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OLYMPIC Preview

48 KG
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WITH

NEIL ADAMS

9TH DAN | THE VOICE OF JUDO

JAPAN



ITALY



I think that the under 48 kg category will start with a clear favourite. Tsunoda Natsumi of Japan who was absent from the world championships and is a 3x time world champion has looked almost unbeatable in recent events.

Scutto has been one of the most consistent in the category at previous world events and I think that her consistency will pay dividends at the Olympic Games.

Not only has she shown amazing variation of both standing and groundwork but her transition from one to the other has taken her to another level. She will be a number four seed going into the Olympic Games so will be drawn away from the current world champion Bavuudorj of Mongolia, and the world number one Scutto of Italy



Bavuudorj of Mongolia the newly crowned world champion will be full of confidence going into the Olympic Games but will have the added pressure of being the newly crowned world champion with everyone trying to prove themselves against her.



Abuzhakynova of Kazakhstan has shown from previous events that she is now a real threat in the category losing only to Bavuudorj in the semifinals in Abu Dhabi and then winning bronze against Beder of Turkiye.



There are other fighters in the category that could cause an upset.....



Look out for Babulfath of Sweden to upset some of the top seeds because, for me, she is one of the main threats for a medal here and possibly a gold in Los Angeles.

No doubts as to the favourite though Tsunoda of Japan will want to add the Olympic title to her three world titles and show why she has been consistently the best 48 kg fighter in the world over the last three years.



Lee Hyekyeong of the Republic of Korea and Giliyazova (AIN)



and Boukli of France have all shown consistency on the world circuit and could be difficult opponents for anybody in the category



TECHNIQUES

to watch for in u48kg

TACHI WAZA

Tsunoda: Tomoe nage ~ a traditional form it allows her to transition quickly and effectly into here devastating ne waza.

Scutto: Drop Seonage/ Seoi Otoshi ~ lightening fast, so don't blink

Abuzhakynova: Uchi mata, Tomoe Nage, Ura Nage - all big crowd pleasers - which one will she pick on the day?

Babulfath: Just coming out the Cadets and taking the WJT by storm - look for her adaptation of both forward and backward techniques.

Boukli: Hips! Using the now famous French over and around the back grip, pulling her opponent in for either big hip throws one way or a tight sumi gaeshi to the other side

NE WAZA

Tsunoda: Juji Gatame on tap! Adapts to the situation giving her an almost 100% success rate.

Babulfath: Sankaku ~ has the quick ability already at such a young age to transition into osae komi waza if needed.

GRIPPING & TACTICS

Bavuudorj: Defence! She's in the wrong place at the right time and is an expert at taking advantage of her opponent's mistakes

Abuzhakynova (KAZ): This little powerhouse is not afraid of anyone! Puts the pressure on looking for the Ippon.

Lee Hyekyeong (KOR): Looking for the counter and is always looking busy! Her opponents are never settled.

