea (ROU)

**-57kg: Seventh heaven for YOSHIDA as world champion reigns over Olympic champion**

World champion YOSHIDA Tsukasa (JPN) defeated Olympic champion Rafaela SILVA (BRA) in the final contest on day one in Düsseldorf to hand Japan their fourth gold medal from five weight categories. YOSHIDA collected her seventh Grand Slam medal after utilising her sutemi-waza in the form of a sumi-gaeshi which was awarded a waza-ari score.

In the first semi-final YOSHIDA downed Tashkent Grand Prix winner Theresa STOLL (GER) by a waza-ari score while in the second semi-final Olympic silver medallist and former world champion DORJSUREN Sumiya (MGL) lost to SILVA by a waza-ari score in the closing seconds.

The first bronze medal was awarded to DORJSUREN submitted Oberwart European Open winner Anna BOROWSKA (POL) via shime-waza to win her eighth medal on the Grand Slam stage.

The second bronze medal was won by 2018 Düsseldorf Grand Slam bronze medallist Sarah Leonie CYSIQUE (FRA) who denied the hosts a medal on day one. CYSIQUE matched her 2018 result by seeing off STOLL by a waza-ari score in the penultimate contest on the opening day in Germany.

**Final**SILVA, Rafaela (BRA) vs YOSHIDA, Tsukasa (JPN)

**Bronze Medal Fights**DORJSUREN, Sumiya (MGL) vs BOROWSKA, Anna (POL)
CYSIQUE, Sarah Leonie (FRA) vs STOLL, Theresa (GER)

**Final Results**

1.
2.
3. DORJSUREN, Sumiya (MGL)
3. CYSIQUE, Sarah Leonie (FRA)
5. BOROWSKA, Anna (POL)
5. STOLL, Theresa (GER)
7. KIM, Jisu (KOR)
7. COBAN, Sappho (GER)

**MEN
-60kg: NAGAYAMA wins fifth Grand Slam title as Japan take control in Germany**

**World Championships bronze medallist NAGAYAMA Ryuju (JPN) ruled the men’s lightest weight category on day one in Germany as he brushed aside World Judo Masters gold medallist Robert MSHVIDOBADZE (RUS) in the final. Tokai University member NAGAYAMA catapulted MSHVIDOBADZE through the air with a uchi-mata for the maximum score. All the Japanese judoka can do is keep winning events as he tries to chase down teammate and reigning world champion TAKATO Naohisa (JPN) who is the current favourite for Tokyo 2020.**

In the first semi-final **MSHVIDOBADZE bested former Tbilisi Grand Prix winner Lukhumi CHKHVIMIANI (GEO) by a waza-ari score.**

In the second semi-final **NAGAYAMA threw Abu Dhabi Grand Slam silver medallist Francisco GARRIGOS (ESP) with a seoi-nage and then a tai-otoshi in a one-sided contest.**

The first bronze medal was won by Tel Aviv Grand Prix silver medallist Tornike TSJAKADOEA (NED) who edged past GARRIGOS by a waza-ari score.

The second bronze medal went to CHKHVIMIANI after Asian Games bronze medallist LEE Harim (KOR) received his third and final shido in golden score for a leg grab.

**Final
NAGAYAMA, Ryuju (JPN)** vs **MSHVIDOBADZE, Robert (RUS)**

**Bronze Medal Fights**GARRIGOS, Francisco (ESP) vs TSJAKADOEA, Tornike (NED)
LEE, Harim (KOR) vs CHKHVIMIANI, Lukhumi (GEO)

**Final Results**

1. **NAGAYAMA, Ryuju (JPN)**
2. **MSHVIDOBADZE, Robert (RUS)**
3. TSJAKADOEA, Tornike (NED)
3. CHKHVIMIANI, Lukhumi (GEO)
5. GARRIGOS, Francisco (ESP)
5. LEE, Harim (KOR)
7. MKHEIDZE, Luka (FRA)
7. UROZBOEV, Diyorbek (UZB)

**-66kg: Marvellous MARUYAMA starts with 2019 campaign with gold**

**World Judo Masters gold medallist MARUYAMA Joshiro (JPN) won his third consecutive IJF World Judo Tour event to arguably usurp two-time and reigning world champion ABE Hifumi (JPN) in his country’s pecking order.**

**MARUYAMA threw** former Samsun Grand Prix winner KIM Limhwan (KOR) with a l**ightning quick uchi-mata for a waza-ari and bombarded his rival with attacks without securing a second score. The pressure is now mounting on ABE for the first time in his career having lost to MARUYAMA in the Osaka Grand Slam final and having lost his opening contest at the Paris Grand Slam a fortnight ago.**

In the first semi-final **MARUYAMA tapped out Paris Grand Slam winner Denis VIERU (MDA) while in the other half** Ekaterinburg Grand Slam silver medallist Yakub SHAMILOV (RUS) was thrown by KIM Limhwan (KOR) with a ippon seoi-nage in golden score.

The first bronze medal was won by SHAMILOV caught Tel Aviv Grand Prix gold medallist Manuel LOMBARDO (ITA) flat-footed and swept the Italian for a waza-ari after 69 seconds of golden score.

The second bronze medal went to Osaka Grand Slam bronze medallist YONDONPERENLEI Baskhuu (MGL) who secured the final place on the podium after counting an o-soto-gari from VIERU with a front uchi-mata after 33 seconds of added time.

**Final**
KIM, Limhwan (KOR) vs **MARUYAMA, Joshiro (JPN)**

**Bronze Medal Fights**SHAMILOV, Yakub (RUS) vs LOMBARDO, Manuel (ITA)
VIERU, Denis (MDA) vs YONDONPERENLEI, Baskhuu (MGL)

**Final Results**

1. **MARUYAMA, Joshiro (JPN)**
2. KIM, Limhwan (KOR)
3. SHAMILOV, Yakub (RUS)
3. YONDONPERENLEI, Baskhuu (MGL)
5. LOMBARDO, Manuel (ITA)
5. VIERU, Denis (MDA)
7. GOMBOC, Adrian (SLO)
7. KUANOV, Yesset (KAZ)