

# Olympic Special PREVIEW

# U66



When it comes to consistency of performance at the highest level then **Abe Hifume** has to be the favourite for the under 60 kg category. Selecting his competitions leading up to the Olympic Games carefully has meant that he is coming in outside of the top four and could slot in to fight a top seed in the early rounds. No one in the category will want to draw Abe in the early rounds and that could be disastrous for some medal hopefuls.



ABE HIFUME



**Dennis Veru** of Moldavia is the number one seed but sometimes does not perform to expectations. We know that on his day his Judo is spectacular but he also sometimes makes mistakes and does not always fulfil potential. He will need to be on top form if he is going to challenge Abe.



VERU

At the world championships in Abu Dhabi Veru lost in the round of 32 to Bouba of France but this could possibly give him the extra drive to do well in Paris. He will have something to prove.



**Yondonperenlei** of Mongolia could possibly upset the run of play en route to the medal matches due to his experience and profound power in the category. As could **Emomali** of Tajikistan, who is really developing into a world class Judoka and beating many of the best in the category.



YONDONPERENLEI



EMOMALI





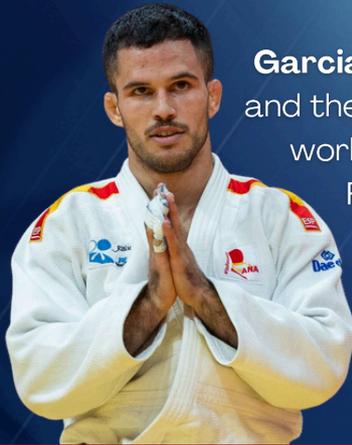
**Margvelashvili** is seeded number two in the world rankings, but he lost in the world championships to the eventual finalist **Takeoka** of Japan who went on to win the silver medal. He was beaten by fellow countrymen **Tanaka**. Not only did he win the world title but he was to overtake Abe in the world



rankings with the realisation of knowing that he could not possibly get an Olympic selection over Abe. Such is the depth of Judo in Japan.

**WATCH OUT FOR SOME OF THE OLD GUARD WHO WILL BE REPRESENTING MAYBE FOR THE LAST TIME AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES.**

Such fighters such as **An Baul** of the Republic of Korea, who is always up there and roundabout when it comes to winning medals at the top level will always be a threat.



**Garcia Torne** of Spain, **Khyar** of France and the surprise Bronze medallist at the world championships **Luukas Saha** of Finland could prove to be difficult opponents and could create an Olympic upset that we often see at the Olympic Games.



**WATCH OUT FOR SOME GREAT JUDO IN AN AMAZING CATEGORY AND BE PREPARED FOR ONE OR TWO SURPRISES!**

# TECHNIQUES

to watch for in u66kg

## TACHI WAZA

- **ABE HUFIME – MASSIVE SEONAGES! ALL SEONAGES! – IPPON, MOROTE, SEOI OTOSHI. IT'S A MASTERCLASS!**
- **ABE ALSO DOES AN AMAZING CHANGE OF DIRECTION INTO A SPANKING OSOTO GARI**
- **VERU – KOUCHI GARI TO SEND OPPONENTS INTO THE BASEMENT**
- **TAI OTOSHI BY VERU IS SECOND TO NONE...WELL MAYBE ONE OTHER 😊**
- **HIPS DON'T LIE WHEN IT COME TO NEWCOMER EMOMALI – OGOSHI, KOSHI GURUMA, AND TOMOE NAGES WILL BE ON DISPLAY**
- **DON'T LOCK UP WITH MARGVELASHVILI... OR IT'S AIR GEORGIA FOR YOU ✈️**
- **UPRIGHT, HUGE SEOI NAGES WILL BE EXPECTED OF GARCIA TORNE OF SPAIN AS HE HAS DISPLAYED THIS ON THE WHOLE TOUR**

## NE WAZA

- **SPANIARD GARCIA TORNE CREATES DRAMA HERE BY SCOOTING UNDER HIS OPPONENT FOR COMPLETE CONTROL INTO IPPON OSAE KOMI WAZA**

## GAME PLAY

- **ABE – WATCH FOR HIS LIGHTENING FAST ADJUSTMENTS THAT INEVITABLY LEAD TO IPPON**
- **VERU – ACTION/REACTION ON TAP!**
- **WANT TOP TIPS IN DEFENCE? LOOK NO FURTHER THAN YONDONPERENLEI OF MONGOLIA**
- **MARGVELASHVILI'S OPENNESS FOR ATTACK MAKES FOR GREAT VIEWING AND NOT KNOWING WHICH DIRECTION HE'S COMING FROM WILL KEEP US ON THE EDGE OF OUR SEATS**
- **MORE TACTICAL PLAY IS IN AN BAUL'S PLAYBOOK – HIS EXPERIENCE HAS MOULDED INTO TIMING – KNOWING WHEN TO ATTACK OR TO BE IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME**
- **ALREADY WITH A REPUTATION FOR PASSIONATE PLAY, CAN FRANCE'S KHYAR KEEP HIS COOL WITH HIS AGGRESSIVE GRIPPING?**