

# KarateNow

Notizie, interviste, gare e risultati del Karate Olimpico

## The Boys with the Golden Kimono

The “Grand Winners” are the competitors who achieved the best results in the 2019 Karate 1-Premier League year. They are the only athletes who in 2020 can wear the special karategi with golden embroidery during the Karate 1-Premier League events



The twelve “Big Winners” of the 2019 1-Premier League Karate were awarded in Paris by the WKF

**KATA:** Sandra Sanchez (ESP), Ryo Kiyuna (JPN); **KUMITE:** Serap Ozcelik Arapoglu - kg. - 50 (TUR), Darkhan Assadilov - kg. - 60 (KAZ), Anzhelika Terliuga - kg. - 55 (UKR), Steven Dacosta - kg. - 67 (FRA), Xiaoyan Yin - kg. - 61 (CHN), Rafael Aghayev - kg. - 75 (AZE), Irina Zaretska - kg. - 68 (AZE), Ugur Aktas - kg. - 84 (TUR), Ayumi Uekusa - kg. + 68 (JPN), Sajad Ganjzadeh - kg. + 84 (IRI)

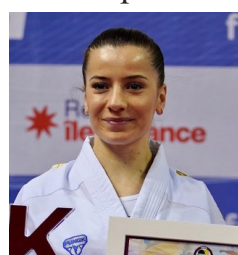
There are twelve “Big Winners” of the 2019 season of the “Premier League” Karate competitions. The list is composed of Sandra Sanchez (ESP), Serap Ozcelik Arapoglu (TUR), Anzhelika Terliuga (UKR), Xiaoyan Yin (CHN), Irina Zaretska (AZE) and Ayumi Uekusa (JPN) in the women’s categories and Ryo Kiyuna (JPN), Darkhan Assadilov (KAZ), Steven Dacosta (FRA), Ugur Aktas (TUR)



Ugur Aktas

and Sajad Ganjzadeh (IRI) in the men’s categories. “I am very happy to be the Grand Winner for the second consecutive year, also because it is the year of the Olympics. I want to be successful in the Karate 1-Premier League events and I intend to be the

Big Winner for the year 2020,” said Ugur Aktas “Three years ago, when I said I wanted to be Grand Winner for three consecutive years, people told me it was very difficult. I believed in myself and I did it, so I’m very happy because being a Grand Winner shows what I am capable of



Serap Ozcelik

doing,” said the three-time Serap Ozcelik award winner. Rafael Aghayev of Azerbaijan, however, said he was “honored” to be a winner again. “It is a great honor for me. Being the Big Winner once is a great achievement, but winning the title twice is an extraordinary source of joy.” Ayumi Uekusa of the Japanese national team, who has gold-painted fingernails and toenails to ma-

tch her Grand Winner karategi said: “Even though I didn’t manage to win many gold medals last year, I’m happy to be the new

Big Winner. I am very happy because I am able to wear the golden karategi again. I always think in gold, both in Karate and in my daily

life “. Ryo Kiyuna, six-time Japanese Grand Winner winner, said: “Last year I won gold in all the competitions in which I participated.

My kata level is improving. But I’m still not satisfied because I want my kata to be better every day.

*Edited by Rossella Zoccali*

### Karate - Key points for “Tokyo 2020” Sensational surprises at the Premier League in Paris

Overall, Turkey and Iran seem to be the strongest nations. The Turkish Eray Samdan overtakes the Italian Angelo Crescenzo and takes possession of the temporary qualification in kg. -60. The Russian Anna Chernysheva, in her second senior race, beat the super champion Anzhelika Terlyuga 8 to 0 in the kg. -55. Iranian Hamideh Abbasali leaps to second place in the Olympic rankings, ITALY: the perseverance of Luigi Busà, Viviana Bottaro and Mattia Busato; Angelo Crescenzo’s slip, Luca Maresca’s exploit in kg. -67. Silvia Semeraro looks ready to attack the Swiss Quirici in the kg -68 category

*Rossella Zoccali*



Silvia Semeraro