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YANE MARQUES OF BRAZIL LOOKING TO DEFEND TITLE AT KREMLIN CUP



The traditional Kremlin Cup begins this weekend in the Russian capital Moscow and Brazil's Yane Marques, the defending champion in the women's draw, has only eyes on retaining the trophy she claimed in such style last time around.

After ending the World Cup Final a disappointing 28th last weekend in Sarasota, London 2012 bronze medallist and current World No.3 Marques is fully focused on the challenge ahead. She is joined in Moscow by her teammate Priscilla Oliveira.

"Having once again been invited to compete, I was more than happy to accept as I have a title to defend. The Kremlin Cup is a great competition and my coaching staff had in my annual planning", said Marques.

The Brazilian 30-year-old will be up against two Olympic champions in the shape of Germany's Lena Schoneborn (Beijing 2008) and Lithuania's Laura Asadauskaite (London 2012).

The woman of the hour, World Cup Final gold medallist Oktawia Nowacka from Poland has also traveled to the Kremlin Cup and will be in the mix for honours alongside the likes of the USA's

Margaux Isaksen, Hungary's Sarolta Kóvacs; and local athletes Donata Rimsaite and Ekaterina Khuraskina.

Faced with so many big names, Yane knows that her quest for back to back titles in Russia will be hard but she is optimistic, stating, "I hope to repeat the test what I've been doing in training. I have had good preparation and if I can reproduce the form I have shown in training in Russia, I will be very good."

In the men's event last year it was Ilia Frolov of Russia who took gold on home soil with his compatriot, and last week's World Cup Final winner, claiming silver. These two will once again be the ones to be beat.

More info pentathlon-russia.ru