



FWS Hiroshima 2019 rankings

The 2018 season produced many shocks and surprises and the top 3 in all sports was constantly changing. From the opening in Hiroshima, then on to Montpellier, Edmonton and finally Chengdu, riders battled to gain their invitation to the 2019 tour. And for some, a World Cup title-awaited.

A month ago, the city of Hiroshima in Japan proved to be the perfect place to host the first stage of FWS 2019. In every discipline, and in both men's and women's categories, international riders were seriously challenged by the impressive level of their hosts whose riders made it onto several podiums. Some of them also gained their invitation to compete at FISE Montpellier. Keep a look out for them on the banks of the Lez!

After Montpellier the tour will move on to Chengdu in October, where the Chinese city – for many years a FISE host – will close this 6th FWS edition.

UCI BMX FREESTYLE PARK WORLD CUP – MEN

1. Brandon LOUPOS – age 26 – AUSTRALIA

From his first competition where he launched only a few no-footers and X-UPs, this Australian has got better and better, always choosing lines that no one has thought of. He opened the season by taking the “Battle of the Champions” title and victory – by unanimous decision – at FWS Hiroshima.

2. Rim NAKAMURA – age 17 – JAPAN

From the early stages of his career, Rim has been hailed as one of the future stars of this discipline. Just 17 years of age, he began the 2019 season to great fanfare with a prestigious 2nd place at FISE Hiroshima where he rode trick after trick, including a 5-figure combo. After this performance he is ranked one of the favourites for FWS Montpellier.

3. Logan MARTIN – age 25 – AUSTRALIA

A few years ago, a FISE event in Paris welcomed this young Australian to international competition, where he won his first victory on the world circuit. Since then, this global BMX Freestyle prodigy has been on the podium of almost every event he has participated in. Technical and committed, this FWS 2016 winner will be doing everything he possibly can at each stage of the 2019 tour to retrieve the title.

4. Kevin PERAZA – age 24 – USA

5. Daniel DHERS – age 34 – VENEZUELA

6. Irek RIZAEV – age 21 – RUSSIA



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UCI BMX FREESTYLE PARK WORLD CUP – WOMEN

1. Hannah ROBERTS – age 17 – USA

At only 17 years of age, and winner of the 2017 and 2018 FWS tours, Hannah has already asserted her position this season. As modest as she is passionate, this American has devoted herself to BMX from a very young age, and this shows in the technicality of her tricks and the range of her riding. She is well-known for landing massive flairs and rides better than most boys of her age. Many see her as the future of women's BMX, which she will almost certainly be present at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

2. Lara LESSMANN – age 19 – GERMANY

Originally from Flensburg, Germany, Lara started BMX aged 9, initially influenced by her brother. She is a young athlete who imposes rigorous training on herself and is definitely one to watch closely. Her perfectionism won her the sport's first Olympic medal at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.

3. Perris BENEGAS – age 24 – USA

This American is one of the talented female athletes pushing the growth of her sport. As soon as Perris could pedal, it was clear that her lines were all about style and grandeur. Having been injured during training at last year's FISE Montpellier, Perris will be keen to set the record straight. The current UCI BMX World Champion also has a history of being a champion of... Thai Boxing!

4. Oike MINATO – age 22 – JAPAN

5. Chelsea WOLFE – age 25 – USA

6. Angie MARINO – age 29 – USA



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WS ROLLER FREESTYLE PARK WORLD CUP – MEN

1. Joe ATKINSON – age 26 – UK

To get some idea of Joe's inexhaustible inventiveness, just take a look at his Instagram account (@mrjoeatkinson) and admire his selection of ever-more unusual spots. His combination of original lines and clean tricks make for the perfect combo to take gold. In 2018, he triumphed with 1st place in both the FISE Xperience Series tour and its global equivalent, FWS.

2. Takeshi YASUTOKO – age 32 – JAPAN

Takeshi comes from a family of Japanese Inline Skaters – his parents and brother are also professional. He got on his first skates aged 3 and has been unstoppable ever since. Known for his demanding and original technique, this legend of Roller is world champion and X Games multiple gold medalist. Nicknamed the "Japanese bullet", he's particularly famous for his skill on vert ramps.

3. CJ WELLSMORE – age 31 – AUSTRALIA

This Australian rider has a big bag of tricks and a big personality to match. He is a true character and a delight to see shred. He lives by the motto #dothething and is never afraid to send it. When he rides he is super committed landing big tricks and flowing through stylish lines. He loves to share his passion and to push to the next generation, running blading camps in Bangkok, Thailand where he is now based.

4. Jaro FRIJN – age 18 – NETHERLANDS

5. Roman ABRATE – age 31 – FRANCE

6. Yuto GOTO – age 25 – JAPAN



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WS ROLLER FREESTYLE PARK WORLD CUP – WOMEN

1. Katayama MISAKI – age 17 – JAPAN

Aged just 17, Katayama is a leading global figure of Roller Freestyle. In the first round of FWS Hiroshima, she stood out with her flow of well-chosen lines and super-technical lip tricks. She has been propelled into the limelight thanks to the expanding Roller Freestyle scene in Japan.

2. Maria MUÑOZ – age 28 – SPAIN

Every rider will tell you that victory at FWS Montpellier is extra special, as Maria discovered last year. This charismatic rider takes advantage of the year-round sunshine in Spain to jump on any street rail she can find and presents the most technical tricks of anyone in the women's category. After taking 2nd place at FWS Hiroshima earlier in the season, we can't wait to see her in Montpellier.

3. Manon DERRIEN – age 26 – FRANCE

Born in Bordeaux, Manon is one of the best riders on the world Roller scene. For the last 10 years, she has been hitting the rails with quick, fluid runs which have resulted in several international competition podium places. In 2018, she took 1st place on the FWS tour, and has started this year with a respectable 3rd place at Winterclash.

4. Inoue CHIE – age 27 – JAPAN

5. Jyuria TAKEBE – age 17 – JAPAN

6. Yui SAKODA – age 32 – JAPAN



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UCI BMX FLATLAND WORLD CUP – MEN

1. RYO KATAGIRI – age 18 – JAPAN

It's a family story for Ryo. The younger brother of Misari, one of Japan's best female athletes, he's one of the country's "Super Kids". Aged only 18, he was the youngest rider in his class in Hiroshima – but this didn't stop him from winning hands down. He completes tricks with great fluidity as he transitions between combos – and his elegant style ensures the audience is always right behind him.

2. Matthias DANDOIS – age 30 – FRANCE

This charismatic Parisian rider rides with style and passion pushing himself constantly to try new things. He often takes inspiration from street riding which keeps his runs unpredictable and fresh. He has been at the top of the BMX flatland scene for years. A regular on the podium at FISE competitions, his style earned him victory in the UCI 2018 World Cup.

3. Dominik NEKOLNY – age 33 – CZECH REPUBLIC

This Czech rider doesn't appear much at the stages of FWS, but when he does he never disappoints with his fluidity and tricks. Dominik's rolling backwards and cross-footed hitchhikers, with all their numerous technical combos, never fail to thrill the public. At 33, he is one of the most experienced and accomplished riders, with a pocket full of national and world championship crowns.

4. Benjamin HUDSON – age 23 – CHILE

5. Jean-William PREVOST – age 32 – CANADA

6. Alex JUMELIN – age 41 – FRANCE



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UCI BMX FLATLAND WORLD CUP – WOMEN

1. Misaki KATAGIRI – age 27 – JAPAN

Misaki is humble, unobtrusive and very attached to her home country of Japan. She is also undeniably an athlete who rocked FWS 2018, collecting gold at every single stop thanks to her increasingly sophisticated runs. Her good humour and flawless tricks have won her many crowns. The 2019 tour started in the best way for her with a win at FWS Hiroshima.

2. Irina SADOVNIK – age 35 – AUSTRIA

Despite her experience, this 36-year-old woman from Vienna is always keen to learn new tricks and make further progress. Irina attended FWS Hiroshima for the first time and won a magnificent 2nd place, making her one of the favourites for the overall title. Whether doing a Viennese waltz or a dance with her BMX on the Flatland area, this Austrian adds cultural grace to every run.

3. Aya NAGAISHI – age 27 – JAPAN

Aya, previously unknown to the general public, created a huge surprise by taking 3rd place in BMX Flatland at FWS Hiroshima. She gave an incredible performance, stringing together quality lines and committed tricks. Spurred on by local support, she released two huge runs to delight the Japanese spectators gathered in front of the Flatland area.

4. Eri FUNATSU – age 34 – JAPAN



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FISE WORLD SERIES SKATEBOARD STREET – MEN

1. Ryo SAGAWA – age 19 – JAPAN

Ryo is an outstanding rider who studies at Japan's largest university, Nihon. This generation of Japanese riders is asserting itself at the very highest level of the global Skateboard scene. During FWS Hiroshima, Ryo brought it home with an ollie bigspin front board to fakie, as sketchy as it was unexpected. His sensational debut makes him a rider to follow at FISE Montpellier.

2. Ike KEYAKI – age 17 – JAPAN

IKE appears on his Instagram account as an unusual and often quirky smiling character, but he leaves no room for anything unexpected when he rides. Selected for Japan's national team, he won gold at last year's Asian Games. He produced some huge tricks – including the hurricane switch, the frontside nosegrind, and the front switch feeble grind – to earn a very respectable 2nd place at FISE Hiroshima.

3. Aoki YUKITO – age 15 – JAPAN

The Japanese Skateboard community is experiencing rapid growth, hence the abundance of new generation riders. Aoki is one of them. Like his compatriots, he is already a future superstar of the sport. He landed a big frontside air kickflip in his final run at FWS Hiroshima – a move he intends to repeat during the tour's second stage under the sun of southern France in Montpellier.

4. Ikeda DAISUKE – age 18 – JAPAN

5. Ke'Chaud JOHNSON – age 31 – USA

6. Kaede YOSHIKAWA – age 18 – JAPAN