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UIPM 2019 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP FINAL: ATHLETE LINE-UP REVEALED FOR TOKYO (JPN)



The world's most versatile athletes are preparing to do battle in Tokyo (JPN) after the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Final line-up was revealed.

A glittering array of talent will be on show in the 2020 Olympic Games host city from June 27-30, with 72 pentathletes in their prime eager to secure Olympic qualification by winning gold in a competition that doubles as an official Tokyo 2020 test event.

With two Olympic champions – **Laura Asadauskaite** of **Lithuania** and **Alexander Lesun** of **Russia** – and nine individual world champions in the field, it will be a fascinating collision of class across the ranks of experience and youth.

Several of the breakthrough stars of the 2019 season will be in Tokyo, including first-time Pentathlon World Cup gold medallists Marie Oteiza of **France** and **Uliana Batashova** of **Russia**, Ahmed Elgendy of **Egypt** and **Manuel Padilla** of **Mexico**.

Fourteen of the 15 top-ranked women will be on the start line, led by Oteiza (FRA) and No.2 **Sarolta Kovacs** of **Hungary**, with world champion **Anastasiya Prokopenko** of Belarus another

name to watch. On the men's side, all 11 of the top-ranked athletes will be competing, led by No.1 Valentin Prades (FRA) and No.2 **Jan Kuf** of **Czech Republic**.

Great Britain will expect to mount a strong challenge with the in-form Kate French and **Joe Choong** together with the reigning men's world champion Jamie Cooke, while Germany look formidable with **Annika Schleu** and Marvin **Dogue** competing alongside his big brother **Patrick**. **Russia** can also have high hopes of success through **Gulnaz Gubaydullina** teaming up with Batashova and Lesun.

It will be interesting to see the impact of the Asian challenge on home soil, with 13 of the 72 competing athletes coming from the host continent, including five from Japan. **Jung Jinhwa** of **Korea** is the reigning men's champion and much will be expected of him and his team-mate Jun Woongtae after a quiet season.

Eighteen nations have registered for the Mixed Relay, with Japan providing a second team to bring the anticipated entry to 19.

Janusz Peciak, UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport and 1976 Olympic champion, said: "After an intriguing Pentathlon World Cup season we come to the Final in Tokyo with great expectations for three days of thrilling competition across the Men's and Women's Finals and Mixed Relay.

"It promises to be a thrilling climax to the season with so many of the top-ranked athletes taking part, and many of them will know they have a realistic chance of securing qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games."

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann added: "There is a great deal of excitement across our global pentathlon community as we anticipate the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Final and official Tokyo 2020 Olympic Summer Games test event in the capital city of Japan.

"I congratulate all of the 72 athletes who have reached this destination after four rounds of high-quality and very tough competition in Cairo (EGY), Sofia (BUL), Szekesfehervar (HUN) and Prague (CZE), and wish them every success in the World Cup Final."

Have a look at the qualified athletes and Mixed Relay teams : UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Qualified Athletes and Teams