

The first step done - Adam Ondra is heading to the finals in Tokyo!

Prague / Tokyo, August 3, 2021 - Ondra completed today's qualification and advanced to Thursday's finals from fifth place. The result in speed was a nice surprise for him, but bouldering and lead climbing gave him a hard time. Although he entered the first competing day relaxed and in a good mood, in the end it was a game of nerves and a day full of unexpected twists. But it worked!

Sport climbing is experiencing its premiere at the Olympics, and despite all the covid measures, Ondra was pretty satisfied with the training conditions in Tokyo. He entered Tuesday's qualification in great shape and in a very good mood. *"He is relaxed, slept well and he feels good,"* said Ondra's physiotherapist just before the race.

Qualification began with speed climbing and the result was a pleasant surprise for Ondra. With a time of 7.46 he finished in 18th place and was happy that this unpopular part of the combination format was "successfully" done. *"The speed was good. I was careful with my first attempt, I fooled a little bit the second one, but I didn't finish the last, so it is great,"* said right after the competition. The winner was Bassa Mawem (FRA), who with a time of 5.45 was not far from the world record.

Speed was followed by a series of four very heavy boulders, which completely mixed up the running order. Ondra reached the TOP in the first and last boulder, but in the second one he did not even reach the zone (as well as most of the competitors). However, he was able to reach the zone on the third boulder and overall he took third place in this discipline. The first place took Michael Mawem (FRA), who was a complete surprise of the whole evening, second place took Tomoa Narasaki (JAP). *"Boulder has probably been the weirdest in recent times. Just after I finished the last boulder, I thought that I did not perform well and I would end up somewhere in the middle of the starting field. But in the end it was third place,"* summed up 28-year-old climber.

In lead climbing, none of the 20 competitors made it to the TOP and all of them already had a noticeable sign of fatigue from the whole day and rising humidity, which reaches up to 80% after sunset. Ondra climbed very safely, but with this style he ran out of strength at the top of the wall. *"As I really wanted to be sure with every single step, I burned a lot of energy. You can't climb like that in such moisture and I am sure it is a good lesson for me for Thursday. I have to take more risks,"* Ondra evaluated his performance. The lead climbing was won by Jakob Schubert (AUT), followed by Colin Duffy (USA) and Alberto Gines Lopez (ESP). Ondra ended in fourth place and advanced to Thursday finals from fifth place overall.

The live broadcast of the finals starts on Thursday, August 5th, 5:30 pm JST.

ADAM ONDRA

A professional athlete (28) from the Czech Republic and undoubtedly a climbing phenomenon who pushes the limits of what is humanly possible. He is a four-time World Champion in sport climbing by now (3 golds in lead climbing, 1 gold in bouldering) and the only hope at the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020. Apart from competitions, Adam is mainly known for climbing difficult routes with the highest climbing grades. In 2016, he made an unbelievably speedy repeat of the world's hardest multi-pitch climb Dawn Wall in Yosemite (in a very short time of 8 days) and one year later he finished his project Silence in Norway and thus introduced the hardest route in the world (9c). Featured on the cover of the New York Times or Rock and Ice, he managed to successfully complete his bachelor's degree in economics and management. Nowadays, while popularizing sport climbing among the general public, he still stays humble, positive and his passion and incredible discipline inspire not only climbers all over the world.

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