



PARIS 2024

IFSC Media Guide 2024



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF SPORT CLIMBING



A message from...

Marco Maria Sclaris IFSC President (2007-present)



Dear Members of the Media,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the Sport Climbing competition of the Olympic Games Paris 2024. While this is our second Olympic appearance following our debut three years ago at Tokyo 2020, there are still be plenty of firsts in store for us at Le Bourget Climbing Venue this 5-10 August. Most importantly, of course, is the fact that our athletes will be competing in front of a live audience in Paris, something they were unfortunately deprived of in Tokyo due to COVID-19 restrictions.

As you all know, having spectators in attendance significantly enhances the atmosphere of a sporting event, and we expect our athletes to really feed off the energy created here. This in turn should translate into unforgettable performances on the wall.

Paris 2024 will also be the first time our Boulder & Lead format features alongside Speed at an Olympic Games (in Tokyo all three disciplines were combined). As a result, the total number of medal events for Sport Climbing has doubled from two to four, while the number of climbers has grown from 40 to 68.

When it comes to storylines, therefore, you should definitely be spoiled for choice. Our athletes are our greatest ambassadors, and to help you get to know them better, we have included short bios on each in this Media Guide. But don't stop there.

I encourage all of you to make the effort to speak with the athletes in the mixed zone and in one-on-one interviews to help you to learn more about their exceptional histories, personalities, accomplishments and – why not – their families and their entourage, who are often obscured but are fundamental in creating the conditions of their performances on the field of play.

I trust that you will all enjoy your stays in Paris and that you have everything you need to perform your duties to the best of your abilities. Please do not hesitate to make the best use of the members of our IFSC Communications Team, they are here to assist you whenever and wherever possible.

Good luck, and above all thank you for your interest in our sport. World up. Keep Climbing!

Marco Sclaris
IFSC President



Marco Maria Sclaris and IOC President Thomas Bach during the OQS event in Budapest - 2024

Fabrizio Rossini

Media & Communications Director

Dear world media representatives,

We are very pleased to have you with us at Le Bourget Climbing Venue, capturing all the highlights of what is sure to be a memorable Olympic Sport Climbing competition.

This Media Guide was developed specifically with you in mind. It contains everything we could think of to make your jobs as easy as possible while at the Games, as we know how hectic major multisport events can sometimes be for those working on the front line. For starters, you will find the contact information for the IFSC Communications Team. As our team is here to assist you, we will do our best to take care of any request you may have...or at the very least point you in the right direction of someone who can. Also contained within this document are the IFSC's social media handles, a brief history of our Federation and sport, the competition schedule, format explainer, and athlete biographies. Additional information can be found on our official website: www.ifsc-climbing.org. You, the media, will be the window to our sport for millions of people consuming your work around the world, from diehard Sport Climbing fans to those coming to our sport for the first time. Your success is therefore our success. In this context, I know you will have plenty to report on from 5-10 August and I trust that you will find this publication useful to facilitating your work. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the Games, and I wish you a productive and enjoyable time here in the City of Light.

Warm regards,
Fabrizio Rossini
IFSC Media & Communications Director



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TV rights - Sponsorship - Webcasting - Footage requests


SOCIAL MEDIA


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WHAT IS THE IFSC?



*Ai Mori (JPN) competing during the
IFSC World Championships Bern 2023*

The International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) was created on 27 January 2007 as a continuation of the International Council for Competition Climbing, which was created in 1997. An international non-governmental and non-profit organisation, the IFSC's main objectives are the direction, regulation, promotion, development, and furtherance of climbing competitions around the world. The IFSC is a member of GAISF, IWGA, ARISF, and ASOIF, and has its sport in the Olympic programme. It is also recognised by the International Paralympic Committee. The last two decades have been a period of spectacular growth for both Sport Climbing and the organisation. Sport Climbing has gained credibility not only as competitive sport, but also for its social values. The IFSC is a young and healthy federation founded on modern sporting principles and values, cultivating them along with sport growth and development. Sport Climbing was officially confirmed as an additional sport in the programme of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 during the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session in Rio de Janeiro, August 2016, and was included as a medal sport in the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018. A proposal to include surfing, skateboarding, breaking, and Sport Climbing at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 was unanimously approved at the 134th IOC Session on 25 June 2019. The IOC Executive Board officially confirmed Sport Climbing's inclusion in the programme of the 2024 Olympic Games on 7 December 2020. At the 139th Session of the IOC in Beijing in February 2022, Sport Climbing was confirmed on the Initial Sports Programme of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 as part of a strong focus on youth.



Men's Para Climbing All Podium at the IFSC World Championships Bern 2023



IFSC Board Members during the visit at the Olympic House in Lausanne (Switzerland) - 2023

Climbing's debut at Tokyo 2020



During the 129th IOC Session in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2016, the International Olympic Committee added Climbing to the programme of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

From 3 to 6 August 2021, a total of 40 Sport Climbing athletes – 20 men and 20 women – competed in a Combined event at Tokyo's Aomi Urban Sports Park, featuring all three disciplines of the sport: Boulder, Lead, and Speed, in one event.

On the 5 August 2021 Sport Climbing's first Olympic champion in history was crowned, where following the men's Combined final, 18-year-old Alberto Ginés López of Spain claimed the Olympic gold medal. In doing so, Ginés López became the youngest Spanish Olympic gold medallist to date.

Slovenia's Garnbret won the women's Combined Olympic gold medal on 6 August, becoming the first female Olympic Champion in the history of Sport Climbing and made more history by carrying the Slovenian flag in the Closing Ceremony, becoming the first flag bearer representing Sport Climbing at an Olympic Ceremony.

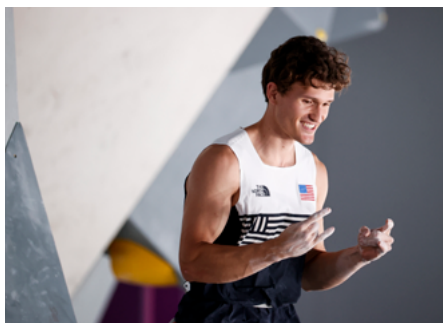




Alberto GINÉS LÓPEZ
[ESP] Gold Medal ●

Janja GARNBRET

[SLO] Gold Medal ●



Nathaniel COLEMAN [USA] Silver Medal ●



NONAKA Miho [JPN] Silver Medal ●



Jakob SCHUBERT [AUT] Bronze Medal ●



NOGUCHI Akiyo [JPN] Bronze Medal ●

Schedules

05-10 AUGUST

MONDAY 05 AUGUST

10:00

Men's Boulder & Lead, Semi-final Boulder

13:00

Women's Speed, Qualification Seeding

13:35

Women's Speed, Qualification Elimination

TUESDAY 06 AUGUST

10:00

Women's Boulder & Lead, Semi-final Boulder

13:00

Men's Speed, Qualification Seeding

13:35

Men's Speed, Qualification Elimination

WEDNESDAY 07 AUGUST

10:00

Men's Boulder & Lead, Semi-final - Lead

12:35

Women's Speed, Quarter-finals

12:46

Women's Speed, Semi-finals

12:54

Women's Speed, Finals

THURSDAY 08 AUGUST

10:00

Women's Boulder & Lead, Semi-final Lead

12:35

Men's Speed, Quarter-finals

12:46

Men's Speed, Semi-finals

12:54

Men's Speed, Finals

FRIDAY 9 AUGUST

10:15

Men's Boulder & Lead, Final - Boulder

12:35

Men's Boulder & Lead, Final - Lead

SATURDAY 10 AUGUST

10:15

Women's Boulder & Lead, Final - Boulder

12:35

Women's Boulder & Lead, Final - Lead





Qualified Athletes

Women's Boulder & Lead

IFSC World Championships Bern 2023:

1st – Janja GARNBRET (SLO)

2nd – Jessica PILZ (AUT)

3rd – MORI Ai (JPN)

IFSC European Qualifier Laval 2023:

1st – Oriane BERTONE (FRA)

Pan American Games Santiago 2023:

1st – Natalia GROSSMAN (USA)

IFSC Asian Qualifier Jakarta 2023:

1st – ZHANG Yuetong (CHN)

IFSC Oceania Qualifier Melbourne 2023:

1st – Oceania MACKENZIE (AUS)

IFSC African Qualifier Pretoria 2023:

1st – Lauren MUKHEIBIR (RSA)

Olympic Qualifier Series:

1st – Brooke RABOUTOU (USA)

2nd – NONAKA Miho (JPN)

3rd – Erin MCNEICE (GBR)

4th – SEO Chaehyun (KOR)

5th – LUO Zhilu (CHN)

6th – Ievgeniia KAZBEKOVA (UKR)

8th – Mia KRAMPL (SLO)

9th – Lucia DÖRFFEL (GER)

10th – Zélia AVEZOU (FRA)

11th – Camilla MORONI (ITA)

12th – Laura ROGORA (ITA)

13th – Molly THOMPSON-SMITH (GBR)

Women's Speed

IFSC World Championships Bern 2023:

1st – Desak MADE RITA KUSUMA DEWI (INA)

2nd – Emma HUNT (USA)

IFSC European Qualifier Rome 2023:

1st – Aleksandra MIROSLAW (POL)

Pan American Games Santiago 2023:

1st – Piper KELLY (USA)

IFSC Asian Qualifier Jakarta 2023:

1st – DENG Lijuan (CHN)

IFSC Oceania Qualifier Melbourne 2023:

1st – Sarah TETZLAFF (NZL)

IFSC African Qualifier Pretoria 2023:

1st – Aniya HOLDER (RSA)

Olympic Qualifier Series:

1st – ZHOU Yafei (CHN)

2nd – Aleksandra KALUCKA (POL)

3rd – Rajiah SALLSABILLAH (INA)

7th – Capucine VIGLIONE (FRA)

10th – Manon LEBON (FRA)

12th – Leslie Adriana ROMERO PÉREZ (ESP)

13rd – Beatrice COLLI (ITA)

Men's Boulder & Lead

IFSC World Championships Bern 2023:

1st – Jakob SCHUBERT (AUT)

2nd – Colin DUFFY (USA)

3rd – NARASAKI Tomoa (JPN)

IFSC European Qualifier Laval 2023:

1st – Toby ROBERTS (GBR)

Pan American Games Santiago 2023:

1st – Jesse GRUPPER (USA)

IFSC Asian Qualifier Jakarta 2023:

1st – ANRAKU Sorato (JPN)

IFSC Oceania Qualifier Melbourne 2023:

1st – Campbell HARRISON (AUS)

IFSC African Qualifier Pretoria 2023:

1st – Mel JANSE VAN RENSBURG (RSA)

Olympic Qualifier Series:

1st – LEE Dohyun (KOR)

2nd – Sam AVEZOU (FRA)

3rd – Adam ONDRA (CZE)

4th – Alberto GINÉS LÓPEZ (ESP)

5th – Hannes VAN DUYSSEN (BEL)

6th – Paul JENFT (FRA)

8th – Yannick FLOHÉ (GER)

9th – Hamish MCARTHUR (GBR)

10th – Sascha LEHMANN (SUI)

11th – Alexander MEGOS (GER)

12th – Luka POTOVAR (SLO)

13th – PAN Yufei (CHN)

Men's Speed

IFSC World Championships Bern 2023:

1st – Matteo ZURLONI (ITA)

2nd – LONG Jinbao (CHN)

IFSC European Qualifier Rome 2023:

1st – Bassa MAWEM (FRA)

Pan American Games Santiago 2023:

1st – Samuel WATSON (USA)

IFSC Asian Qualifier Jakarta 2023:

1st – Rahmad ADI MULYONO (INA)

IFSC Oceania Qualifier Melbourne 2023:

1st – Julian DAVID (NZL)

IFSC African Qualifier Pretoria 2023:

1st – Joshua BRUYNS (RSA)

Olympic Qualifier Series:

1st – WU Peng (CHN)

2nd – Veddriq LEONARDO (INA)

3rd – Amir MAIMURATOV (KAZ)

6th – Zachary HAMMER (USA)

7th – Reza ALIPOUR SHENAZANDIFARD (IRI)

8th – Yaroslav TKACH (UKR)

11th – SHIN Euncheol (KOR)

Discipline Explainer

Speed

- Raced on a 15m wall
- Two phases to a competition – qualification and final
- Qualification Seeding Heats – the point is to get to the top the quickest
- Qualification Elimination Heats – beat your opponent, but also time is important with one ‘fastest loser’ through to finals
- Finals – beat your opponent

Qualification

Qualification at Paris 2024 is a little different to the regular IFSC World Cup format as entry numbers are restricted to 14.

For this event there is two phases to qualification.

The first you race for the best time to set up the pairings for the second phase. So as normal, the first phase is based purely on time.

The second phase is then elimination racing (similar to finals), but with the added incentive to race for time as one ‘fastest loser’ goes through to finals

Finals

Knock out race format

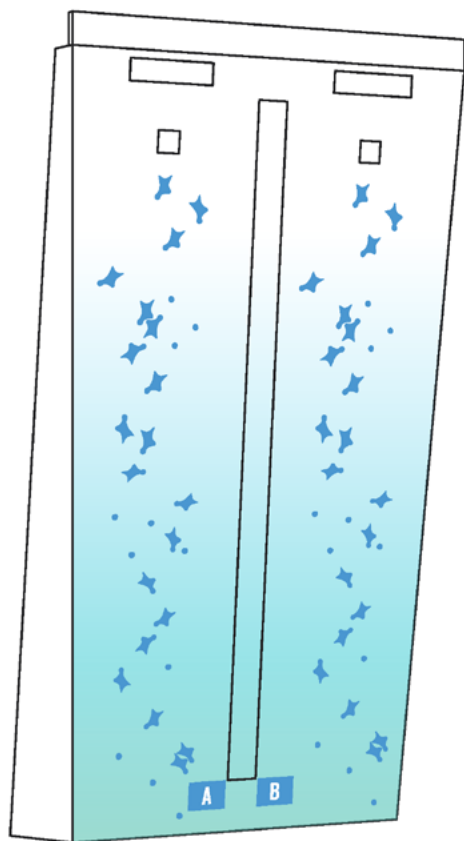
Time and finishing position from qualification gives you your opponent (1 v 8, 2 v 7, 3 v 6 etc)

Although time is important here, it’s all about beating your opponent and progressing to the next round

With eight athletes in finals there will be a quarter-finals, semi-finals and then ‘small final’ for bronze medal and ‘big final’ for gold and silver

**Because qualification is time based and finals opponent based, world records are generally seen in qualification – times have dropped dramatically for men and women since Tokyo 2020 so expect a lot of Olympic records*

SPEED



Athletes



14



14

QUALIFICATION

Qualification – Seeding

Two races for each athlete
(Lane A + Lane B).

Rank athletes from 1st to 14th,
based on fastest time recorded



Qualification – Elimination

Based on time recorded on
Qualification - Seeding

1st	↔	14th
2nd	↔	13th
3rd	↔	12th
4th	↔	11th
5th	↔	10th
6th	↔	9th
7th	↔	8th

1. 1st ↔ 8th	}	5. W1 ↔ W2	}	1st - 2nd Place	W5 ↔ W6
2. 4th ↔ 5th		6. W3 ↔ W4		3rd - 4th Place	L5 ↔ L6
3. 2nd ↔ 7th					
4. 3rd ↔ 6th					

FINALS

7 winners of the
Qualification Elimination
+ 1 fastest loser
of the Qualification

BOULDER & LEAD

Athletes



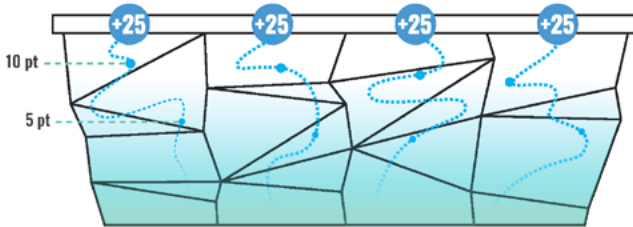
20



20

BOULDER

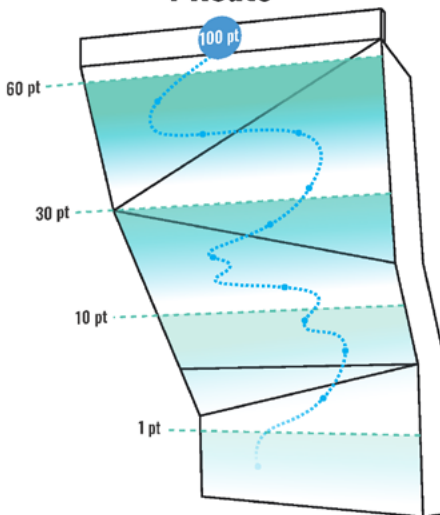
4 Boulders



= 100 points

(REACHING TOP IN 4 BOULDERS)

1 Route



= 100 points

(REACHING TOP HOLD)

LEAD

FINALS

8 athletes with the highest amount of points progress to finals

Discipline Explainer

Boulder & Lead

Usually two separate disciplines, they are together for Paris 2024 (and the qualification events for the Games)

First is Boulder – which is problem solving.

There is qualification, semi-final and final. Problems (Boulders) are different for men and women and reset after each round.

You try to complete the problems in qualification and semi-finals without seeing them beforehand (isolation). For the final, each competitor gets two minutes to look at each of the four problems – so a total of eight minutes.

Each competitor will try and solve four problems on a 4m wall in the least number of attempts. They have five minutes to attempt each Boulder for qualification and semi-finals and four minutes for each in the final

Unlike the regular Boulder format, this round has two scoring points on the wall before reaching the top. Scored out of a possible 100 points (4 Boulders x 25 points each).

Reaching the First Point on the wall is 5 points, reaching the Second Point on the wall is 10 points and making the Top is 25 points.

0.1 is deducted from your score every time you make an attempt eg. make top in first attempt is 25 points, make top in second attempt is 24.9 points

This score is taken through to the Lead round.

The aim is to go as high as possible in one attempt within six minutes on a 15m (overhanging) wall The competitors can look at each route for six minutes – six for qualification round, six for semi-final round and six for final round.

There are four scoring sections on the wall, and the higher they climb the more points they are awarded. Scores are assigned to each hold in descending order, starting from the top: the 10 highest holds, including the top, are worth four points each, followed by 10 holds that are worth three points each, 10 that are worth two points each, and 10 that are worth one point each. Any remaining hold before the start of the route has no point value. There will be signage on the wall to tell you the sections. An additional 0.1 points is awarded for using, but not controlling a hold.

Once you have a Boulder and a Lead score they will be added together to give a total of 200 points. Whomever has the highest total wins.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Desak MADE RITA KUSUMA DEWI (INA)

Age: 23

DOB: 24/01/2001

Birthplace: Sambangan, Bali, Indonesia

Hometown: Bekasi, Indonesia



 Instagram: [desakmaderita01](#) / Athlete page: [Desak Made Rita Kusuma Dewi](#)

Part of a strong Indonesian Speed team, Desak Dewi qualified for Paris at the first attempt by winning the IFSC Climbing World Championships Bern 2023. Her World Championships win was the first gold medal of her senior career. Desak started climbing at the age of eight after seeing people climbing in her city that piqued her interest. She started competing at the age of 12 before joining the world circuit in 2020 and becoming part of the Indonesian squad. Despite being fully focussed on climbing, Desak describes herself as “a fun person, but embarrassed to start a conversation.” So be sure to approach her and say hello should you see her in Paris!

Fun fact: Desak says she finds it difficult not to laugh while watching funny videos.

Emma HUNT (USA)

Age: 21

DOB: 01/04/2003

Birthplace: Marietta, Georgia, USA

Hometown: Woodstock, Georgia, USA



 Instagram: [climbing_emma](#) / Athlete page: [Emma Hunt](#)

Emma Hunt is one of the only USA climbers not to live and train in Salt Lake City, Utah. Growing up and still living in the state of Georgia, Emma began climbing at the age of five when her father tried a portable wall in a shopping mall. Starting off competing in Boulder at eight, then Lead at 10, it wasn't until she was 13 that she began concentrating on Speed. It wasn't long before she moved up the rankings in the international competition circuit, winning the 2019 IFSC Youth World Championships, a senior gold at the 2022 World Games and a first IFSC World Cup in 2024 in Salt Lake City. Emma secured her place at Paris 2024 by keeping her nerve and taking advantage of a slip from world record holder Aleksandra Miroslaw at the semi-final stage of the 2023 IFSC Climbing World Championships in Bern. That win put her into the final, guaranteeing her one of the two Olympic spots from the event (she ended up finishing second overall). Away from climbing, Emma is a big fan of baking, which she finds relaxing.

Fun fact: Emma lists climber Alex Johnson, skier Mikaela Shiffrin and swimmer Katie Ledecky as her heroes for their work in equality, mental health and empowering women.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Aleksandra MIROSLAW (POL)

Age: 30

DOB: 02/02/1994

Birthplace: Lublin, Poland

Hometown: Lublin, Poland



 Instagram: [ola_miroslaw](https://www.instagram.com/ola_miroslaw) / Athlete page: [Alexandra Mirosław](#)

The women's Speed world record holder has been the one to beat for some time. A multiple World Cup winner, Mirosław has lowered her own world record on numerous occasions – however, missing out on Olympic qualification at the IFSC Climbing World Championships took its toll mentally on the Polish climber. Confessing that she went away and evaluated her mental approach to climbing after missing out really helped Mirosław as she came back to qualify for her second Olympic appearance (she finished fourth at Tokyo 2020 and is the Olympic Speed record holder) by claiming yet another world record at the IFSC European Qualifier Rome 2023. Mirosław began climbing in 2007 after being inspired by her sister Gosia and wanting to make her proud. She began competing on the international circuit in 2009, winning the first of her 11 World Cup golds in 2012 before going on to win two World Championships titles, in 2018 and 2019. Mirosław is also a graduate of the Warsaw University of Physical Education (2023) and University of Technology in Lublin (2017).

Fun fact: Aleksandra really likes building LEGO blocks as it helps her rest, relax and recuperate.

Piper KELLY (USA)

Age: 24

DOB: 03/10/1999

Birthplace: Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



 Instagram: [piper.climbs](#) / Athlete page: [Piper Kelly](#)

American Piper Kelly lists her greatest achievement so far as becoming the PanAm Games champion in 2023, and it just so happens that that was the event and title that secured her spot at Paris 2024. Piper is and always has been a sport lover. She played volleyball and football, swam, and did cross country as a child, as well as the sport that has taken her to the Olympic Games. Her climbing journey began in 2006 with her father and sister as a way to spend time together as a family, and that progressed into national competitions in 2011, Youth Worlds in 2016 and a first World Cup in 2018. Despite a major shoulder injury in 2019 that resulted in surgery in 2020 and a year-and-a-half rehabilitation, Piper still tests the boundaries with climbing and powerlifting. Piper has some lucky hairstyles that we be on display at Paris 2024 - she usually has some lucky clothing as well, but the Team USA kit will take precedence this time around.

Fun fact: Piper is a self-confessed crazy cat lady.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

DENG Lijuan (CHN)

Age: 24

DOB: 12/05/2000

Birthplace: Wuhan, China

Hometown: Wuhan, China



 Instagram: [denglijuan512](#) /Athlete page: [Deng Lijuan](#)

With no fewer than eight IFSC World Cup podium finishes (five gold, three bronze) to her name since July 2022, People Republic of China's Deng Lijuan is definitely one to keep an eye out for at Paris 2024. A former Asian Youth and Chinese National champion, Lijuan qualified for the Games by winning the IFSC Asian Qualifier Jakarta 2023 in a time of 6.98. Deng says the athlete she admires most is 110m hurdler Liu Xiang, and she hopes to catch some of the athletics competition as well as skateboarding during her off days at Paris 2024. Although she has a positive and outgoing personality, Lijuan says she really enjoys her time alone. Away from climbing, Lijuan's hobbies include cooking, chess and playing cards.

Fun fact: Lijuan's favourite musician is the "King of Mandopop" Jay Chou.

Sarah TETZLAFF (NZL)

Age: 24

DOB: 18/04/2000

Birthplace: Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Hometown: Tauranga, New Zealand



 Instagram: [capa_climb](#) /Athlete page: [Sarah Tetzlaff](#)

Wanting to try a sport more “fun and positive” after seven years of gymnastics, New Zealander Sarah Tetzlaff has her brother to thank for getting into climbing. It was younger sibling Will whose energy and enthusiasm for the sport attracted Sarah to try, and she hasn’t looked back since. She started in 2012, took part in her first nationals in 2016, first continentals in 2017 and first worlds in 2018. And it was the continental route that would prove to be her path to Paris 2024 when she won the Oceania qualifier in Melbourne, Australia courtesy of a “massive personal best” in the final race against home favourite Grace Crowley. Looking back at her journey, Sarah remembers some rather large obstacles that had to be overcome, including the fact that there wasn’t even a Speed wall in her country as late as 2018 and COVID-19 putting a stop to her international competition with travel being restricted in New Zealand. A turning point came in 2021 when her coach created a Speed climbing programme with the aim of getting climbers to the LA 2028 Olympics. Sarah and teammate Julian David are graduates of said programme, reaching the goal four years earlier than expected.

Fun fact: Sarah wears unmatched socks every day.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Aniya HOLDER (RSA)

Age: 22 (will be turning 23 during the Games)

DOB: 03/08/2001

Birthplace: Grahamstown, South Africa

Hometown: Port Elizabeth, South Africa



 Instagram: [aniya_in_a_climbing_world](#) / Athlete page: [Aniya Holder](#)

Aniya Holder knows a thing or two about overcoming adversity. After suffering two serious injuries in late 2021 and early 2022 that permanently derailed her Boulder and Lead aspirations, Holder switched to Speed Climbing, which she found easier on her tendons and ligaments. A scant two years later she's in Paris representing her country at the Olympic Games. If injuries weren't enough, Aniya says she practices on a Speed wall that is only one-third the official size, which poses its own unique set of challenges. Despite it all, Aniya qualified for Paris 2024 by winning the IFSC African Qualifier in Pretoria, South Africa last year. She names her father and brother as two of her biggest inspirations, and while she comes into the Games with no expectations, her goal is to learn as much as she can from her Olympic experience in Paris.

Fun Fact: Aniya is a drummer and an artist as well as a climber, and she sells her art when she can - [halfalien_art](#)

ZHOU Yafei (CHN)

Age: 20

DOB: 15/05/2004

Birthplace: Lishui, China

Hometown: Ningbo, China



 Instagram: [hou_ya_fe_i](https://www.instagram.com/hou_ya_fe_i/) / Athlete page: [Yafei Zhou](#)

Yafei began climbing in 2017 at the age of 13, the same year that Paris was awarded the Olympic Games. Now she heads to Paris as one of seven Chinese climbers and ready to leave her mark after securing her place at the Games by winning the Olympic Qualifier Series event in Shanghai and backing that up with a second-place finish at the event in Budapest. The optimistic and outgoing Yafei is ready to fully enjoy her Olympic experience and hopes to return to China with a medal.

Fun fact: Yafei wears a red string on her right wrist as a lucky charm.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Aleksandra KALUCKA (POL)

Age: 22

DOB: 25/12/2001

Birthplace: Tarnów, Poland

Hometown: Tarnów, Poland



 Instagram: [Aleksandra_kalucka](#) / Athlete page: [Aleksandra Kalucka](#)

Born on Christmas Day 2001, Aleksandra has been climbing alongside her twin Natalia since the age of eight. She will compete in her first Games without her sister, however, as only one Polish quota spot remained heading into the Olympic Qualifier Series after compatriot Alexandra Mirosław's earlier victory at the European Qualifier in Rome. The twins battled tooth and nail in Shanghai and Budapest, but in the end it was Aleksandra who did enough to secure the final Polish ticket to Paris by placing second overall. A well-known face on the climbing circuit, Aleksandra has been competing in IFSC events since the European Youth Cup in 2015 in her home country. Until now, she proudly lists the highlight of her career as being the final of the 2022 World Cup in Edinburgh, where she raced against her sister, winning in a time of 7.47. She has no expectations for Paris, but is looking forward to meeting other athletes, especially hurdlers, and becoming an Olympian.

Fun Fact: Aleksandra is a Swiftie.

Rajiah SALLSABILLAH (INA)

Age: 25

DOB: 30/04/1999

Birthplace: Tangerang, Indonesia

Hometown: Jakarta, Indonesia



 Instagram: [Rajiahsallsabillah](#) / Athlete page: [Rajiah Sallsabillah](#)

It's all about family for female speedster Rajiah. Having started the sport at the age of 13 by following in the footsteps of her older sister, she went on to join the national team in 2017, taking part in her first IFSC World Cup in Villars, Switzerland the same year. And she'll be surrounded by "family" in Paris, at least her definition of the term, which includes not only parents, sister and brother, but also her support system of teammates (there will be three other Indonesian climbers at the Games), coaches, friends and the Indonesian public. Having won gold at the 2023 World Cup in Chamonix, France she is excited that Speed has become a standalone discipline at Paris 2024 and will be hoping for a repeat of her best performance on French soil. As a student of computer systems and sports education, if Rajiah wasn't a climber she would like to be an e-sports athlete.

Fun Fact: Rajiah always brings drinking water from Indonesia to competitions.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Capucine VIGLIONE (FRA)

Age: 21

DOB: 09/12/2002

Birthplace: Marseille, France

Hometown: Voiron, France



 Instagram: [Capucine.viglione](https://www.instagram.com/Capucine.viglione) / Athlete page: [Capucine Viglione](https://www.instagram.com/Capucine.Viglione)

Growing up, Capucine climbed everywhere in her house, so it was a natural progression when she reached the age of five that she wanted to do the same as her older brother and “officially” start climbing. It wasn’t long before she took part in her first event, a lead competition for children, in which she finished second. Her desire to win became crystal clear at the end of this competition as she remembers crying a lot for losing out on gold. In 2016, at the age of 13, Capucine took part in her first IFSC event, the European Youth Championships in Mitterdorf, Austria, finishing eighth. Since then, she has been a regular on the Speed wall at IFSC events. In 2021, the sudden loss of her big brother pushed her to train harder, and earlier this year at the Olympic Qualifier Series in Budapest, her efforts were rewarded as she secured her place at Paris 2024 and the chance to compete at a home Games. She describes the Olympics as the biggest sport event that she will ever take part in as a French athlete and is looking forward to the crowd cheering for her.

Fun Fact: Capucine started skiing when she was one.

Manon LEBON (FRA)

Age: 19

DOB: 14/03/2005

Birthplace: Saint-Pierre, Réunion

Hometown: Le Tampon, Réunion



 Instagram: [_manon_lebon](#) / Athlete page: [Manon Lebon](#)

Hailing from Réunion, French teen Manon Lebon lists participating at a home Olympic Games as one of the two greatest achievements of her young career. The other shows just how young she is – winning the Youth Worlds title in 2022 in Dallas, Texas, USA. Now 19, Manon came through the Olympic Qualifier Series (OQS) with teammate Capucine Viglione to complete the French quota in women’s Speed. Manon wears a flower to represent her island, and is big on friends and family, whom she is grateful to for their support. She hopes to catch skateboarding and breaking in Paris because of friends she made in these sports at the two-part OQS. She trains with a team of eight climbers back home that “makes hard times easier and the good ones even better.”

Fun fact: Manon’s lucky number is 95, which is Flash McQueen’s number in the movie ‘Cars.’ And she has the tattoo to prove it.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Leslie Adriana ROMERO PÉREZ (ESP)

Age: 26

DOB: 18/03/1998

Birthplace: San Juan de los morros, Venezuela

Hometown: Alicante, Spain



 Instagram: [lesromeroclimb](#) / Athlete page: [Leslie Adriana Romero Pérez](#)

A dual Venezuelan and Spanish national, Leslie was first introduced to climbing at the age of six, when she was offered a week trial at the local climbing club in Venezuela. Her route to the Olympics has not been without significant challenges. Facing a difficult situation in Venezuela in 2022 and struggling to balance family life and support a climbing dream, the family decided to move to Spain. The Spanish Federation and coach David Macia gave her the opportunity to show her potential and continue her Olympic dream. That dream started to become reality when she finished seventh at the 2023 World Championships in Bern, Switzerland and she was one step closer to Olympic qualification. She secured qualification at the Olympic Qualifier Series with a 12th-place finish. Referencing Rafael Nadal as one of her sporting heroes, she will now have the opportunity to be part of the same Spanish Olympic delegation in Paris.

Fun fact: Leslie, whose nickname is 'Lili', paints her nails specifically for each competition, which allows her to fulfil, albeit in a small way, her childhood dream of being a fashion designer.

Beatrice COLLI (ITA)

Age: 19

DOB: 10/10/2004

Birthplace: Sondrio, Italy

Hometown: Lecco, Italy



 Instagram: [beacolliss](#) / Athlete page: [Beatrice Colli](#)

Bobby McFerrin’s “Don’t Worry Be Happy” is one of Beatrice Colli’s favourite songs. Having qualified for Paris with a 13th-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series, the 19-year-old Italian is happily preparing for her Olympic Games debut eight years after she first took part in an IFSC event at the European Youth Championships in Germany as an 11-year-old. Suffering from a heel problem that prevents her from wearing normal climbing shoes hasn’t stopped her from excelling at the sport, with her most recent success being silver at the European Cup in Lublin, Poland earlier this year. Beatrice started training with Ecuador’s Andrea Rojas and Italian, World Champion, and fellow Olympian-to-be Matteo Zurloni, who helped her realise the Olympic dream could become a reality. Creative by nature, Colli loves painting and creating her own art, and promises to give her hairstyle the attention it deserves to help her feel ready ahead of competing.

Fun fact: Beatrice loves hamsters and has one called Tomoa (like the Tomoa Skip opening move pioneered by Tomoa Narasaki of Japan).

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Janja GARNBRET (SLO)

Age: 25

DOB: 12/03/1999

Birthplace: Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia

Hometown: Ljubljana, Slovenia



 Instagram: [janja_garnbret/](https://www.instagram.com/janja_garnbret/) Athlete page: [Janja Garnbret](https://www.instagram.com/JanjaGarnbret/)

The face of Sport Climbing for as long as anyone can remember, Janja Garnbret hardly needs an introduction. She's the reigning Olympic champion, one of four climbing medallists from Tokyo 2020 to return at Paris 2024. She qualified for her second Games by winning the Boulder & Lead competition at the IFSC World Championships Bern 2023, where she also struck gold in Boulder and silver in Lead for good measure. Simply put, Janja's got a track record that any athlete in any other sport would be proud of. The last time she didn't finish either first or second at an IFSC event? July 2021, when she placed 13th in Speed, a discipline she only became familiar with in preparation for her Olympic debut in Tokyo (where Speed, Boulder and Lead were a combined event). One of the most accomplished climbers of all time, Janja says she used to climb on everything as a child – trees, doors, closets, any place that was higher than her. Her first taste of Sport Climbing as an organised activity came in 2006 when her parents signed her up at a club in her hometown. A natural talent, she participated in the Slovenian national championships just a year later, and in 2013 she entered (and won) her first IFSC competition: the European Youth Championship in Grindelwald, Switzerland. Now an eight-time World Champion, Olympic Champion, multiple World Cup champion and much more, it's hard to believe that Janja is still only 25 years old. Not to mention human – one that enjoys hanging out with friends, shopping and watching Netflix in her free time.

Fun Fact: Janja claims to have never had a headache in her life.

Jessica PILZ (AUT)

Age: 27

DOB: 22/11/1996

Birthplace: Amstetten, Austria

Hometown: Innsbruck, Austria



 Instagram: [jessy_pilz](https://www.instagram.com/jessy_pilz) / Athlete page: [Jessica Pilz](https://www.instagram.com/JessicaPilz)

Jessica Pilz is set for her second Olympic appearance and will be looking to improve on her seventh-place finish at Tokyo 2020. Like so many of the Boulder & Lead climbers, Jessica feels her chances of a podium finish are much better now that Speed is a separate discipline at Paris 2024. Qualifying for the Games at her first opportunity at the World Championships in Bern, Jessica excels in Lead, but is just as comfortable in Boulder. Her achievements include being crowned the IFSC Lead World Cup Series winner in 2023 and becoming a World Champion in her now hometown of Innsbruck in 2018 – this following the most serious injury of her career, a broken ankle suffered in 2017. Jessica has always been one for competition. She started climbing in 2005 as part of a holiday programme and her first competition came the same year. Looking forward to one of the biggest events of her career, Jessica is excited to perform in front of an Olympic crowd, something that she couldn't do last time out because of the pandemic. She is also eager to get back to the Olympic Village, where she was really impressed by the diversity of athletes – both in terms of body types and how they all prepare differently for their events.

Fun fact: Jessica doesn't have a favourite song because she says when she plays a tune too much, she starts to hate it.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

MORI Ai (JPN)

Age: 20

DOB: 17/09/2003

Birthplace: Kanagawa, Japan

Hometown: Ibaraki, Japan



Athlete page: [Ai Mori](#)

Ai began her climbing journey at the age of six after discovering a climbing wall inside a shopping mall and instantly fell in love with the sport. She started competing early, participating in the 2017 Asian Youth Championship while still in elementary school, successfully winning the Lead competition. Two months later, she travelled to Innsbruck for the World Youth Championships and again won the Lead competition, well and truly announcing her arrival on the international scene. Last year at the World Championships in Bern, Switzerland she again triumphed in the Lead competition and in doing so secured her ticket for Paris 2024. Though she missed out on competing at Tokyo 2020, Ai is eagerly anticipating her Olympic debut in Paris and especially the lively atmosphere. She heads to Paris in top form, having won the Lead competition at the World Cup event in Chamonix in July and finishing second in Lead two weeks earlier in Innsbruck. Outside of climbing, Ai is studying physical education at university and enjoys cooking and baking.

Fun fact: Ai has a part-time job at a bakery and is very much looking forward to sampling Parisian croissants.

Oriane BERTONE (FRA)

Age: 19

DOB: 10/03/2005

Birthplace: Nice, France

Hometown: Paris, France



 Instagram: [oriane_bertone](#) / Athlete page: [Oriane Bertone](#)

Nineteen-year-old Oriane Bertone qualified for her home Olympics by winning the IFSC Boulder & Lead European Qualifier in Laval, France in 2023. Becoming an Olympian is the crowning achievement (so far) of the young Frenchwoman's Sport Climbing career, but with home-wall advantage in Paris, who knows what heights she can reach? After being introduced to climbing at the age of eight, Oriane instantly fell in love with the sport. Winning the first international competition she ever entered – the 2019 European Youth Cup in Soure, Portugal – helped to stoke the fire still further, and she's been adding to her collection of medals ever since. Off the wall, the reigning French Boulder champion (2023 and 2024) is most often found in the kitchen, as she loves cooking, especially for other people. In fact, if she wasn't a full-time climber, Oriane says she would definitely be a professional chef: "Every free minute I get, I cook!" No surprise to learn, then, that her favourite gifts are "anything edible." Could her next bite be of an Olympic medal? Stay tuned!

Fun fact: Oriane is obsessed with Dachshunds, in particular her adopted pet Yuna, whom she hopes to one day help become famous.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Natalia GROSSMAN (USA)

Age: 23

DOB: 22/06/2001

Birthplace: Santa Cruz, California, USA

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



📷 Instagram: [natalia_grossman](#) / Athlete page: [Natalia Grossman](#)

Already one of the most decorated US climbers in sport climbing history, 23-year-old Natalia Grossman has won an impressive 10 IFSC World Cup titles and is the Boulder World Champion from 2021. Qualifying for Paris via the Pan American Games Santiago 2023, where she won the B&L event, these will be the first Olympic Games for Natalia, who says she looks forward to staying at the Athlete Village and hopefully meeting her sporting hero Simone Biles. Natalia herself was a competitive gymnast before focusing full-time on climbing, a sport she first tried at the age of six. A Boulder powerhouse with all the attributes to take her deep into Olympic Boulder & Lead competition, Natalia points to her successes at the 2021 IFSC World Championship in Moscow as the highlight of her sporting career thus far: “It was the conclusion of my first year on the World Cup circuit and the event was more glorious than anything I’d ever competed in before ... walking away with the gold medal in Boulder and the silver medal in Lead was an indescribable feeling.” Away from the wall, Natalia graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 2022 and plans to return to school to obtain her master’s degree, with an eye to one day becoming a sports psychologist or mental health therapist.

Fun Fact: Natalia grew up speaking Spanish, although she’s a little rusty at it. She invites any Spanish speakers who see her at Paris 2024 to introduce themselves so she can practice. ¡Vamos!

ZHANG Yuetong (CHN)

Age: 21

DOB: 22/02/20023

Birthplace: Shenzhen, China

Hometown: Shenzhen, China



 Social media: [zyue_tong](#) / Athlete page: [Zhang Yuetong](#)

Zhang Yuetong's career highlight to date is a win at an IFSC event in Jakarta, Indonesia – it just so happens that that event was the Paris 2024 qualifier for the Asian region. That win secured Yuetong's Olympic Games participation in what will be a long way from the climbing wall the then four-year-old saw and tried in front of a shopping mall in her hometown. After that, it wasn't long before Yuetong started competing, although it was at fun competitions at the age of six rather than anything too serious to start. The more serious competitions began in 2018 when Yuetong made the youth international events and in a busy 2019 calendar for the Chinese climber, she broke some bones in her fingers – she says she is “fully recovered”. In Paris Yuetong is aiming for a finals spot, and will be hoping her climbing hero, Japan's Ai Mori, is also there – Yuetong confesses to loving the “special style” of Ai. Away from competition Yuetong loves to cook and loves her cats.

Fun fact: Yuetong is hoping to get time to watch the Table Tennis and Diving in Paris to cheer on the Chinese team

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Oceania MACKENZIE (AUS)

Age: 22

DOB: 11/07/2002

Birthplace: Heidelberg, Germany

Hometown: Bern, Switzerland / Melbourne, Australia



 Instagram: [oceana_climbing](#) / Athlete page: [Oceania Mackenzie](#)

From a family of climbers, the 22-year-old has been climbing since she was eight or nine years old and took part in her first IFSC event in 2016 at the World Youth Championships in China. She will compete in her second Olympics having qualified from the Oceania qualifier in Melbourne in 2023. Having lived in Japan for some time, competing at the Games in Tokyo was extra special and she describes it as being “a wild experience.” Feeling stronger than in the past, Oceania will be hoping to improve on her 19th place finish in Tokyo this time around. A keen sports fan, Oceania is looking forward to watching gymnastics, diving and skateboarding while in Paris. Away from sport you can find her cooking, baking, reading and doing yoga.

Fun fact: Check out Oceania’s footwear when she’s not on the climbing wall as she loves buying sneakers.

Lauren MUKHEIBIR (RSA)

Age: 22

DOB: 08/10/2001

Birthplace: Johannesburg, South Africa

Hometown: Perth, Australia



 Instagram: [Laurenmukheibir](#) / Athlete page: [Lauren Mukheibir](#)

South Africa will be ably represented at Paris 2024 by 22-year-old Lauren Mukheibir, who qualified for the Games by claiming the Boulder & Lead title at the IFSC African Qualifier Pretoria 2023. Equally comfortable on the Boulder, Lead, or Speed wall, Lauren is a versatile climber with the potential to pull a few surprises in the French capital. She first started climbing in 2010 at the age of 9 and entered her first competition just a few years later. Lauren considers herself an underdog heading into Paris 2024 and intends to make the most of her Olympic appearance by gaining international knowledge and experience. For luck, Lauren puts her hair into two Dutch braids while competing, adding South African-patterned ribbons in a nod to her nationality. An avid scuba diver and snorkeller, Lauren attained a degree in marine biology last year and says that if she wasn't a climber, she would spend her days underwater doing research.

(Not So) Fun Fact: Lauren has had more surgeries than birthdays in her life (23 vs. 22) ... yet she has never broken a bone.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Brooke RABOUTOU (USA)

Age: 23

DOB: 09/04/2001

Birthplace: Boulder, Colorado, USA

Hometown: Boulder, Colorado, USA



 Instagram: [brookeraboutou](#) / Athlete page: [Brooke Raboutou](#)

The daughter of two professional climbers, it is no surprise that Brooke started climbing as soon as she could walk. She first began competing nationally aged seven and joined the international circuit at 14 when she took part in the Youth World Championships in Arco, Italy in 2015. There she competed in all three disciplines, finishing fourth, fifth and 16th in Lead, Boulder and Speed respectively. Since then, she has been no stranger to the podium and arrives in Paris for her second Olympic Games in great form, having won the Boulder & Lead competition at both Olympic Qualifier Series events in Shanghai and Budapest. Brooke graduated from the University of San Diego in January 2023, majoring in marketing and minoring in psychology.

Fun fact: Brooke says she would be a gymnast if she wasn't a climber and will therefore be keeping a close eye on the gymnastics competition at Paris 2024.

NONAKA Miho (JPN)

Age: 27

DOB: 21/05/1997

Birthplace: Tokyo, Japan

Hometown: Tokyo, Japan



 Instagram: [nonaka_miho](#) / Athlete page: [Nonaka Miho](#)

Miho Nonaka heads to Paris for a very different Games experience. Competing during the pandemic in 2021 – the first Games for climbing and in her home city of Tokyo – she felt incredible tension – but despite this, Miho came away with a silver medal. This time around, the 27-year-old will be hoping to enjoy the Games and add another Olympic medal to her collection. Miho started competing at the age of nine and secured her qualification for Paris at the Olympic Qualifier Series, where she finished second overall. Miho's strength is Boulder, she won the World Games in 2022 and took gold at the IFSC World Cup Seoul 2023, but she is also strong in the combined format. She finished second in a strong Asian continental qualifier and was fourth in Shanghai and second in Budapest for the OQS events. Miho is also known on the climbing circuit for her hair – she can be seen with a new adventurous colour, and we are sure the Olympic Games will be no different, so keep a look out for which colour she chooses. In her down time, Miho loves to take care of her plants.

Fun Fact: Miho loves cats and coffee so you may just find her in le Café des Chats in her downtime in Paris.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Erin MCNEICE (GBR)

Age: 20

DOB: 06/04/2004

Birthplace: Norwich, Great Britain

Hometown: Sheffield, Great Britain



 Instagram: [erinmcbeast](#) / Athlete page: [Erin Mcneice](#)

Erin started climbing at age five when her parents took her and her brother to a local climbing wall. She also began competing at a young age, making the podium at her first national lead competition before joining Team GB. At the end of the 2023 season, Erin knew she needed to improve if she was going to achieve her goals. Having never stood on the podium at an IFSC competition, 2024 has been a breakthrough year for Erin, making two World Cup finals in 2024, finishing third in both Olympic Qualifying Series events, and securing her spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics, which she describes as an “exhilarating achievement.” Outside of climbing, she has a strong interest in astronomy and astrophysics but has chosen not to put off university studies to focus on climbing. In her downtime, Erin enjoys reading and is passionate about space. She also has a fondness for gymnastics, which she practiced before joining the GB climbing team. Her dad was also a competitive gymnast. Looking ahead to Paris 2024, Erin anticipates an intense and exciting experience, and eagerly awaits the chance to climb on the Olympic stage.

Fun Fact: Erin spent a lot of her childhood living in Asia and the Asian World Cups are her favourite events.

SEO Chaehyun (KOR)

Age: 20

DOB: 01/11/2003

Birthplace: Seoul, South Korea

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea



 Instagram: [chaehyun.s](https://www.instagram.com/chaehyun.s) / Athlete page: [Chaehyun.Seo](https://www.instagram.com/Chaehyun.Seo)

Seo Chaehyun qualified for Paris 2024 thanks to a fourth-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series in Shanghai and Budapest earlier this year. Her Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020 saw her place eighth overall, but she admitted her experience in Japan was a little tense due to the pandemic and accompanying restrictions. This time around, Chaehyun expects a more festival-like atmosphere, which she hopes will translate into a better performance in the Boulder & Lead competition. Chaehyun started climbing at her parent's gym at age six, and she benefits greatly from the fact that her dad is not only her coach but the coach of other national team climbers as well, including the decorated Jain Kim. When it comes to career highlights, becoming a World Champion in Lead in 2021 is the clear winner. Away from the wall, Chaehyun likes drawing, colouring, dancing and karaoke.

Fun fact: Chaehyun is a big fan of K-pop and Hip Hop and names South Korean rapper Lee Young Ji as her favourite musician.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

LUO Zhilu (CHN)

Age: 18

DOB: 11/01/2006

Birthplace: Beijing, China

Hometown: Shenzhen, China



 Instagram: [Luo Zhilu_Lucy](#) / Athlete page: [Luo Zhilu](#)

A shopping trip in 2012 at the age of six is where Zhilu's climbing story begins. It was there that she found a climbing wall and got her first taste of the sport. Four years later she began competing competitively and at her very first IFSC event in 2022, the Climbing World Cup in Brixen, Italy she won bronze in the boulder competition – an impressive way to kickstart her international career. Before qualifying for Paris through the Olympic Qualifier Series, Zhilu never thought she had the experience or confidence to make it. Now she has the opportunity to put in her best performance on the biggest sporting stage in the world and maybe also find herself on the podium at the end.

Fun fact: Zhilu loves Japanese food, but doesn't like anything spicy.

Ievgeniia 'Jenya' KAZBEKOVA (UKR)

Age: 27

DOB: 15/10/1996

Birthplace: Dnipro, Ukraine

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



 Instagram: [jenya_kazbekova](#) / Athlete page: [Ievgeniia Kazbekova](#)

Sixth place at the Olympic Qualifier Series unlocked a flight to Paris for Ukraine's Ievgeniia 'Jenya' Kazbekova. Following in the footsteps of her parents, both of whom were professional climbers, Jenya first clambered up a wall at age eight. Now 27, Jenya is a veteran of the IFSC circuit, having first taken part in an IFSC Youth competition when she was 14. Her last victory came in Boulder at the NEOM IFSC Masters 2023 in November, and in addition to her solid showing at the OQS, Jenya also finished fourth in the Boulder & Lead competition at the IFSC European Qualifier Laval 2023. Jenya says she will arrive in Paris with a fresh and open mind and no expectations – aside from hoping to catch the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. A music school graduate in piano, Jenya is currently studying psychology with an eye to one day becoming a sports psychologist/therapist.

Fun Fact: Jenya's heroes are Michelle Obama and American author Glennon Doyle, who have taught her to be strong, fierce and brave.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Mia KRAMPL (SLO)

Age: 24

DOB: 21/07/2000

Birthplace: Kranj, Slovenia

Hometown: Golnik, Slovenia



Instagram: [mia.krampf](https://www.instagram.com/mia.krampf) / Athlete page: [Mia_Krampf](https://www.instagram.com/Mia_Krampf)

A two-time Olympian, Mia Krampf arrives in Paris aiming to improve on her 18th-place finish at Tokyo 2020. She has a number of recent Top 10 finishes to help her case, although her last podium finish at an IFSC event was a bronze in Lead at the 2022 World Cup in Jakarta. A month earlier she claimed silver in Boulder & Lead at the IFSC Europe Continental Championships in Munich, so Mia clearly has what it takes to finish high up the leaderboard at Le Bourget Climbing Venue if she brings her A game to Paris. Mia began climbing in apple trees in her grandparents' garden before graduating to a small warm-up wall used by her older brother. The rest is history. Her first youth national competition came in 2008 when she was eight years old, followed by her first international youth competition seven years later. Mia qualified for Paris 2024 thanks to an eighth-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series (seventh in Budapest and 12th in Shanghai). Describing her Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020 as a dream come true, she also admits that it was "way more stressful" than she expected. "COVID made the whole experience a bit unique, but we could still experience some of the Olympic spirit, Olympic Village and the greatness of Olympic Games." This time around, Mia says she will "compete, fight, try to show my best and show how much I trained for this!" Should she have any free time, you will find Mia cheering on her Slovenian teammates, regardless of the sport.

Fear Fact(or): Despite being one of the world's best climbers, Mia admits she has a fear of falling that was severe when she was younger. She was once so scared of falling that she didn't let go of a hold for two hours. "If I overcame this," she says, "I can overcome anything in my life!"

Lucia DÖRFFEL (GER)

Age: 24

DOB: 22/03/2000

Birthplace: Chemnitz, Germany

Hometown: Munich, Germany



 Instagram: [lucia.doerffel](#) / Athlete page: [Lucia Dorffel](#)

Originally from Chemnitz in Eastern Germany, Lucia Dörffel now lives in Munich where she studies sport science – although she also loves Berlin and will often go to the capital to train and enjoy the city. Her climbing journey didn't start in her homeland though, instead it started in Czechia in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains with her family when she was three years old. She began competing in 2015, and lists qualifying for the Olympic Games as her greatest achievement to date. This was indeed a massive accomplishment considering the fact that she injured her foot three weeks before the Olympic Qualifier Series and will require surgery once Paris 2024 is done. Away from climbing, Lucia loves to dance, bake and read. During training she listens to techno and also German and English rap and house music.

Fun fact: One of the things Lucia is most looking forward to at Paris 2024 is the pain au chocolat.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Zélia AVEZOU (FRA)

Age: 20

DOB: 10/04/2004

Birthplace: Antony, France

Hometown: Igny, France



 Instagram: [zelia_avezou](#) / Athlete page: [Zélia Avezou](#)

Zélia and her brother Sam will add their names to the list of famous Olympic siblings when they compete in their respective Boulder & Lead competitions in Paris. Zélia began climbing at the age of 6, inspired by her family's passion for the sport. She started competing at eight and entered her first IFSC competition at 14, participating in the European Youth Cup in 2018 where she finished 14th. To date, her career highlights include making the finals at the World Championship in 2023 where she finished fourth in the Bouldering competition and qualifying for the Olympics through the Olympic Qualifier Series. She heads to Paris in good form, having finished 4th at the World Cup event in Chamonix in July. In addition to climbing, Zélia studies French literature at a Parisian university and enjoys training with her brothers and the vibrant climbing community in Paris. Looking forward to Paris 2024, Zélia is excited to perform in front of her home crowd, an experience she expects to remember for the rest of her life.

Fun fact: Zélia admires athletes Kim Jain (KOR) and Akiyo Noguchi (JPN), who she watched compete at World Cup events alongside her mother.

Camilla MORONI (ITA)

Age: 23

DOB: 08/07/2001

Birthplace: Genova, Italy

Hometown: Genova, Italy



 Instagram: [camilla.moroni](https://www.instagram.com/camilla.moroni) / Athlete page: [Camilla.Moroni](https://www.instagram.com/Camilla.Moroni)

Camilla Moroni's first climbing picture was taken before she was even a month old – a photo taken when her parents took her to a local crag. She would have to wait until she was 13 before starting to compete in national competitions, before progressing to a youth international competition a year later and to the IFSC World Cup level at 18. Being part of the climbing community is a big part of Camilla's life. When not climbing solo or with her national team, she loves to train with other climbers on the circuit like fellow Paris 2024 competitor Zélia Avezou. Camilla also lists another Paris 2024 Olympian as her climbing hero – Austria's Jakob Schubert. She cites the Tokyo 2020 medallist's mentality and preparation for events as standout points. Before competing, Camilla loves to listen to Chemical Brothers or Italian rap to get her in the mood. She also has a passion for photography – so an updated photo at the crag and a few snaps in Paris are definitely in order!

Fun fact: Camilla skied a lot as a child and loves it – but she doesn't get to do it as much these days.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Laura ROGORA (ITA)

Age: 23

DOB: 28/04/2001

Birthplace: Roma, Italy

Hometown: Trento, Italy



 Instagram: [Laura.rogora](#) / Athlete page: [Laura Rogora](#)

Italy's Laura Rogora booked her spot at Paris 2024 with a 12th-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series. When she takes to the field of play in Paris, she will become one of only 17 climbers in the world to appear at two Olympic Games – quite the feat in and of itself. She claims the pressure of representing her country got the better of her at Tokyo 2020, where she placed 15th. Laura will therefore be out for redemption in Paris, although this time she will be battling the lingering mental aftereffects of a broken wrist and inflamed tendon suffered last year, her first major injury in the sport she's been perfecting since the age of five. Laura has all the credentials to suggest a deep run is not out of the question at Paris 2024. A competitive climber from the age of seven, she first made headlines outdoors, when at age 14 she became the second youngest climber in history to scale an elite 9a route. Four years ago, she became the second woman to climb an even more difficult 9b route. More recently, she won bronze in the Boulder & Lead competition at the IFSC European Qualifier Laval 2023. As a student and self-professed fan of mathematics, Laura will be aware that she is not the odds-on favourite to be crowned Olympic champion in Paris. But with 18 years of experience, a world-class skillset and the desire to improve upon her performance at Tokyo 2020, could it all add up to a podium finish for Laura this summer? Don't bet against it.

Fun fact: Laura is a fan of technology and maths, and almost never listens to music.

Molly THOMPSON-SMITH (GBR)

Age: 26

DOB: 07/11/1997

Birthplace: London, Great Britain

Hometown: Sheffield, Great Britain



 Instagram: [mollyts123/](https://www.instagram.com/mollyts123/) Athlete page: [Molly_Thompson-Smith](https://www.instagram.com/Molly_Thompson-Smith)

Molly discovered her passion for climbing at her seventh birthday party, which sparked the start of what is almost a 20-year dedication to the sport for the now 26-year-old. She began competing in the British Youth Climbing Series in Amersham in 2006 and made an impression at the European Youth Cup in Edinburgh in 2011, where she finished 12th in the Lead event. One year later she stood on the podium for the first time at the European Youth Cup in Moscow, winning bronze. She has gone to make the podium a further eight times since then. The pinnacle of her climbing career so far has been qualifying for Paris 2024, which she did via the Olympic Qualifier Series. Molly looks up to Team GB athletics stars Kelly Holmes and Jessica Ennis-Hill for their incredible achievements and inspirational presence, particularly as mixed-race athletes who made a significant impact. In the climbing world, Jain Kim is a major inspiration for her enduring excellence and elegance, highlighted by her 30th World Cup win in Chamonix last year at age 34. In Paris, Molly is excited about the Olympic Village experience and the atmosphere of a major multi-sport event. Outside of climbing, Molly enjoys baking, cooking, gardening, and reading.

Fun fact: Molly played violin in an orchestra for 11 years.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

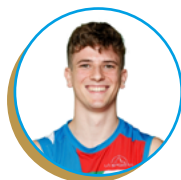
Matteo ZURLONI (ITA)

Age: 22

DOB: 20/03/2002

Birthplace: Milan, Italy

Hometown: Milan, Italy



 Instagram: [matteozurlonss](#) / Athlete page: [Matteo Zurloni](#)

Reigning IFSC World Speed Champion Matteo Zurloni was introduced to the sport as a five-year-old, taking inspiration from his grandfather, an accomplished alpinist. He first began competing at age eight and participated in his first senior IFSC event only two years ago in June 2022. He quickly established a name for himself by finishing fourth in that competition, before claiming gold later the same month at the IFSC Europe Continental Cup in Innsbruck, Austria. Matteo has been on a steady upward trajectory ever since, culminating in his victory at last year's World Championship in Bern, Switzerland, where he also earned his ticket to the Olympic Games. Matteo admires champions such as Usain Bolt, LeBron James, and other leading speed climbers for the mentality they possess to succeed at the highest level. He adds that while he wants to enjoy his Olympic experience to the fullest, regardless of the result, he will nevertheless be showing up to the Games in peak condition ready to battle for a podium finish.

Fun fact: Matteo watches a lot of TV series, movies and especially likes anime

LONG Jinbao (CHN)

Age: 23

DOB: 11/08/2000

Birthplace: Hunan Province, China

Hometown: Hunan Province, China



Athlete page: [Long Jinbao](#)

Changing sports from kickboxing to climbing at the age of 17 isn't the easiest transition, but it hasn't fazed Jinbao, who has excelled at his "new" sport with plenty of international success. In 2023 he finished second at the World Championships in Bern, Switzerland, securing his ticket to the Olympic Games. The speed climber is no stranger to the podium since beginning his international career, having medalled six times since the 2022 season. Away from the wall, Jinbao studies at Hunan University and spends time playing a variety of other sports, including basketball and badminton. He looks forward to life inside the Olympic Village with all the other athletes from his favourite sports.

Fun fact: If Jinbao wasn't a climber he thinks he would be a police officer.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Bassa MAWEM (FRA)

Age: 39

DOB: 09/11/1984

Birthplace: Kourou, French Guiana

Hometown: Colmar, France



 Instagram: [lesfreresmawemofficiel](https://www.instagram.com/lesfreresmawemofficiel) / Athlete page: [Bassa Mawem](#)

Bassa Mawem set the Olympic Speed record of 5.45 seconds at Tokyo 2020 but had to bow out of the combined Speed, Lead and Boulder competition early due to injury (a total rupture of his lower biceps tendon), thereby depriving the seven-time French national champion of a chance to reach the podium. He will therefore be eager to make amends at Paris 2024, and with Speed now separated from Boulder & Lead, he will definitely fancy his chances. At 39, Bassa is the oldest climber in the competition, but that also means he is the most experienced, having first started climbing a full 24 years ago, longer than many of his competitors have been alive. While recovery from the injury he suffered at Tokyo 2020 was long and arduous, Bassa nevertheless claimed his sixth national title in 2022 in his first competition back, and won his seventh crown in 2023, the same year he qualified for Paris by winning the IFSC European Qualifier in Rome. His sibling Mickael remains Bassa's biggest inspiration, although unlike at Tokyo 2020, his younger brother did not qualify for Paris and will not be competing alongside him here. Bassa works 60 hours a week in climbing development, training both his students and himself, so look for the Speed climbing legend to be in peak physical condition in Paris for what he has indicated will be his competitive swan song.

Fun Fact: Bassa says he is looking forward to retirement and making the most of his last competition!

Samuel WATSON (USA)

Age: 18

DOB: 27/02/2006

Birthplace: Texas, USA

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



 Instagram: [samuelwatson__](#) / Athlete page: [Samuel Watson](#)

Fresh off back-to-back IFSC World Cup victories and a new Speed world record set earlier this year, Samuel Watson has rocketed into the gold-medal conversation for Paris 2024. In the last major test ahead of the Games, the 18-year-old posted three times under five seconds (4.83, 4.84, 4.88) en route to victory at the World Cup in Chamonix, France on 13 July. In April, Samuel entered the record books by posting a time of 4.79 seconds during the World Cup in Wujiang, China. The teenager is no stranger to making headlines: in 2022, he became the youngest climber ever to win an IFSC World Cup, doing so at the age of 16 in Edinburgh, Scotland. A year later he qualified for the Olympic Games by winning the Speed event at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago with a time of 5.38. Watson has been climbing since the age of five and says he has always loved the Olympics, so competing at Paris 2024 will be the fulfilment of a life-long dream. A massive basketball fan who cites Argentina's Manu Ginóbili and France's Victor Wembanyama as his favourite players, Samuel is likely to be found at the Olympic basketball tournament during any off time he may have in Paris.

Fun fact: Samuel says he has an inexplicable streak of grey hair underneath his brown mop top.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Rahmad ADI Mulyono (INA)

Age: 23

DOB: 31/10/2000

Birthplace: Surabaya, Indonesia

Hometown: Bekasi, Indonesia



 Instagram: [rahmadadimulyono_](https://www.instagram.com/rahmadadimulyono_) / Athlete page: [Rahmad Adi Mulyono](https://www.instagram.com/RahmadAdiMulyono)

Often seen fishing and listening to Bob Marley to chill out, you wouldn't expect someone so laid back and relaxed to be one of the fastest climbers in the world, but Rahmad Adi Mulyono certainly falls into that bracket. In a team boasting two former world record holders in Veddriq Leonardo and Kiromal Katibin, Rahmad peaked at just the right time for a Paris 2024 ticket. Gaining a maiden win at the World Cup in Chamonix, France in 2023, he finished third in his next event, the IFSC Climbing World Championships. That was, unfortunately, one spot outside the two guaranteed places for the Olympic Games. But they say that three is the magic number, and in his very next event he once again returned to the top of the podium at home in Jakarta at the Asian Qualifier event, securing a trip to the summer spectacular for his efforts.

Fun fact: If Rahmad wasn't a climber, he would like to become a gold mining entrepreneur.

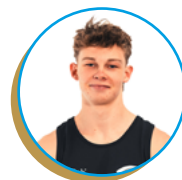
Julian DAVID (NZL)

Age: 19

DOB: 30/01/2005

Birthplace: La Roche-Sur-Yon, France

Hometown: Tauranga, New Zealand



 Instagram: [Juliandavidnz](#) / Athlete page: [Julian David](#)

Paris 2024 will be a sort of homecoming for New Zealand's Julian David, who was born in La Roche-Sur-Yon, France to a French father and Kiwi mother. Julian's language skills will come in handy at the Games, but it was his climbing skills that earned him his spot in the Olympic bracket. While the teenager has only been training in Speed specifically for two years, he has made the most of his short time in the discipline. He qualified for Paris by winning the Speed competition at the IFSC Oceania Qualifier Melbourne 2023, only three months after being crowned 2023 Youth World Champion in Seoul. Julian first got involved in climbing after falling out of a tree as a youngster and his teacher suggested the school climbing wall might be a safer option. He has idolised French Speed legend (and fellow Paris 2024 Olympian) Bassa Mawem since witnessing him in person at an event in Chamonix in 2019. "I thought 'Wow, one day I want to be like him and compete with him,' and now five years later I'm here doing just that!" Julian says he is grateful to get to experience the Olympic Games at such a young age and hopes this will be the first of many trips with the New Zealand Olympic Team.

Fun Fact: Julian holds the New Zealand record for muscle ups (26 consecutively) and broke a 14-year-old record in the standing vertical jump with an effort of 95cm.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Joshua BRUYNS (RSA)


Age: 20 (will be turning 21 during the Games)

DOB: 01/08/2003

Birthplace: Twickenham, Great Britain

Hometown: Coventry, Great Britain



 Instagram: [joshbruyns](#) / Athlete page: [Joshua Bruyns](#)

Joshua Bruyns is a bit of a superman. In addition to being an Olympian, the South African is a student of economics, a linguist (English, Spanish, French), and a massive sports aficionado. Somewhat counterintuitively, his lucky charm is also his Kryptonite: “I use the same [chalk] bucket that I won at a competition when I was 12 and have become quite superstitious over it,” he says. “I have zero plans to change to a different one and if I lose it before the Games, my competition is over before it even started.” Thankfully, his lucky bucket was with him in Pretoria last December, where he stamped his ticket to the Olympic Games with a Boulder & Lead victory at the IFSC African Qualifier. While Paris 2024 will be Joshua’s first Games, he will be in familiar company at Le Bourget Climbing Venue as he used to be a teammate of fellow Olympian Toby Roberts (GBR) between the ages of 10–13. “We both trained together in a very small team of around eight kids at a basic wall in Guildford, Surrey called Craggy Island. It was a very fun, relaxed environment and ignited my love for climbing.”

Fun Fact: Joshua can recite where every edition of the Summer Olympic Games has been or will be held from 1896 through to 2032.

WU Peng (CHN)

Age: 21

DOB: 15/10/2002

Birthplace: Hunan Province, China

Hometown: Hunan Province, China



Athlete page: [Wu Peng](#)

You won't find too many former Judo athletes racing up a climbing wall at the elite level. But Wu Peng is certainly one of them, having made the switch to climbing in 2017. His sporting career took off from there. In 2023, he won the World Cup in Wujiang, China, breaking the Asian record at the same time. He heads to Paris after a 2024 season that has seen him finish first or second in all his competitions at the time of writing. This will be his first Olympics and he is looking forward to experiencing the games and seeing other athletes and sports in action, particularly athletics as he references Usain Bolt as a sporting hero and he hopes to have the opportunity to watch the 100m finals while in Paris.

Fun fact: As well as Bolt, Peng's sporting hero is former Olympic Gold medallist and World Champion 110m hurdler Liu Xiang.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Veddriq LEONARDO (INA)

Age: 27

DOB: 11/03/1997

Birthplace: Pontianak, Indonesia

Hometown: Bekasi, Indonesia



 Instagram: [veddriq](#) / Athlete page: [Veddriq Leonardo](#)

Veddriq Leonardo is solidly in the conversation for the title of “world’s fastest climber.” While the current world record (4.79) is held by USA’s Samuel Watson, Veddriq has set the pace three times himself since 2021, including the time Watson had to beat to take the crown. Leonardo first topped the world’s fastest list in May 2021 with a 5.21. He shaved that down to 4.98 in July 2022, before one-upping himself again at the IFSC World Cup in Seoul in April 2023 with a 4.90. That mark stood for a year before Watson’s history-making climb in April 2024, and it’s safe to say that Veddriq will be looking to regain the title at Paris 2024. One thing is certain: The Olympic record of 5.45 (set by Bassa Mawem of France at Tokyo 2020) is definitely within striking distance of the 27-year-old Indonesian, who began climbing in high school after trying it out as part of extracurricular activities. He’s been on the rise ever since, going on to become World Champion in 2022 and a three-time World Cup Season winner from 2021–2023. He qualified for Paris by finishing second in the Olympic Qualifier Series with a win in Shanghai and a third-place finish in Budapest. Asked what he is most looking forward to at his first Olympic Games, Veddriq says patriotically: “The Indonesian national anthem played in Paris.”

Fun Fact: Veddriq hates raw onions.

Amir MAIMURATOV (KAZ)

Age: 29

DOB: 19/07/1995

Birthplace: Semey, Kazakhstan

Hometown: Almaty, Kazakhstan



 Instagram: [Maimuratov](#) / Athlete page: [Amir Maimuratov](#)

Kazakhstan's only climber at Paris 2024, Amir Maimuratov makes no bones about his goals for Paris 2024: have fun, enjoy every moment, and win a gold medal. Having placed third at the Olympic Qualifier Series and with some excellent performances dating back to last year, Amir should be feeling confident heading into his first Olympic Games. He first got interested in the sport as a youngster after seeing a climbing wall at a shopping mall during an outing with his family. He points to multiple World Champion (and current Chinese National Team coach) Zhong Qixin as his climbing hero, and booking his ticket to the Olympic Games as the proudest moment of his career thus far. Amir says he prefers to climb solo in silence, but when he does listen to music it tends to be classical, with Antonio Vivaldi's Winter being a particular favourite. Should he have any free time in Paris, Amir is likely to be found at the basketball or gymnastics competitions.

Fun fact: Amir's hobbies include maths, physics and solving logic puzzles.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Zachary HAMMER (USA)

Age: 18

DOB: 29/05/2006

Birthplace: Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



 Instagram: [climber_zaq](#) / Athlete page: [Zachary Hammer](#)

At age three, most kids are learning to ride tricycles and go to the loo by themselves. Zachary Hammer at three was already learning toe hooks and hand swaps thanks to the encouragement of his parents and two older siblings – climbers all. Hammer started competing at age five and has yet to look back, or down. He participated in his first IFSC Speed final at the World Championships in Bern last year, one of his fondest memories to date along with finishing sixth at the Olympic Qualifier Series and qualifying for the Olympic Games. Hammer is in his element on the wall, as evidenced by the perma-grin on his face during competitions à la his two climbing heroes, Emma Hunt and Margo Hayse. “Because when watching these two athletes climb and compete, they’re smiling, which to be honest can be rare to see in sport. I have been really inspired by this and it shows. When you watch me compete, I am always smiling and honestly really enjoying the moment.” Unlike the vast majority of his peers, Hammer does not listen to upbeat music before competing. Naturally energetic to begin with, Zachary prefers chill music that calms him down and gets him in a good mood before he climbs. His favourite genre is indie/folk music and artists such as Noah Kahan, Hozier, and Caamp.

Fun Fact: Four out of the five members of Zachary’s immediate family have competed at an IFSC World Cup.

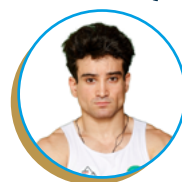
Name: Reza ALIPOUR SHENAZANDIFARD (IRI)


Age: 30

DOB: 29/04/1994

Birthplace: Qazvin, Iran

Hometown: Qazvin, Iran



 Instagram: [rezaalipour.1](https://www.instagram.com/rezaalipour.1) / Athlete page: [Reza Alipour Shenanzandifard](https://www.instagram.com/Reza_Alipour_Shenanzandifard)

Since starting to climb in 2005, Reza began competing just two years later, making his mark at the 2011 Asian Championships, where he finished sixth. He returned a year later to win silver when the event took place in his home country. In 2018 he won the World Championships in Innsbruck and then had to wait another five years before winning the Asian Games and the Asian Cup in 2023. He heads to Paris with Olympic gold his target. Inspired by sports and film legends like Muhammad Ali and Sylvester Stallone, Reza is motivated by stories of overcoming hardship. His mantra is to never give up, something he has had to embrace during his career after tearing a hamstring in competition and suffering a severe toe injury. Outside of climbing he enjoys hiking and bodybuilding and says he would have pursued boxing if it wasn't for climbing.

Fun fact: Reza is an animal and nature enthusiast, and you will likely find him listening to Iranian rap music before competitions.

Athletes Bios [Speed]

Yaroslav TKACH (UKR)

Age: 22

DOB: 31/10/2001

Birthplace: Kremenchuk, Ukraine

Hometown: Kremenchuk, Ukraine / Bytom, Poland



 Instagram: [TkachYar](#) / Athlete [Yaroslav Tkach](#)

Fate's a funny thing. If aspiring breakdancer Yaroslav Tkach hadn't met his future coach, a friend of his dad's, en route to his first dance lesson, he may be in Paris competing in breaking and not Sport Climbing. "[My dad and I] didn't even know we had a climbing wall in my city ... and that day I became a climber," Tkach says. He was six years old. Yaroslav began competing at age 10, mainly for fun, before getting his first taste of an IFSC event in 2015. Since then, he's medalled at the World Games in 2022 and the World Climbing Military Championship in 2023. He was also the Ukrainian Speed Climbing Cup winner in 2018, 2019, and 2020, and a former European Cup overall winner. While Paris 2024 will be Yaroslav's first Olympic Games, it won't be his first Olympic experience, having competed at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018, where he finished 11th in the combined event. He says he expects the Olympic Games to be "at least as good" as the YOG and is looking forward to living in the Olympic Village and taking in the "incredible atmosphere" of the Games. Yaroslav qualified for Paris 2024 by finishing eighth at the Olympic Qualifier Series, an impressive accomplishment considering the many obstacles he has had to face to get this far, including a lack of training facilities in his country and the ongoing war.

Fun fact: Yaroslav has been training on his own – without a coach – since 2017.

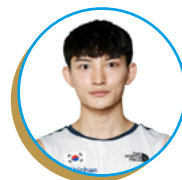
SHIN Euncheol (KOR)

Age: 25

DOB: 27/05/1999

Birthplace: Gwangju, South Korea

Hometown: Bucheon, South Korea



 Instagram: [euncheol_shin](#) / Athlete page: [Shin Euncheol](#)

Shin Euncheol, who started climbing in 2014, qualified for his first Olympic Games with an 11th-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series. His best result to date was a fourth-place finish at last year's IFSC World Cup in Wujiang. If you run into Euncheol in Paris and he's got his headphones on, chances are he'll be listening to Disney tunes. Recently he's had Zootopia's "Try Everything" on repeat, which is the perfect soundtrack for his life so far. A travel junkie, Euncheol loves experiencing new places. On his days off he goes to the mountains or sea to get a boost of natural energy. He describes Paris as his dream city, so he expects his entire Olympic experience to be fantastic. Euncheol is most looking forward to seeing the Eiffel Tower with the Olympic rings. Win or lose, Euncheol's aim as a climber is to "create positive symbols not only in Korea but also in the world."

Fun fact: Euncheol always acknowledges the officials and audience when he finishes competing. "This is my lucky routine and it brings me to a great end."

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Jakob SCHUBERT (AUT)

Age: 33

DOB: 31/12/1990

Birthplace: Innsbruck, Austria

Hometown: Aldrans, Austria



📷 Instagram: [jakob.schubert](#) / Athlete page: [Jakob Schubert](#)

Bronze medallist at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, Jakob is a well-known and accomplished athlete within the climbing community. A relative latecomer to the sport, he started climbing at the age of 12 when his godfather introduced him to a local climbing gym in 2002. Within months, he began competing, and by the age of 13 he was participating at European Youth Cups, with his first one in Imst, Austria in 2004. That international competition was the beginning of a remarkable history of more than 200+ competitions to date. Highlights include his first ascent of the B.I.G. 9c in Flatanger, Norway, winning bronze at Tokyo 2020, and becoming a double World Champion (Bern 2023 and Innsbruck 2018). Having already completed his bachelor's degree in economics, Jakob's primary focus is on climbing. Reflecting on the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, Jakob recalls the incredible spirit and atmosphere of the event, which motivated him to strive for Paris 2024, securing his qualification at the World Championships in Bern last year. If Jakob wasn't a climber, he would likely pursue another sport due to his enthusiasm for tennis and athletics. Alternatively, his interest in mathematics and physics might have led him down a different path. Beyond climbing, he is passionate about online gaming, movies, television series, and playing chess.

Fun fact: A fan of Roger Federer, Jakob appreciates the tennis legend's attitude, style, and how he presents himself on and off the court. He also finds Roger's love for his sport inspirational, as it helped him continue to be successful in tennis late into his 30s.

Colin DUFFY (USA)

Age: 20

DOB: 10/12/2003

Birthplace: Colorado, USA

Hometown: Colorado, USA



 Instagram: [colinlimbs](#) / Athlete page: [Colin Duffy](#)

Mathematician Colin began climbing in 2008 at the age of four, starting out at local recreation centres and parks near his home in the climbing mecca of Boulder, Colorado. Supported by his parents, who have always helped him to achieve his dreams, Colin began competing in the USA Climbing youth circuit before making his IFSC debut at the 2021 World Youth Championships, where he won gold in the Lead competition. He followed that up with victory a year later at the World Youth Championships in Russia. As he entered the senior ranks, Colin's success streak continued: winning the PanAms in 2020, both the Boulder and Lead competitions at the World Cup in Innsbruck in 2022, and most recently the World Cup (Lead) in Chamonix this July. He secured his place at his second Olympic Games with a runner-up finish at the 2023 World Championships in Bern, Switzerland. Colin says his experience at Tokyo 2020 was incredible thanks to cultural exchanges in the Olympic Village and the inspiration of seeing climbing on the world's biggest sporting stage. For Paris 2024, he looks forward to performing in front of a live crowd and enjoying the full Olympic Village experience and the rest of Paris.

Fun fact: Colin can solve a Rubik's Cube in an average of 15 seconds.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

NARASAKI Tomoa (JPN)

Age: 28

DOB: 22/06/1996

Birthplace: Tochigi, Japan

Hometown: Ibaraki, Japan



 Instagram: [tomoa_narasaki](https://www.instagram.com/tomoa_narasaki) / Athlete page: [Tomoa Narasaki](#)

Inspired by his older brother, Tomoa began climbing at the age of 10 after spending years as a gymnast. He entered his first climbing competition at age 12 and made his international competition debut at the Asian Youth Championships in Singapore in 2011. For more than a decade, Tomoa has been a familiar face at IFSC competitions and has achieved considerable success, winning 16 competitions to date. He will arrive in Paris ranked number five in the Boulder & Lead rankings and will be looking to improve on his fourth-place finish at Tokyo 2020. Reflecting on his first Olympic experience, Tomoa recalls the intense emotions of competing in his home country during Sport Climbing's Olympic debut but being disappointed with his result. He is aiming for better in Paris. Tomoa is a full-time athlete who trains with various national team members, including his younger brother. Outside of climbing, he likes to use his creative flair, especially in photography and videography, which allow him to bring his passion for cameras and gadgets to life.

Fun fact: Tomoa always wears pink pants on competition days.

Toby ROBERTS (GBR)

Age: 19

DOB: 15/03/2005

Birthplace: Guildford, Great Britain

Hometown: Elstead, Great Britain



 Instagram: [toby_climbing](#) / Athlete page: [Toby Roberts](#)

Team GB medal hopeful Toby Roberts always seems to be in contention for a podium finish, regardless of competition. In fact, he's only finished outside of the top 10 at an IFSC event once in the 12 months leading up to the Olympic Games. Toby qualified for Paris 2024 with a win in the Boulder & Lead event at the IFSC European Qualifier Laval 2023, and he is laser-focused on getting the job done at Le Bourget Climbing Venue. "I'm a full-time climber," he says. "All or nothing every time." Toby has been climbing since he joined an after-school club at the age of eight and became instantly hooked on the sport. His first IFSC competition came in 2019, when he finished fourth in Boulder at the IFSC European Youth Cup in Soure, Portugal. Since 2022, he has won a total of four IFSC World Cups (two Lead, one Boulder, one Boulder & Lead), with four bronze-medal finishes (three Lead, one Boulder). He names fellow Olympians Jakob Schubert (AUT) and Janja Garnbret (SLO) as his climbing heroes and feels fortunate to be able to train alongside them throughout the climbing season. Musically, Roberts relies on Eminem and "the Rocky Balboa songs" to get psyched. His goal at Paris 2024 is to try and enjoy as much of the experience as he can without letting it impact his performance. "I'll let you know afterwards how that goes."

Fun Fact: Toby drinks "infinite amounts" of tea and coffee every day and can easily identify Yorkshire Gold tea in a blind taste test.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Jesse GRUPPER (USA)

Age: 27

DOB: 06/01/1997

Birthplace: New York, New York, USA

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA



 Instagram: [yayjesse_g](#) / Athlete page: [Jesse Grupper](#)

A 12-year-veteran of the IFSC climbing circuit, Jesse Grupper has 21 years of experience on the wall, having been introduced to the sport at age six after initially “being dragged to the gym by my sister.” The New York City native therefore knows a thing or two about competing at the highest level, so expect Jesse to be largely unphased by his first Olympic appearance. After all, he’s happy just to have made the US Olympic squad after tearing his lateral collateral ligament (LCL) last year, forcing him to compete in the Team Trials while wearing a brace. And let’s not forget the ulcerative colitis he’s been battling since 2016 that hospitalised him for about a week in 2021, leaving Jesse wondering if he would ever climb competitively again. The Olympic Games, therefore, seem like a just reward for Jesse’s perseverance, hard work, and ability to keep getting up after being knocked down. He secured his Olympic berth via the Pan American Games Santiago 2023, where he topped the podium in the Boulder & Lead competition. Outside of climbing, Jesse is a veritable Renaissance man. Among other things, he holds a degree in mechanical engineering from Tufts University, works part-time in the Biodesign lab at Harvard University, plays the banjo, and makes his own granola.

Fun Fact: Jesse is a firm believer that “chocolate makes the world go round.”

ANRAKU Sorato (JPN)

Age: 17

DOB: 14/11/2006

Birthplace: Chiba, Japan

Hometown: Chiba, Japan



 Social media: [anraku_sorato](#) / Athlete page: [Anraku Sorato](#)

Winning the Asian Qualifier in Jakarta in 2023 and securing his ticket to Paris was the next step in the Japanese climber's already successful career. Sorato began climbing at the age of seven and started competing a year later. At 16 he entered his first IFSC competition, the 2021 Climbing Youth World Championships, winning the Lead competition and finishing second in Boulder. He defended his title a year later when the event was held in the USA. Since the start of the 2023 season, he has stood on the podium 12 times and will be hoping to achieve similar success in Paris. Still a student, Sorato has to balance studies and training, although he says he cannot imagine doing anything other than climbing.

Fun fact: Sorato's current music playlist features Drake, Kanye West, and Post Malone.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Campbell HARRISON (AUS)

Age: 27

DOB: 28/06/1997

Birthplace: Melbourne, Australia

Hometown: Melbourne, Australia



 Instagram: [campbell_harrison547](#) / Athlete page: [Campbell Harrison](#)

Australia's Campbell Harrison booked his ticket to Paris 2024 by claiming gold at the IFSC Oceania Qualifier in his hometown of Melbourne last year. In addition to qualifying for the Olympic Games, Campbell says his two consecutive Lead semifinals in 2023 stand out as highlights in his career to date. His biggest inspiration in the climbing world is South Korean legend Jain Kim, from whom he learned a great deal from watching her compete, and whose longevity in the sport he finds empowering. Campbell thinks his Olympic experience may be a bit of a whirlwind but hopes to enjoy the atmosphere and soak in as much as he can. Campbell's interests off the wall include LGBTQIA+ advocacy, feminism, and diversity.

Fun Fact: Campbell's hero is Australian feminist and writer Clementine Ford, whose unapologetic honesty in speaking out for marginalised groups inspires him to keep learning and to be a better person.

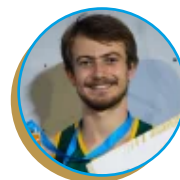
Mel JANSE VAN RENSBURG (RSA)

Age: 22

DOB: 16/09/2001

Birthplace: Melun, France

Hometown: Lyon, France



 Instagram: [mel.j.v.r.](#) / Athlete page: [Mel Janse Van Rensburg](#)

Mel Janse van Rensburg grew up in Waterval Boven, South Africa, which is famous for its red rock-climbing cliffs. He began climbing seriously in boarding school in Pretoria and started competing in 2015 before taking part in his first IFSC competition, the 2018 World Cup in Briançon, France. Career highlights for Mel were sending 'Speed Integrale' (9a), winning the African qualifier in Pretoria, and securing his spot for the Olympic Games, which will be extra special for the France-born climber who currently lives in Lyon. Growing up, Mel was fascinated by the Olympics and never expected that he would one day take part in one. He says he can't wait to experience the vibrant atmosphere. An engineering student in Lyon, Janse van Rensburg is currently attempting to balance training with university life. He enjoys playing the clarinet, chess, and spending time in the mountains.

Fun fact: Despite playing lots of cricket and football when he was younger, Mel says that if he wasn't a climber, he would be a skier.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

LEE Dohyun (KOR)

Age: 21

DOB: 08/10/2002

Birthplace: Jeonju, South Korea

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea



Instagram: [leedo_ss](#) / Athlete page: [Lee Dohyun](#)

South Korea's Lee Dohyun is all business when it comes to climbing. But don't let his cool demeanour fool you: Dohyun says he loves what he does, he simply doesn't show it. "It's not because I'm angry or offended, it's because I'm embarrassed," he says of his steely countenance, even when topping a medal podium. "I don't know what to do with myself." He sure knows what to do with himself on the wall, however. The second male climber from South Korea to win a World Cup gold medal (Prague 2023), Dohyun secured his Olympic ticket with a first-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series in Shanghai and Budapest earlier this year. After taking the first leg in Shanghai, it was touch and go for Dohyun in Budapest, as he injured his shoulder ten days prior to the competition and didn't know if he would be able to participate. "The doctors said that the competition would be difficult, but if I didn't compete, I couldn't go to the Olympics." So he rested and rehabbed as much as he could and managed to overcome the discomfort to finish second in the Hungarian capital, for first overall. A well-seasoned competitor, the 21-year-old already has 16 years of experience under his belt, having started climbing at his father's gym at the age of five. Dohyun says he has no expectations heading into his first Olympic Games, he simply wants to put in a performance he is satisfied with. And should he find himself on the podium at the end of it? "I will try to smile," he promises.

Fun Fact: Dohyun's lucky charm for competing is to wear comfortable underwear.

Sam AVEZOU (FRA)

Age: 23

DOB: 22/03/2001

Birthplace: Chatenay-Malabry, France

Hometown: Igny, France



 Instagram: [sam_avezou](#) / Athlete page: [Sam Avezou](#)

Sam started climbing at the age of six at the Massy club with his parents. In 2015, at the age of 15, his competitive journey began, and he joined the French Youth team before becoming a regular member of the national team for the next nine years. He arrives in Paris for his home Games in excellent form after winning the Olympic Qualifier Series in Budapest and most recently finishing second at the World Cup in Chamonix in July. Qualifying for the Olympics was an incredibly difficult process for the French athlete, who had to compete against close friends for one of the two quota spots, making it one of the most challenging experiences of his life. Sam is looking forward to competing in Paris in front of a home crowd and supporting his sister and fellow Olympic climber, Zélia.

Fun fact: Sam likes to play the classical guitar but listens to electronic music when it comes to climbing and training.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Adam ONDRA (CZE)

Age: 31

DOB: 05/02/1993

Birthplace: Brno, Czechia

Hometown: Brno, Czechia



 Instagram: [adam.ondra](#) / Athlete page: [Adam Ondra](#)

Adam Ondra is widely regarded as one of the best climbers in the world. His outdoor climbing is second to none, and his sport climbing isn't bad either! Outdoors, Adam lists his greatest achievement as climbing Silence – the world's first 9c. Indoors, Adam is chasing an Olympic medal to go with his impressive collection of World Championship and World Cup medals. Adam has won both Boulder titles and Lead titles, which in the current Olympic format is a great advantage. Competition climbing since the age of six, Adam doesn't even contemplate doing anything else, although since Tokyo 2020 he has become a dad, which has brought at least a few new changes to his life. Baby Hugo was born in May 2022 and is often seen in the crowd watching his father compete on the World Cup circuit. Adam holds a degree in business management and cites Vaclav Havel – the Czech statesman, playwright, poet and dissident – as his non-sporting hero for his moral qualities.

Fun fact: Adam always puts his right climbing shoe on first.

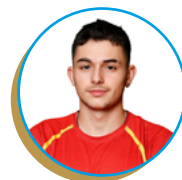
Alberto GINÉS LÓPEZ (ESP)

Age: 21

DOB: 23/10/2002

Birthplace: Cáceres, Spain

Hometown: Barcelona, Spain



 Instagram: [Albertogines_](#) / Athlete page: [Alberto Ginés López](#)

Alberto Ginés López describes himself as “just a normal guy who climbs.” If it wasn’t for his Olympic gold medal and nine European Youth World Cup titles, he might indeed be normal. A fan of reading, cooking, and cinema, Alberto listens to Spanish rap and names his grandmother as his biggest hero. All fairly typical. But as one of only 17 climbers in the world to appear at two Olympic Games, and one of only two climbers to be defending their Olympic titles at Paris 2024, Alberto is about as unique as they come. He first got into climbing at age three, when his father took him to a climbing wall with his sister. By 2013 he had entered his first junior event and by 2016 he was competing at his first IFSC European Youth Cup. Alberto secured his second Olympic appearance via the Olympic Qualifier Series in Shanghai and Budapest, where he finished fourth overall. This was a welcome relief for the young Spaniard, who says he was unable to perform at his best for two years after Tokyo 2020 due to the pressure and an inability to focus. Alberto says he is looking forward to reliving the experience of the Olympic Village and “seeing so many athletes fighting for their dreams in one city.”

Fun fact: Alberto’s lucky charm is a necklace a friend gave him ahead of Tokyo 2020. Let’s see if it works again in Paris!

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Hannes VAN DUYSEN (BEL)


Age: 19

DOB: 04/09/2004

Birthplace: Ghent, Belgium

Hometown: Brussels, Belgium



 Instagram: [hannipan_](#) / Athlete page: [Hannes van Duysen](#)

With a fifth-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series, Belgium's Hannes Van Duysen not only secured his spot at Paris 2024, he also gave himself a serious boost of confidence heading into his first Olympic Games. The 19-year-old has had plenty of success separately in Lead competitions and in Boulder competitions, but had yet to put together a solid outing in the combined Boulder & Lead format until the OQS: 19th at the IFSC World Cup Morioka 2022, 32nd at the IFSC World Championships Bern 2023, and 11th at the IFSC European Qualifiers Laval 2023. He will be further buoyed by all of his performances so far this year, having not finished lower than sixth at any competition in 2024. Hannes began climbing at the age of seven, when his parents took him to the climbing gym as a birthday present. He entered his first competition two years later, with his first taste of an IFSC event coming at the European Youth Championships in 2018. Hannes is looking forward to meeting all the other athletes in Paris and taking part in the afterparty. If his upward trajectory this year continues in the right direction, he may have plenty to celebrate, too.

Fun fact: Hannes is a huge darts fan whose dream is to one day watch the World Championships at the legendary 'Ally Pally' (Alexandra Palace) in London, England.

Paul JENFT (FRA)

Age: 21

DOB: 16/06/2003

Birthplace: Grenoble, France

Hometown: Grenoble, France



 Instagram: [Pauljenft](#) / Athlete page: [Paul Jenft](#)

Paul started climbing at the age of three with his father, and by seven he was competing in club competitions. Seven years later he entered his first IFSC competition, the European Youth Cup in Graz, Austria, where he finished 19th in the Boulder competition. Later that year he secured his first podium place at the European Youth Cup in Sofia, Bulgaria and then went on to win the European Youth Championships in Slany, Czechia. As a senior athlete, his third-place finish at the World Cup in Hachioji, Japan in 2023 is his best result so far. He qualified for his home Olympics with two solid performances at the Olympic Qualifier Series (fourth in Shanghai and ninth in Budapest). He takes inspiration from Serge Coupé, an alpinist from his hometown, and is looking forward climbing in front of the French fans at Paris 2024, which he anticipates will be the biggest event of his life. Paul is currently studying at engineering school Grenoble INP and outside of climbing is a fan of cycling, eating M&M's, playing the piano, and solving Rubik's Cubes.

Fun fact: Paul always puts his right shoe on first. He also has pet stick insects.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Yannick FLOHÉ (GER)

Age: 24

DOB: 14/08/1999

Birthplace: Essen, Germany

Hometown: Cologne, Germany



 Instagram: [yannick_flohe](#) / Athlete page: [Yannick Flohé](#)

Yannick Flohé started climbing at the age of three and began competition climbing at the age of 12. Since then, his career highlight was the IFSC Boulder World Cup gold medal he won in Brixen, Italy in 2022. Within the world of climbing Yannick names Japanese climber Tomoa Narasaki as someone he looks up to, whereas in the non-sporting world it's theoretical physicist Albert Einstein. Yannick likes running and you will find a lot of hip-hop on his music playlist.

Fun fact: Yannick always puts his left climbing shoe on first.

Hamish MCARTHUR (GBR)

Age: 22

DOB: 06/03/2002

Birthplace: York, Great Britain

Hometown: Leeds, Great Britain



 Instagram: [hamish_mcarthur](#) / Athlete page: [Hamish McArthur](#)

From a young age, climbing was more than a pastime for Hamish, it was a calling. At just three years old, he declared to his mother that “everything in my life is boring except climbing,” a sentiment that has only grown stronger over time. He entered the competitive scene at age 10, and joined the IFSC competition circuit by 14, beginning with the European Youth Cup in Austria back in 2016. The modest athlete prefers not to single out any one highlight as the pinnacle of his climbing journey so far, but we are happy to highlight the two gold medals and one silver medal he won at the 2021 World Youth Championships as an impressive accomplishment. Speaking about challenges in climbing, Hamish openly mentions having to overcome existential dread. He finds solace in hobbies like cooking, painting, and enjoying a good beer. Hamish is excited to see what innovative routes the setters will create at Paris 2024, and he eagerly awaits the new challenges and experiences the Games will bring. In his spare time, Hamish reminisces about playing football and enjoys a diverse music playlist, with Bob Dylan holding a perennial place, although he maintains a strict “no Dylan after midnight” rule.

Fun fact: Hamish dreams of becoming a cowboy someday.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Sascha LEHMANN (SUI)

Age: 26

DOB: 03/02/1998

Birthplace: Burgdorf, Switzerland

Hometown: Bern, Switzerland



 Instagram: [saschalehmann](#) / Athlete page: [Sascha Lehmann](#)

Climbing since the age of three, the now 26-year-old Sascha Lehmann has been competing for over a decade. Since joining the international stage at the Youth World Championships in 2012, Sascha has gone on to win two Lead World Cups and gold at the World Games in Birmingham, USA in 2022. Sascha remembers climbing indoors during the winter and outdoors during the summer when he was growing up. Like most athletes, he has had his fair share of minor niggles, but in 2018 Sascha ruptured his ACL and medial meniscus, making his 2019 World Cup win even more impressive. Away from the sport, Sascha loves physics, the universe and the environment, and although he is currently taking a break from studying physics in Bern, he can see himself pursuing that career much further in the future. At Paris 2024 Sascha is excited to feel the atmosphere of the Olympic Games and is curious to find out what life inside the Olympic Village is really like.

Fun fact: Sascha likes to make the most of the beautiful Swiss views by cycling with his girlfriend ... before getting gelato!

Alexander MEGOS (GER)

Age: 30

DOB: 12/08/1993

Birthplace: Erlangen, Germany

Hometown: Erlangen, Germany



 Instagram: [alexandermegos](#) / Athlete page: [Alexander Megos](#)

This will be the second trip to the Olympic Games for Germany's Alexander Megos. He finished ninth at Tokyo 2020, but with the Speed competition separate from Boulder & Lead at Paris 2024, Megos has his sights set much higher up the final rankings at Le Bourget Climbing Venue. While his last IFSC World Cup win came in July 2018, Alexander has a string of silver and bronze-medal finishes to his name since then, including third place in Lead at last year's World Championships in Bern. He qualified for Paris by finishing 11th at the Olympic Qualifier Series earlier this year. Now 30, Megos began climbing at the turn of the century and has been competing since 2003, with his first IFSC event being a Lead World Cup in Chamonix in 2009. Qualifying twice for the Olympic Games, winning a World Cup, and climbing 9b+ are the three standout achievements of Alexander's sporting career so far. His hero is legendary American climber Chris Sharma and his interests are photography and sports in general, including running and yoga.

Fun fact: Alexander's playlist varies from Taylor Swift to Eminem.

Athletes Bios [B&L]

Luka POTOČAR (SLO)

Age: 22

DOB: 21/11/2001

Birthplace: Jesenice, Slovenia

Hometown: Jesenice, Slovenia



 Instagram: [lukapotocar](#) / Athlete page: [Luka Potocar](#)

Luka Potočar hopes his Olympic debut will go as well his IFSC debut in 2016. At his first appearance at a European Youth Cup in Imst, Austria, Luka struck gold in Lead, paving the way for a career that would eventually bring him to Paris 2024 thanks to a 12th-place finish at the Olympic Qualifier Series earlier this year. Winning a World Cup on home soil in 2022 (Koper, Slovenia) and claiming the overall lead the same year are two of Luka's fondest memories of the sport so far. Luka first got into the sport at age five, eventually focusing on climbing full-time after putting his other sport, volleyball, on the backburner. Inspired by compatriot Janja Garnbret for her "results and mentality" and ex-MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi for his "personality and character," Luka says he has drawn one critical lesson from both: "that every sport requires certain changes over time and if you don't adapt then it's hard to win." Luka says he is privileged to be at the Olympic Games competing at the highest stage. A huge sports fan, he says volleyball, athletics and basketball are his favourite Olympic sports besides Sport Climbing. Luka is interested in programming and technology and plays video games for around four to eight hours a day.

Fun Fact: Luka is a diehard Liverpool FC supporter and is not ashamed to say he cries when they win a trophy.

PAN Yufei (CHN)

Age: 24

DOB: 23/06/2000

Birthplace: Guangzhou, China

Hometown: Guangzhou, China



 Instagram: [yfei_pan](#) / Athlete page: [Pan Yufei](#)

Yufei started climbing aged eight when a friend introduced him to the sport. At the age of 14, he began competing in international events, his first one being the IFSC World Youth Championships in New Caledonia in 2014, where he took part in the Speed and Lead competitions. Fast forward ten years and he is heading to Paris for his second Olympic appearance and will take part in the Boulder & Lead event hoping to improve on his 14th-place finish at Tokyo 2020. Looking back at Tokyo, he recalls an intense and challenging experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting both the event and the preparation period. Looking ahead to Paris 2024, he is most excited about his performance and hopes to be able to watch some basketball games. Before he became a professional athlete, Yufei was active in various Olympic sports, including basketball, handball, swimming, taekwondo, and track and field.

Fun fact: Yufei has a keen interest in fashion and food.



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