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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING  
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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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09<sup>th</sup>  
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## IFSC CLIMBING WORLD CUP VAIL 2018

# PUCCIO WINS IN THRILLING FASHION IN VAIL, SUGIMOTO RETURNS TO THE TOP

Alex Puccio won gold in the last moments and the United States claimed two medals at IFSC World Cup Vail today. Japan continued to excel in the 2018 Bouldering season, placing four athletes on the podium.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Victory for Sugimoto in 5 Years

Six Japanese athletes qualified for finals in Vail, as well as three American athletes competing on their home turf. Rei Sugimoto of Japan started strong, solving the opening dyno and friction climbing of M1 on his first attempt. His teammate Tomoa Narasaki and Sean Bailey of the United States matched the performance with flashes of their own. Bailey and Sugimoto pulled away on M2, adding another flash on the pure power problem. Sugimoto took the lead by maintaining his balance and showing flexibility on the M3 slab for his third top, which Narasaki also completed. Bailey needed a flash of M4 to regain the lead and nearly accomplished the feat with a packed crowd cheering behind him, but he fell with one hand on the final hold. The door was open for Narasaki to do the same, but like Bailey he came up just short of the top. It was the second victory for Sugimoto, who last won gold in 2013. Bailey placed 2<sup>nd</sup> for his first IFSC World Cup medal, completing two tops in one less attempt than Narasaki. Season leader Jernej Kruder of Slovenia placed 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Puccio Closes the Curtains in Style

In the women's final, Miho Nonaka of Japan took an early lead with a quick top of the W1 slab. 2017 Vail finalist Alex Puccio energised the home crowd by keeping her composure on the slippery volumes to top with under 40 seconds remaining. Both athletes completed the jump and strong climbing of W2, as well as Fanny Gibert of France. Only Nonaka's teammate Akiyo Noguchi found the solution to W3, using her full

body to wrestle past compression moves and the tenuous upper section to join the running for gold. When Gibert and Noguchi couldn't solve W4, the grand finale in Vail came down to the last climber on the last problem. Needing a top to surpass Nonaka, Puccio powered through the sequence of pinches, scored the outstretched zone point and stuck the final dyno with one hand to secure her second victory since 2009 in Vail. Nonaka placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with two tops to regain the lead in the season rankings ahead of Noguchi, who finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with more zone points than Gibert for Japan's fourth medal of the competition. For more results, visit the [Vail event page](#) on the IFSC website.

### YOG Watch: Meul, Nakamura Approach Finals

Among Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 qualified athletes, Hannah Meul of Germany came up just one top short of qualifying for her first IFSC World Cup final and placed 10<sup>th</sup>. Mao Nakamura of Japan also climbed well in Vail, competing alongside Meul in semi-finals and finishing in 13<sup>th</sup> place. Nakamura's compatriot Keita Dohi just missed the semi-finals cut.

### Next: Villars Opens Lead Climbing Season

The seventh and final IFSC Bouldering World Cup will take place in Munich, Germany, on August 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, the Lead climbing season opens on July 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Villars, Switzerland, hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Lead and 4<sup>th</sup> Speed event of the 2018 season. Visit the [Villars event page](#) for the schedule, starters and 2017 highlights.

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## RESULTS OF IFSC WORLD CUP VAIL 2018

### Men Bouldering

#	NAME		NAT.	SCORE
1	SUGIMOTO	Rei	JPN	3t 4z 4 5
2	BAILEY	Sean	USA	2t 4z 2 6
3	NARASAKI	Tomoa	JPN	2t 4z 3 5
4	KRUDER	Jernej	SLO	0t 4z 0 7
5	MURAI	Ryuichi	JPN	0t 4z 0 8
6	TAKATA	Tomoaki	JPN	0t 3z 0 15

### Women Bouldering

#	NAME		NAT.	SCORE
1	PUCCIO	Alex	USA	3t 3z 6 4
2	NONAKA	Miho	JPN	2t 3z 3 4
3	NOGUCHI	Akiyo	JPN	1t 3z 2 6
4	GIBERT	Fanny	FRA	1t 1z 5 2
5	CONDIE	Kyra	USA	0t 2z 0 4
6	BESTVATER	Alma	GER	0t 1z 0 8

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