



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

# JANJA GARNBRET MAKES HISTORY, MASAHIRO HIGUCHI WINS FIRST CAREER WORLD CUP GOLD

PRESS RELEASE 2021/40

Kranj - 4 September 2021

The IFSC World Cup Kranj 2021 closed in fantastic fashion, with Olympic Champion Janja Garnbret putting on a show and securing the 31st World Cup gold medal of her fantastic career – a tally that now puts her ahead of South Korea’s Jain Kim, and makes her the most successful climber of all time.

Competing on her home soil, 22-year-old Garnbret crushed the competition, entering the stage last and signing off with 49+ – only a couple of holds short of the top. South Korea’s Seo Chaehyun (17) followed in second place with 46 and won silver, while United States’ Natalia Grossman (20) took bronze with 41+.

The women’s Lead event full results are available [here](#).

With tonight’s victory, Garnbret also clinched the 2021 Lead World Cup title, jumping from fourth to first place in the ranking and concluding the season with 300 points; Natalia Grossman placed second with 296, and Laura Rogora (20) of Italy finished third with 278.

The full women’s Lead World Cup ranking is available [here](#).

In a challenging, hard-fought men’s final, Japan’s 28-year-old Masahiro Higuchi pocketed the first World Cup gold medal of his career, adding it up to the only other one he previously won: a bronze, also in Kranj, in 2018.

Despite failing to top the final route, Higuchi closed with a score of 37, and prevailed over a well-balanced field of competitors: Luka Potocar (19) of Slovenia followed in second position with 31+, climbing on a World Cup podium for the very first time in his career; Sebastian Halenke (26) of Germany completed the podium in third place – also with 31+.

The men’s Lead event full results are available [here](#).

Italy’s Stefano Ghisolfi won the 2021 men’s Lead World Cup title with 319 points, United States’ Sean Bailey followed in second place with 277, while tonight’s gold medalist Masahiro Higuchi took third position with 263.

The full 2021 men’s Lead World Cup ranking is available [here](#).

The 2021 IFSC Season will now move to Moscow, Russia, where the IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships are scheduled from 15 to 21 September. The final World Cup stage of the season, then, will take place in Seoul, South Korea, from 1 to 3 October.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

News and updates will be available on the [IFSC website](#) and on the Federation's social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

**For more information:**

Marco VETTORETTI, IFSC Head of Communications  
marco.vettoretti@ifsc-climbing.org | +39 371 4155701

