



# U20 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW 2025



UNITED WORLD  
WRESTLING

# THE U20 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL BE LIVE ON

UWW.ORG

UWW+

FOLLOW  
@UNITEDWORLDWRESTLING ON







**A QUICK STAT:**

**OF THE 30 GOLD MEDALISTS FROM LAST YEAR'S  
WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS, 13 WILL COMPETE  
AT THE SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ZAGREB,  
A TESTAMENT TO THE EVENT'S IMPORTANCE.**



**THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION  
IN SAMOKOV, BULGARIA,  
FROM AUGUST 17 TO 24,  
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INTRODUCE THE  
NEXT GENERATION OF WRESTLING STARS.**







**THE EIGHT-DAY EVENT  
WILL FEATURE 651 WRESTLERS:  
233 IN FREESTYLE, 231 IN GRECO-ROMAN,  
AND 187 IN WOMEN'S WRESTLING.**

**A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER,  
187 WRESTLERS, ARE RETURNING  
FROM LAST YEAR'S COMPETITION.**



In Freestyle, 11 medalists are back, including one champion.







Erzu ZAKRIEV

Greco-Roman has 10 returning medalists, with three champions.





While Women's Wrestling boasts 17 returning medalists and three defending champions.







# 01 FREESTYLE

57 KG

Luka Gvinjilia (GEO)

defeats Leon Diogo Fernandes Zinser (GER)







**ONE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE  
TEAM RUNS AT THE WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS  
WAS BY THE UNITED STATES LAST YEAR.**



Marcus Blaze

Nine of its 10 wrestlers won a medal while all 10 competed for a medal. It won the team title comfortably.





This year, the U.S. is aiming to defend its team title for the first time.

The team includes four returning medalists: **Marcus BLAZE** (61kg), **PJ DUKE** (70kg), **Ladrion LOCKETT** (74kg), and **Justin RADEMACHER** (97kg).





Ali Rezaeiaghoughzoleh

Ladarion Lockett

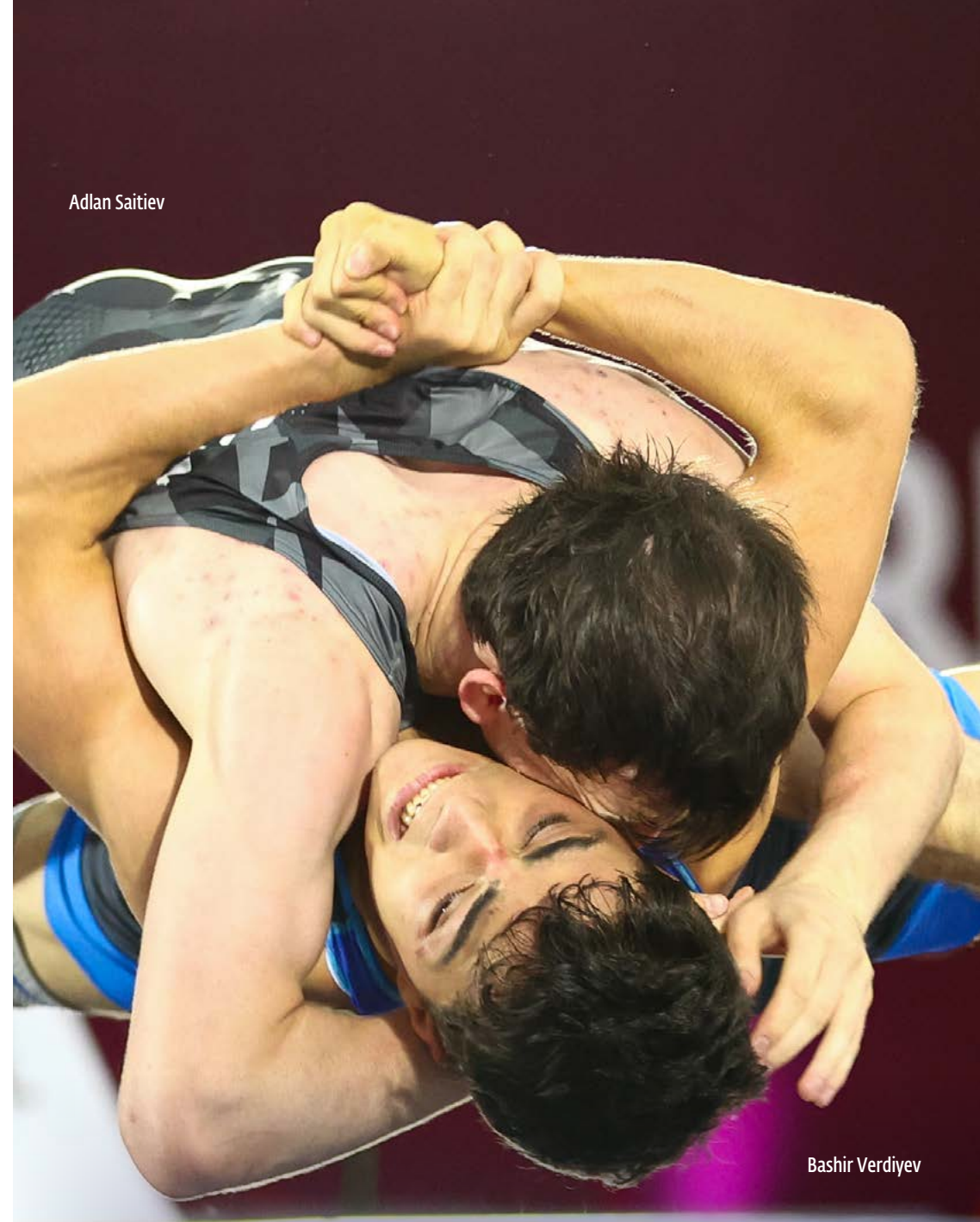
Iran will likely be its main challenger, looking to reclaim the team title they last won in 2023.

However, the U.S. team is motivated, particularly after it recently stunned Iran to defend its team title at the U17 Worlds.





Other major challengers include Georgia, Azerbaijan, India, and UWW wrestlers, many of whom are continental champions.





Masanosuke Ono

One of the returning medalists and a strong favorite for gold is **Marcus BLAZE** (USA).

His only loss last year was to **Masanosuke ONO** (JPN), and he's now looking to add a world U20 title to his U17 one.

Marcus Blaze





He won't be without competition, however.

**Ahora KHATERI** (IRI), a 2023 world U17 champ, is also looking to add a U20 gold to his resume in his first event. **KHATERI** wrestled at the Zagreb Open this year and finished fifth.



Ahora Khateri



Sargis Begoyan

The field is further bolstered by European U20 champion **Sargis BEGOYAN** (ARM), silver medalist **Adlan SAITIEV** (UWW), Asian U20 champion **Askat TOKTOMATOV** (KGZ) and **Allan ORALBEK** (KAZ).





**Ladarion LOCKETT** (USA), a silver medalist last year, is a strong contender for gold.

His aggressive style and high pace will be key against opponents who often can't handle his intensity. His biggest challenge will come from European U23 champion **Ismail KHANIEV** (UWW), European U20 champion **Manuel WAGIN** (GER), and returning bronze medalist **Aghanazar NOVRUZOV** (AZE).





Ladarion Lockett

Aghanazar Novruzov

**LOCKETT** defeated **NOVRUZOV** in the semifinals last year, but the latter recently added a senior European bronze to his resume and could cause an upset.

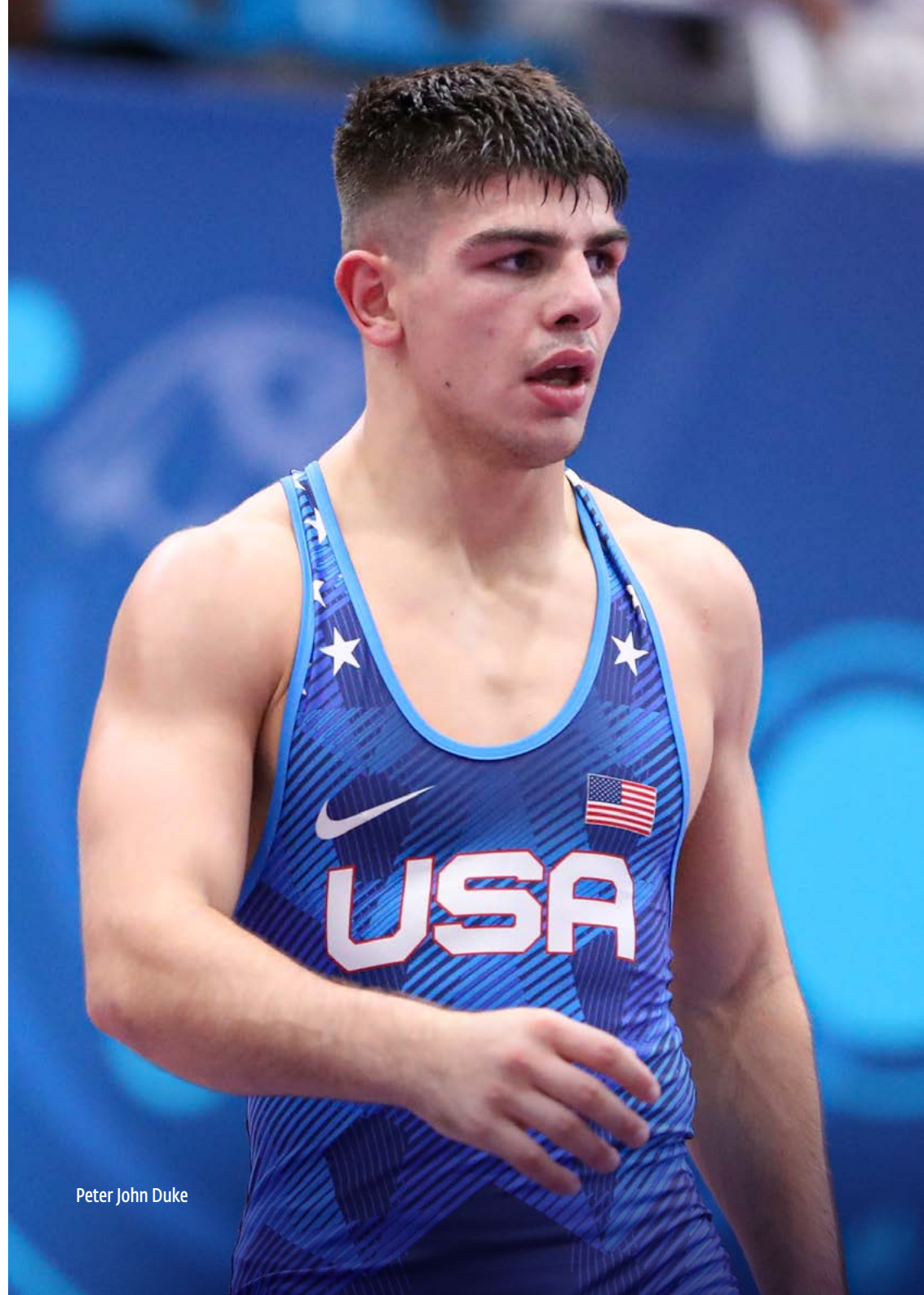
The field also includes Asian U20 champion **Mahdi MAMIVAND** (IRI) and European U20 silver **Raul CASO** (ITA), who will be at his fourth U20 Worlds.





**PJ DUKE** (USA), who earned a spot on the U.S. senior team for Zagreb, is now looking to upgrade his bronze medal to gold this year.

Wrestling at 70kg, **DUKE** has been in phenomenal form, memorably pinning **Yianni DIAKOMIHALIS** (USA) to make the senior team.





Ebrahim Elahi

A classic U.S.-Iran battle is expected in this weight class, as he'll face 2022 world U17 champion **Ebrahim ELAHI** (IRI), who recently won the Asian U20 gold medal.

**ELAHI** was also at the Zagreb Open but finished fifth.





**IN OTHER WEIGHT CLASSES,  
THE COMPETITION  
IS MUCH MORE OPEN.**



European U20 champion and 2024 U17 world **Konstantine PETRIASHVILI** (GEO), younger brother of Olympic 125kg champion **Geno**, will be in Samokov to add another world title to his name.

He finished eighth last year, debuting at U20 level.







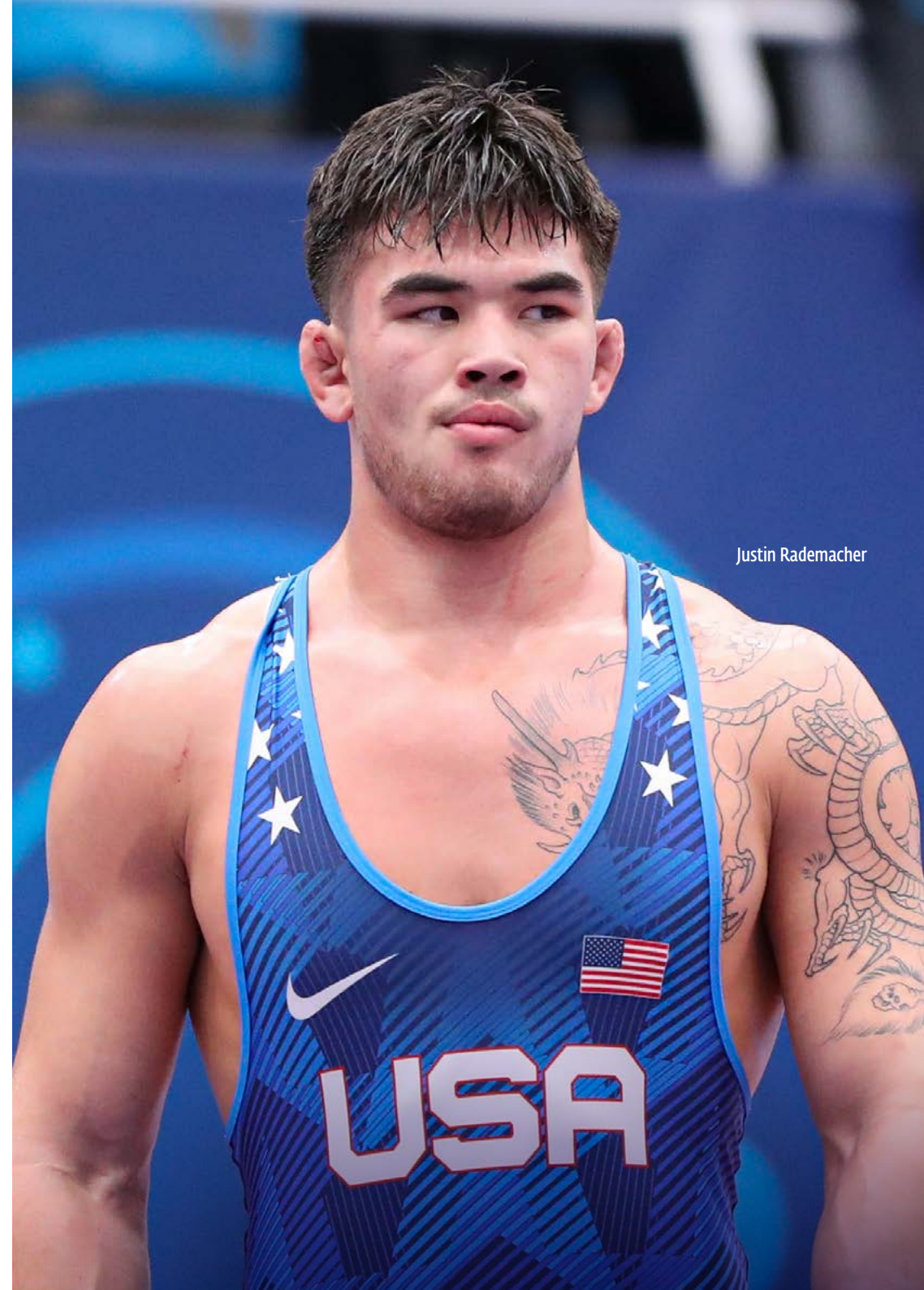
Erfan Alizadeh

Iran has **Erfan ALIZADEH** (IRI), the U20 Asian champ and silver medalist from the Muhamet Malo Ranking Series.

**ALIZADEH**, with his experience, can easily challenge **PETRIASHVILI** and navigate his double-leg attacks.



The weight class has returning bronze medalist **Justin RADEMACHER** (USA) who has his eyes set on gold he missed last year.



Justin Rademacher





Alp Arslan Begenjov

Chandermohan

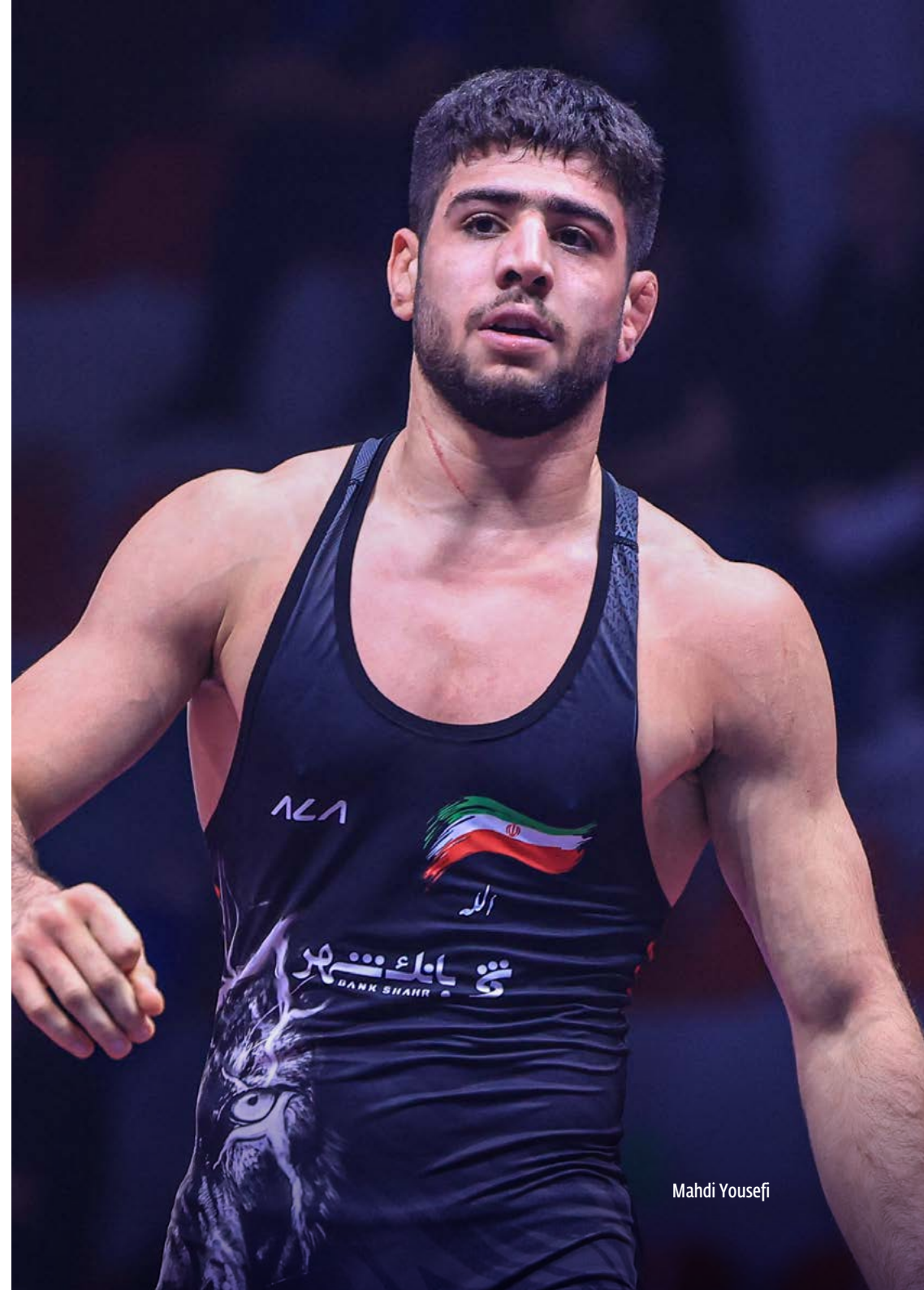
The only returning champion is **Alp Arslan BEGENJOV** (TKM), who made history as Turkmenistan's first-ever world U20 champion.

However, he's had mixed results since then, including a loss to **CHANDERMOHAN** (IND) and a pin by **AMIT** (IND).



This opens the door for a host of contenders.

**Mahdi YOUSEFI** (IRI), who lost his first bout to **BEGENJOV** last year, has since had a phenomenal run, winning a senior Asia gold, a world U23 title, and a silver at the Zagreb Open.







Leandro Araujo

**Leandro ARAUJO** (BRA) is also looking to change the color of his medal.

**ARAUJO** won bronze last year and silver at the Pan-Am U20 Championships. He'll be challenged by the wrestler who beat him in that final, **William HENCKEL** (USA), a potential gold medalist himself.



Also in the mix are European U20 champ **Davit TCHETCH-ELASHVILI** (GEO), silver medalist **Muradkhan OMAROV** (AZE) and returning fifth-placers **Said SAIDULOV** (UWW) and **AMIT**.



Davit Tchetchelashvili





Abolfazl Rahmani

Another Iran wrestler who has improved significantly is **Abolfazl RAHMANI** (IRI).

After winning bronze last year, he's gone on to secure gold medals at senior and U20 Asians. While not a clear favorite, a gold medal in Samokov is definitely within his reach.



European U20 champion **Dachi PAPINASHVILI** (GEO) and silver medalist **Ahmet YAGAN** (TUR), a returning bronze medalist himself, will be among those hoping to deny **RAHMANI**.







Anar Jafarli

At 92kg, returning bronze medalists **Anar JAFARLI** (AZE) and **Kamil KURUGLIYEV** (KAZ) are ready to compete.

**KURUGLIYEV**, a 2023 world U20 champ at 97kg and a 2022 world U17 champion, has moved down a weight class.



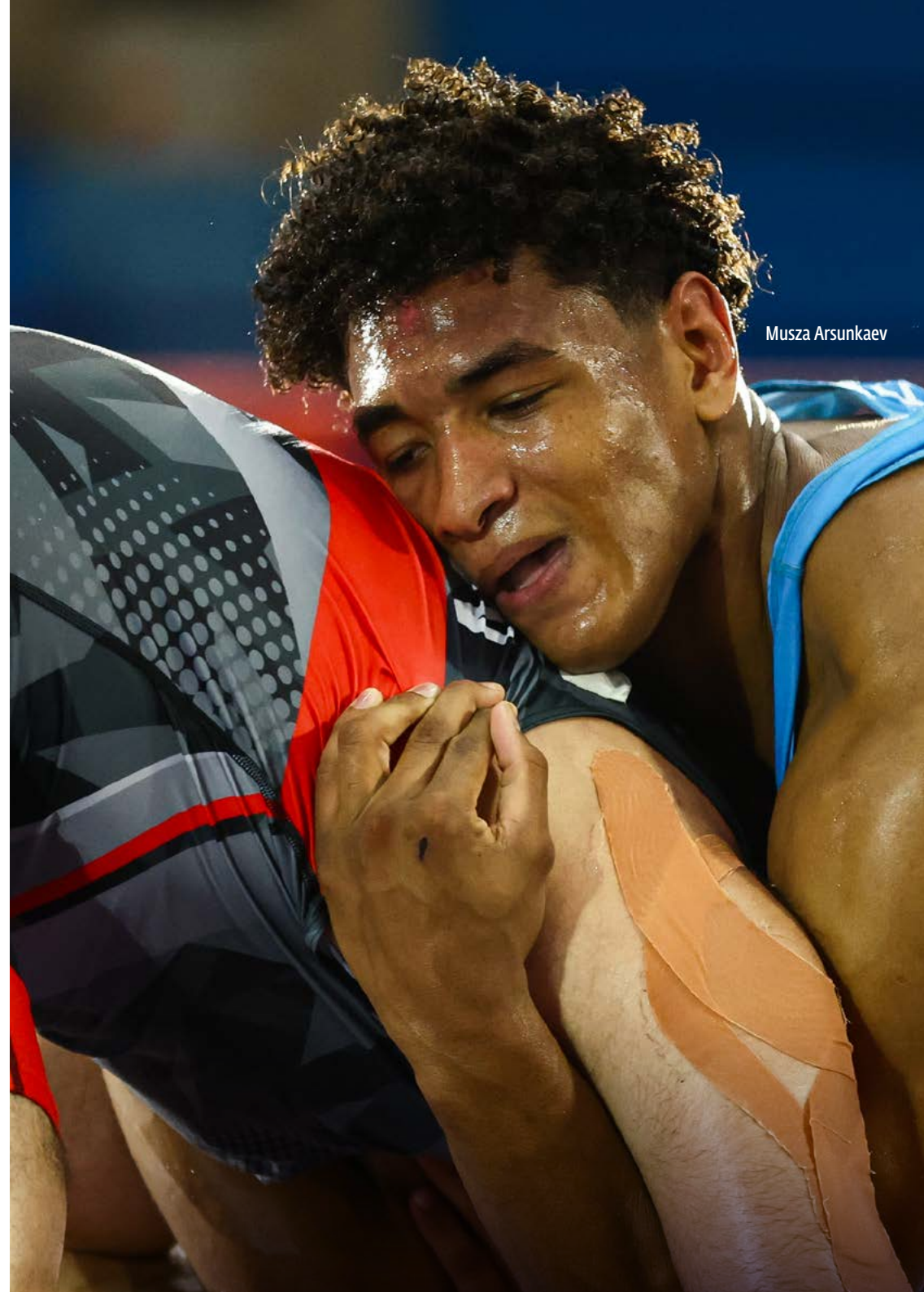


**WHILE JAFARLI LACKS KURUGLIYEV'S RESUME,  
HE IS A GOLD MEDAL THREAT, HAVING DEFEATED  
THE RETURNING CONNOR MIRASOLA (USA)  
FOR BRONZE LAST YEAR.**



European U20 and U23 silver medalist **Musza ARSUNKAEV** (HUN) is also a factor, capable of upsets with a strong record that includes a 2022 world U17 silver medal.

He recently finished fifth at the Budapest Ranking Series.



Musza Arsunkaev



Yusif Dursunov

The 125kg class is set to be a battle of redemption and first-time glory.

**Yusif DURSUNOV** (AZE), a former world U17 champion, is determined to claim a U20 title after a disappointing eighth-place finish last year, a goal bolstered by his recent European U20 silver.

His path to gold could be blocked by **Inal GAGLOEV** (UWW), the European U20 gold medalist who is stepping onto the world stage for the first time.





The competition also features Pan-Am U20 champion **Cole MIRASOLA** (USA) and Asian U20 champion **Yedige KASSIMBEK** (KAZ).

For **KASSIMBEK**, the stakes are high; he has lost two U17 world finals, including one to **DURSUNOV**, and is now hungry for his first major gold.



Cole Mirasola



Amal Dzhandubaev

The 65kg weight class has a strong favorite: **Amal DZHAN-DUBAEV** (UWW).

He won both the European U20 and U23 Championships with seemingly little trouble.





Yet, there will be challenges at the world level, which include European U20 silver medalist **Viktor BOROHAN** (UKR) and former Euro U20 champ **Abdullah TOPRAK** (TUR).

Both of them have already suffered a defeat to **DZHAN-DUBAEV** but can step up on the day.





Omurbek Asan Uulu

The field also includes Pan-Am U20 champion **Luke STANICH** (USA), **Aliasghar TATHASHTIKEH** (IRI), who is making his international debut, and **Omurbek ASAN UULU** (KGZ), a 2024 world U17 champ who won bronze at the Asian U20s.





Can former world U17 champion **Vasif BAGHIROV** (AZE) add a U20 title?

The European U20 champion's path to gold won't be easy, as he'll face **Nika ZANGALADZE** (GEO), the only wrestler to truly test him in Italy.

The U.S. is pinning its hopes on **Anthony KNOX** (USA), who is making his international debut.





Arshia Haddadi

Meanwhile, Iran has a strong contender in **Arshia HADDADI** (IRI), a bronze medalist at both the Asian U20 and 2022 World U17 Championships.

Also challenging for gold is **Rin SAKAMOTO** (JPN), who has been training in the U.S. at Oklahoma State University.







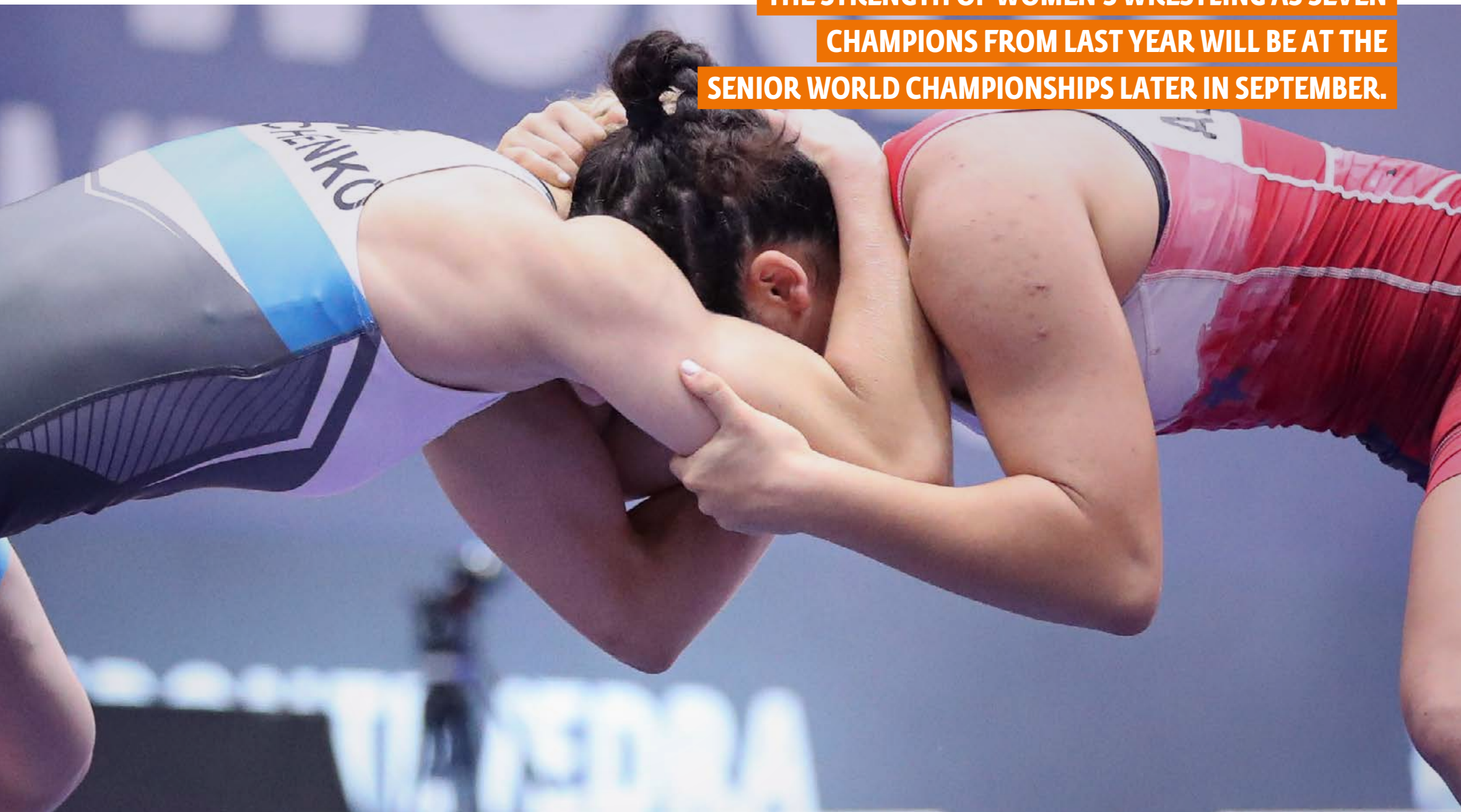
A female wrestler in a red singlet is pinning an opponent in a blue singlet. The wrestler in red is on top, with her arms and legs wrapped around the opponent. The opponent is on the bottom, looking up. The background is a blurred wrestling mat.

# 02 WOMEN'S WRESTLING

62 KG  
Nagisa Ito (JPN)  
defeats Shuang Han (CHN)



THE STATISTIC ABOUT IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH  
OF THIS PREVIEW PRIMARILY HIGHLIGHTS  
THE STRENGTH OF WOMEN'S WRESTLING AS SEVEN  
CHAMPIONS FROM LAST YEAR WILL BE AT THE  
SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS LATER IN SEPTEMBER.



**Sakura ONISHI** (JPN) and **Sowaka UCHIDA** (JPN) will represent Japan and the **ZHANG** twins, **Yu** and **Jin**, will challenge for China.

**Christelle RODRIGUEZ** (USA), **Iryna BONDAR** (UKR) and **Jyoti BERWAL** (IND), all gold medalists from Pontevedra, will also be in Zagreb.



Sowaka Uchida





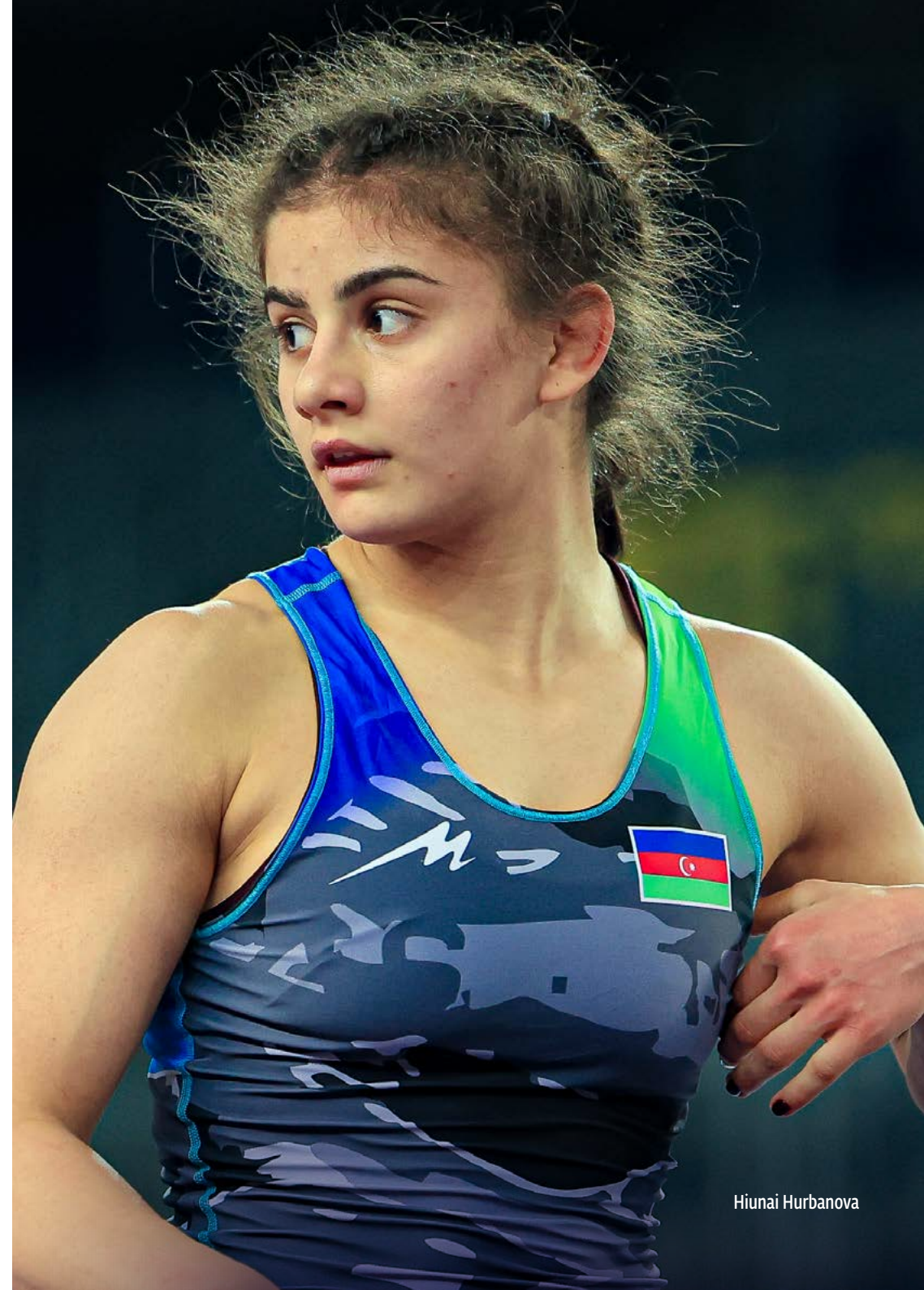
Sakura Onishi

Now back in Samokov, both **UCHIDA** and **ONISHI** will be wrestling for their second straight world U20 gold medal at 57kg and 59kg respectively.

Since her 2024 title, **ONISHI** has won gold medals at Asian Championships and Muhamet Malo Ranking Series. She is also a world U17 champ and silver medalist from 2023 and 2022 respectively.



**ONISHI** will have her hands full with **Hiunai HURBANOVA** (AZE), who is undefeated this year with European U20, U23 and Zagreb Open golds under her belt.







Neha Neha

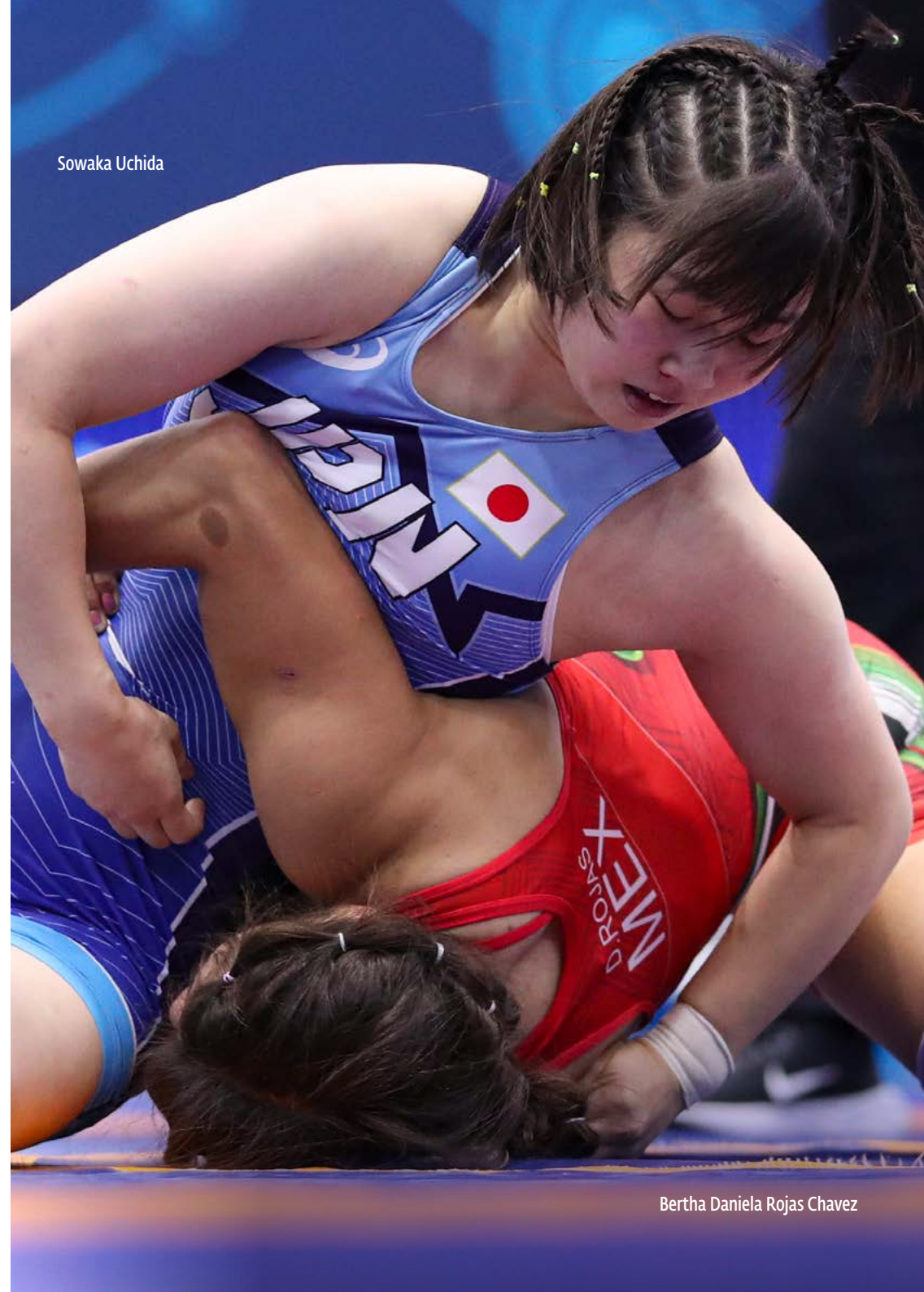
**NEHA** (IND), a 57kg bronze medalist from last year, moves up to 59kg, bringing with her a recent silver from the Budapest Ranking Series and gold from the Mongolia Open.

**Marta HETMANAVA** (UWW) and **Aubre KRAZER** (USA) are also strong contenders for a podium finish.



Unlike her teammate **ONISHI**, **UCHIDA** is coming into the competition with a spotless international record.

She would like to like that record, however, the 57kg division promises intense competition.



Sowaka Uchida





Alina Filipovych

The field includes a standout from Ukraine, **Alina FILIPOVYCH** (UKR), a senior European bronze medalist who finished fifth at last year's World U20 Championships.

Her impressive resume also includes two European U20 titles, a world U20 title from 2023, senior and U23 European silvers, and a World U23 bronze from 2024.



Other formidable wrestlers include Pan-Am U20 champion **Agnia KRAKOVSKA** (CAN), Asian U20 champion **TAPSYA** (IND), European U20 champion **Felicitas DOMAJEVA** (NOR), and silver medalist **Tindra DALMYR** (SWE).



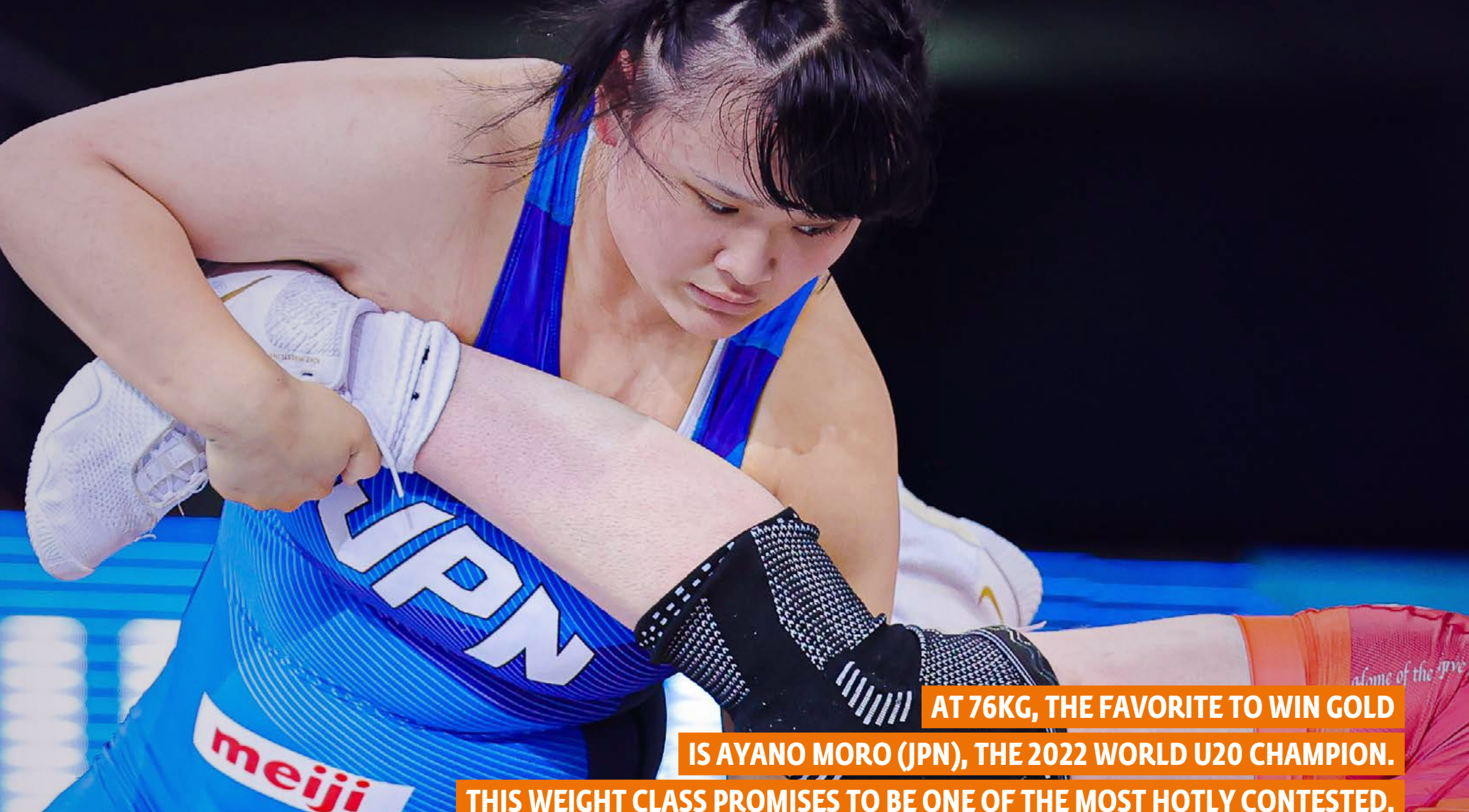




Rinka Ogawa

Apart from these two, Japan's line-up includes 2022 world U20 champ **Ayano MORO** (JPN) at 76kg, 2023 world U17 champs **Rinka OGAWA** (JPN) at 50kg and **Natsumi MASUDA** (JPN) at 53kg, **So TSUTSUI** (JPN) was a 57kg silver medalist at the 2024 world U17 championships, 2023 world and Asia champion **Ray HOSHINO** (JPN) at 68kg and 2024 Asian U20 champ at 65kg **Momoko KITADE** (JPN).





**AT 76KG, THE FAVORITE TO WIN GOLD IS AYANO MORO (JPN), THE 2022 WORLD U20 CHAMPION. THIS WEIGHT CLASS PROMISES TO BE ONE OF THE MOST HOTLY CONTESTED, AS MORO WILL RENEW HER RIVALRY WITH PRIYA (IND), WHO SHE HAD DEFEATED TO WIN THE TITLE IN 2022.**



The Indian wrestler, who won the U20 title in 2023, recently won silver at the Budapest Ranking Series and gold at Asian U23s and is a two-time world U17 champion.





Naomi Simon

The division is further stacked with returning bronze medalists **Naomi SIMON** (USA) and **Elmira YASIN** (TUR), as well as European U20 champion **Nadiia SOKOLOVSKA** (UKR) and silver medalist **Diana TITOVA** (UWW).





**OGAWA** will have her task cut out at 50kg as two-time world U20 silver medalist **Audrey JIMENEZ** (USA), who is hungry to finally claim a gold medal after two losses in the finals.

**JIMENEZ**'s impressive resume also includes a senior Pan-Am title and 2023 World U23 silver medal.



Audrey Jimenez

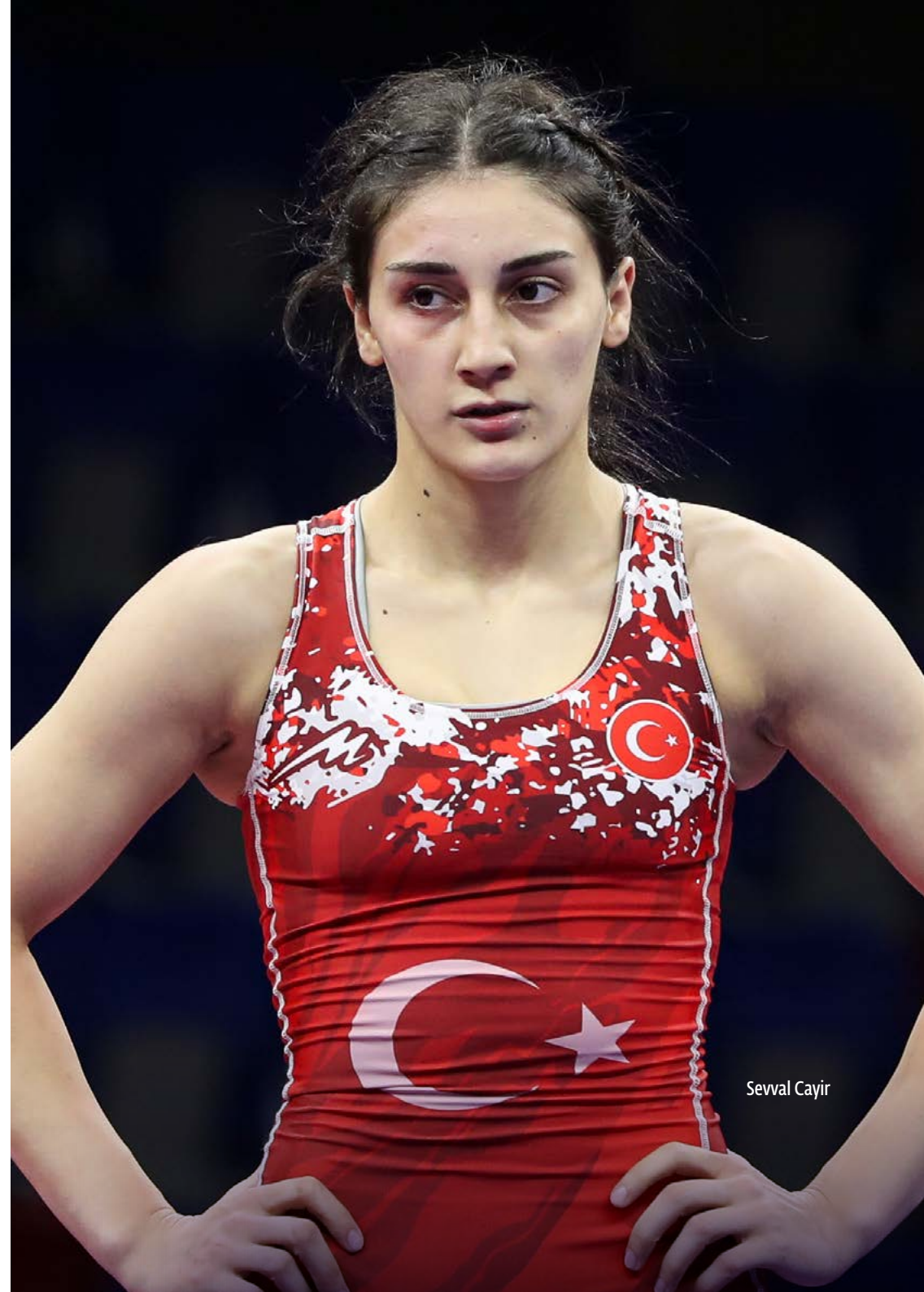


**Na HU** (CHN), a 2024 world U17 champion, will aim to keep the 50kg title with China, following **Yu ZHANG**'s (CHN) victory last year.



For **MASUDA** at 53kg, the challenge may be tougher.

Her weight class includes European U20 bronze medalist **Sevval CAYIR** (TUR), Asian U20 champ **SAARIKA** (IND), European U20 champ **Anastasiia POLSKA** (UKR) and European U20 champ at 50kg **Kseniya KOSTSENICH** (UWW).



Sevval Cayir



Khaliun Byambasuren

The 55kg weight class has a lot of talented wrestlers including returning silver medalist **Khaliun BYAMBASUREN** (MGL), who trains in Japan, returning bronze medalist and European U23 champ **Tuba DEMIR** (TUR), Asian U20 and U23 champ **REENA** (IND), who also has World U23 and U20 bronze in 2023, European U20 champ **Gerda TEREK** (HUN) and 2024 Pan-Am U20 champ **Everest LEYDECKER** (USA).





With such a deep pool of talented wrestlers, **So TSUTSUI** (JPN) will face a challenging path to the gold medal, especially against rivals like **BYAMBASUREN**.





Ayşe Erkan

**HOSHINO**, the 2023 world U20 champion, is one of the favorites at 68kg.

She is in a deep field with **Ayşe ERKAN** (TUR), a returning silver medalist and European U20 bronze winner and **Oleksandra RYBAK** (UKR), a strong contender with European U23 bronze and 2024 World U17 silver medals.





The field also includes Pan-Am U20 champion **Eduarda BATISTA** (BRA), returning bronze medalist **SRISHTI** (IND), and Asian U20 champion **Gulnura TASHTANBEKOVA** (KGZ).

A new face, 2025 world U17 champion **Wenjin QIU** (CHN), aims for her second world title in three weeks.



Gulnura Tashtanbekova



Beyza Akkus

Returning silver medalist and European U20 champion **Beyza AKKUS** (TUR) will be the favorite to win gold at 65kg despite the presence of **KITADE**.

Both returning bronze medalists **Margarita SALNAZARI-AN** (UWW) and **Zaixue RUI** (CHN) can also make a run to the final.





At 72kg, all eyes will be on **Jasmine ROBINSON** (USA), the defending champion who dominated last year's event. She's a strong favorite to win gold again.

However, **Yuqi LIU** (CHN), the silver medalist, is focused on revenge.



Jasmine Robinson

Yuqi Liu



Kajal Kajal

**KAJAL** (IND), the Asian U20 champion, brings impressive credentials, including silver medals at the World and Asian U17 events this year.

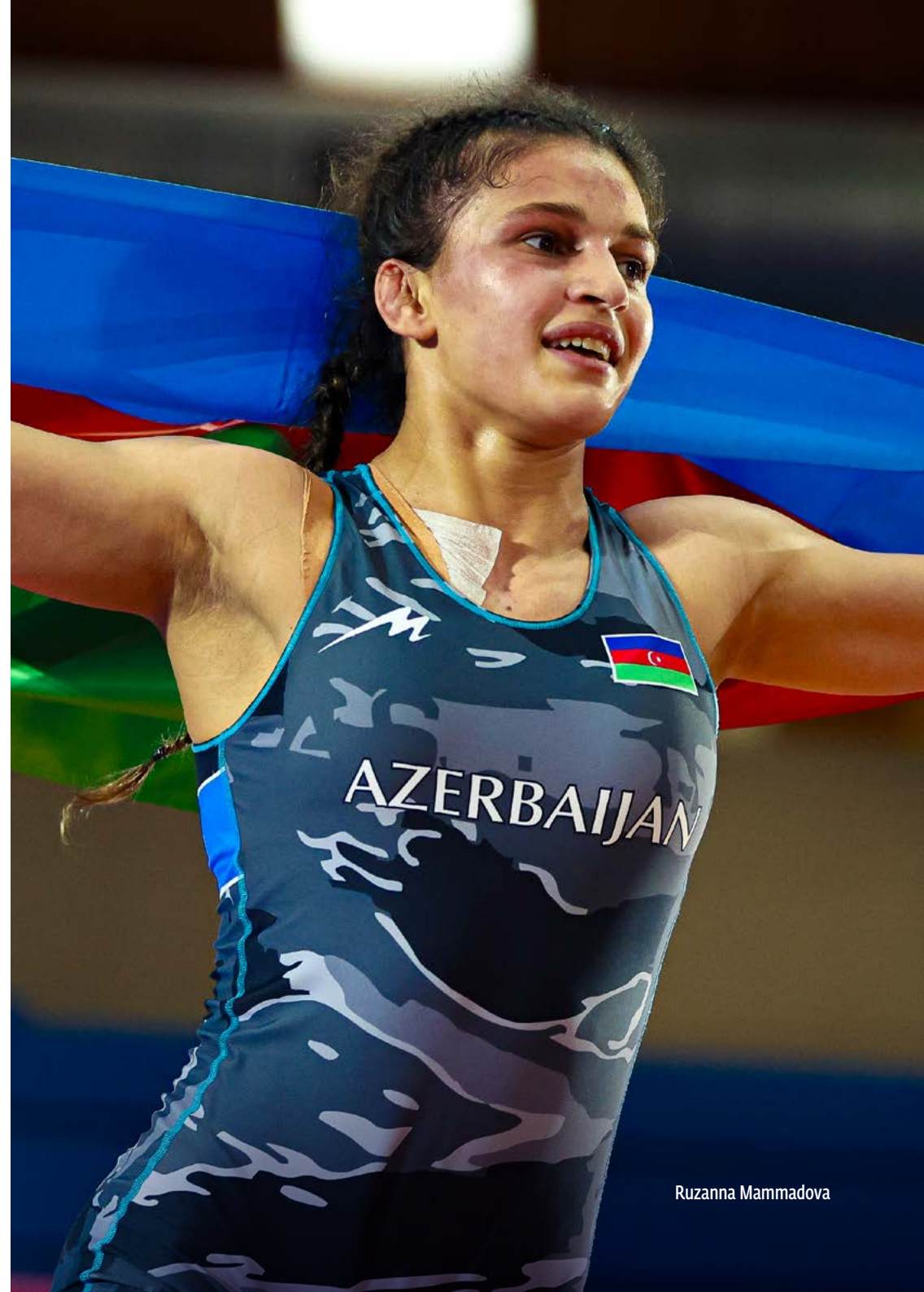
Another name to watch is **Kristina BRATCHIKOVA** (UWW), a European U23 champion who finished fifth last year.





At 62kg, European U20 champion **Ruzanna MAMMADOVA** (AZE) will look to win a medal after finishing fifth last year at 59kg.

But she will have to go past Asian U20 champ **ANJLI** (IND), who also won silver at World U23 Championships last year and Pan-Am U20 champ **Annika FINES** (CAN).







A full-page background image of a Greco-Roman wrestling match. The wrestler on the left, Achiko Bolkvadze, is wearing a red singlet and is in a defensive position, looking up with a pained or intense expression. The wrestler on the right, Ruben Ivor Van Wyk, is wearing a white singlet and is performing a move, possibly a suplex or a similar throw, as Bolkvadze is being lifted. The background is a blue mat with some circular patterns. The text '03 GRECO-ROMAN' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# 03 GRECO-ROMAN

87 KG

Achiko Bolkvadze (GEO)  
defeats Ruben Ivor Van Wyk (RSA)





**IRAN HAS WON FIVE STRAIGHT TEAM TITLES  
IN GRECO-ROMAN AT THE WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS.  
BUT WINNING THE SIXTH WILL BE CHALLENGING.  
WHILE IRAN'S LINE-UP IN 2024 WAS INCREDIBLE,  
THIS YEAR'S DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE SAME.**





Amirsam Mohammadi

The team, however, is still a strong contender, but countries like Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkiye, and Ukraine have their top wrestlers, and a few top UWW wrestlers are also in.

Said Pashayev



Leading the charge for Iran is **Abolfazl FATHITAZANGI** (IRI), a returning silver medalist at 130kg.

After winning his second Asian U20 gold this year, he's the top contender for gold.

Abolfazl Fathitazangi







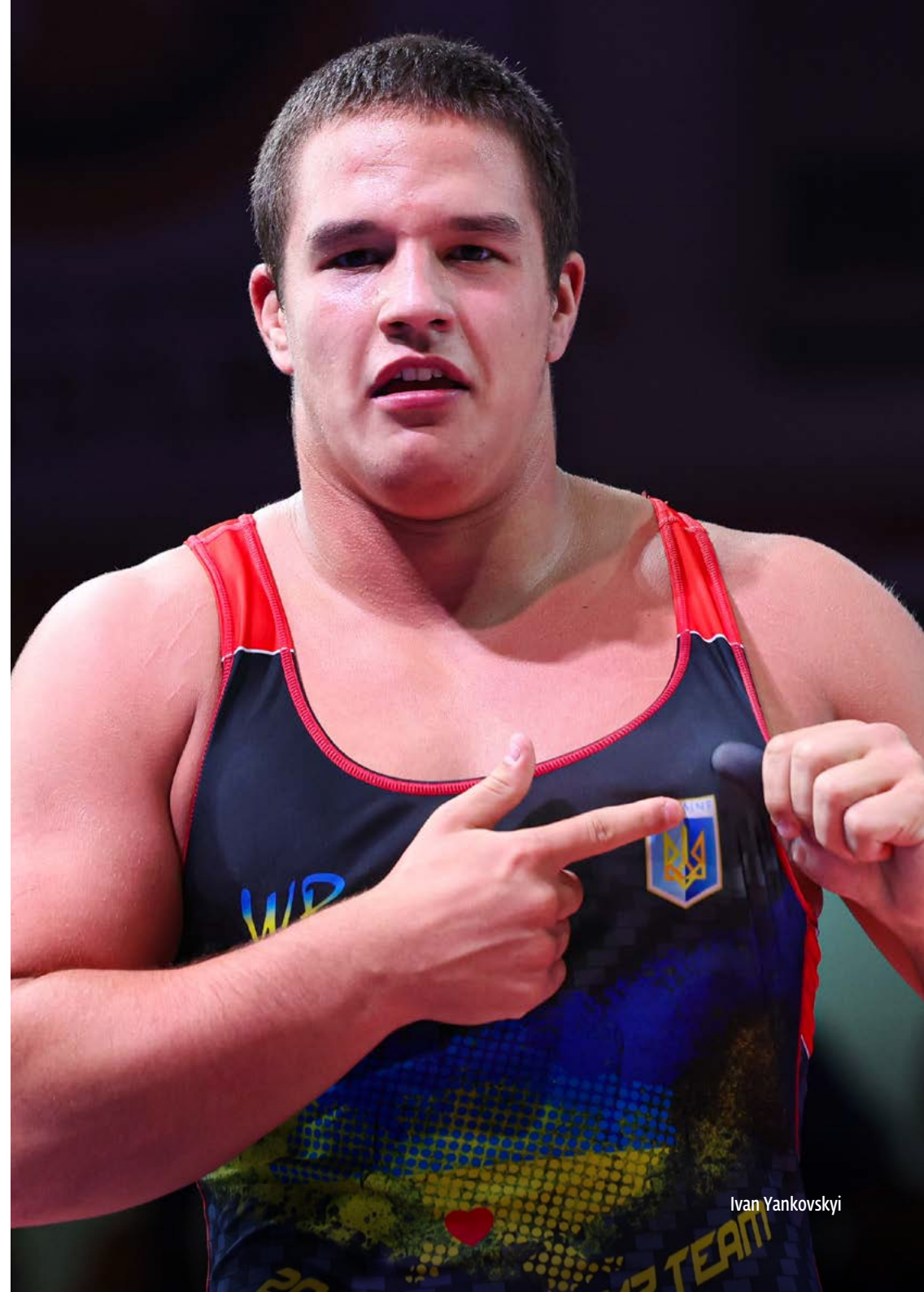
Koppany Laszlo

Last year, he was stunned in the final by **Laszlo DARABOS** (HUN), who isn't competing this year.

Instead, **Koppany LASZLO** (HUN) – a bronze medalist from Budapest Ranking Series – will take his place.



Other notable names include last year's world and European U17 champion **Ivan YANKOVSKYI** (UKR), who is making his U20 debut against wrestlers like European U20 silver medalist **Ali ILIASOV** (UWW) and former world U17 champion **Saba PURTSELADZE** (GEO).







Cemal Bakır

Jorawar Dhinsa

Two-time former world U17 champion **Cemal BAKIR** (TUR) is also in the mix, looking for his first major U20 success after placing seventh at last year's U20 Worlds and eighth at this year's European U20 Championships.



Iran's gold medal hopes extend to Asian U20 champion **Payam AHMADI** (IRI), a 2023 world champion at 48kg, and now the front-runner at 55kg.



Payam Ahmadi





His biggest challenger is two-time former world U17 champion **Turan DASHDAMIROV** (AZE), who suffered his first-ever continental loss, taking silver at the European U20 Championships recently.

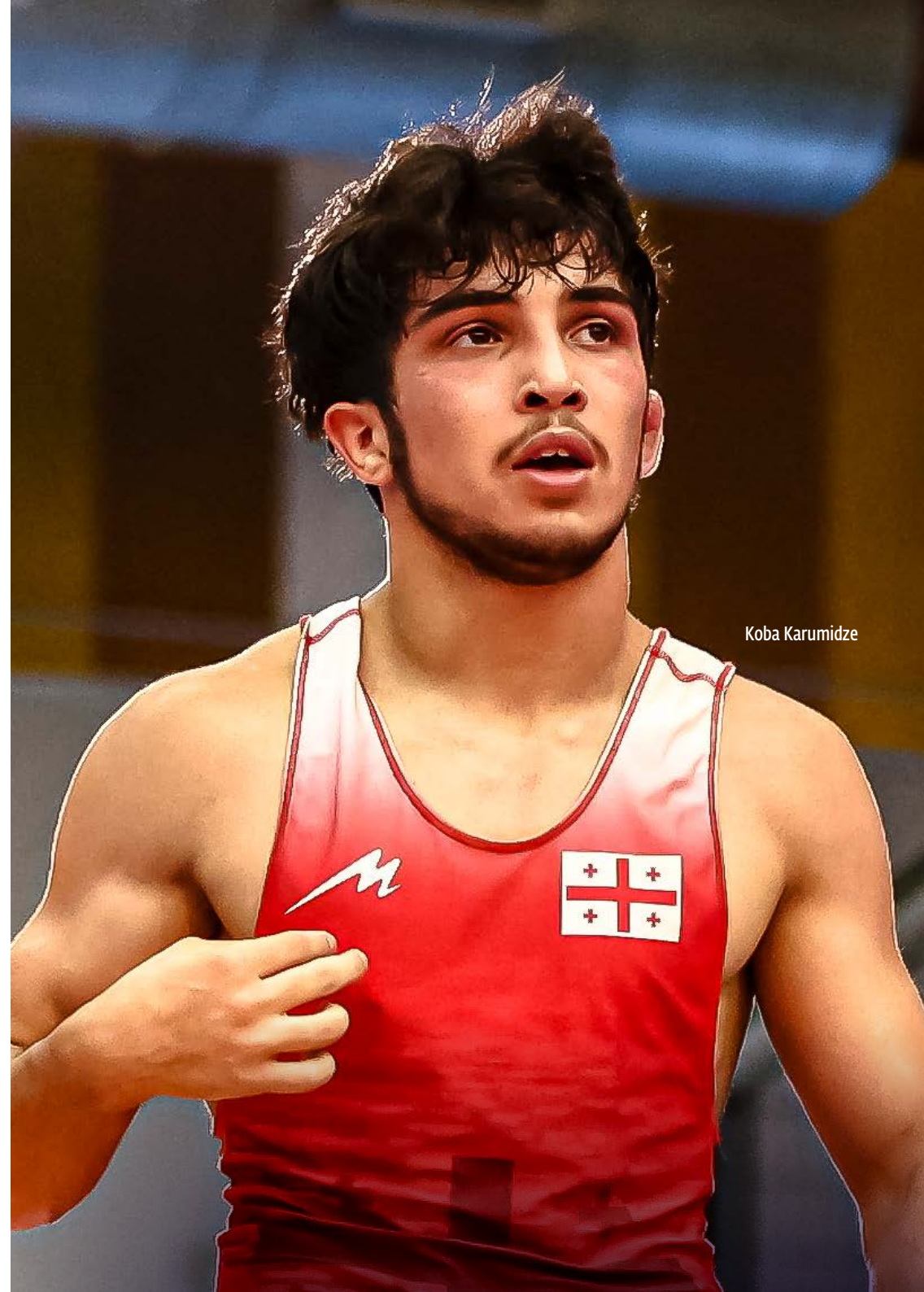
The wrestler who handed him that defeat was **Ivan SOLOMIN** (UWW), who will be a formidable opponent in Samokov.

Turan Dashdamirov



Also in the mix is **Koba KARUMIDZE** (GEO), a European U20 bronze and U23 silver medalist.

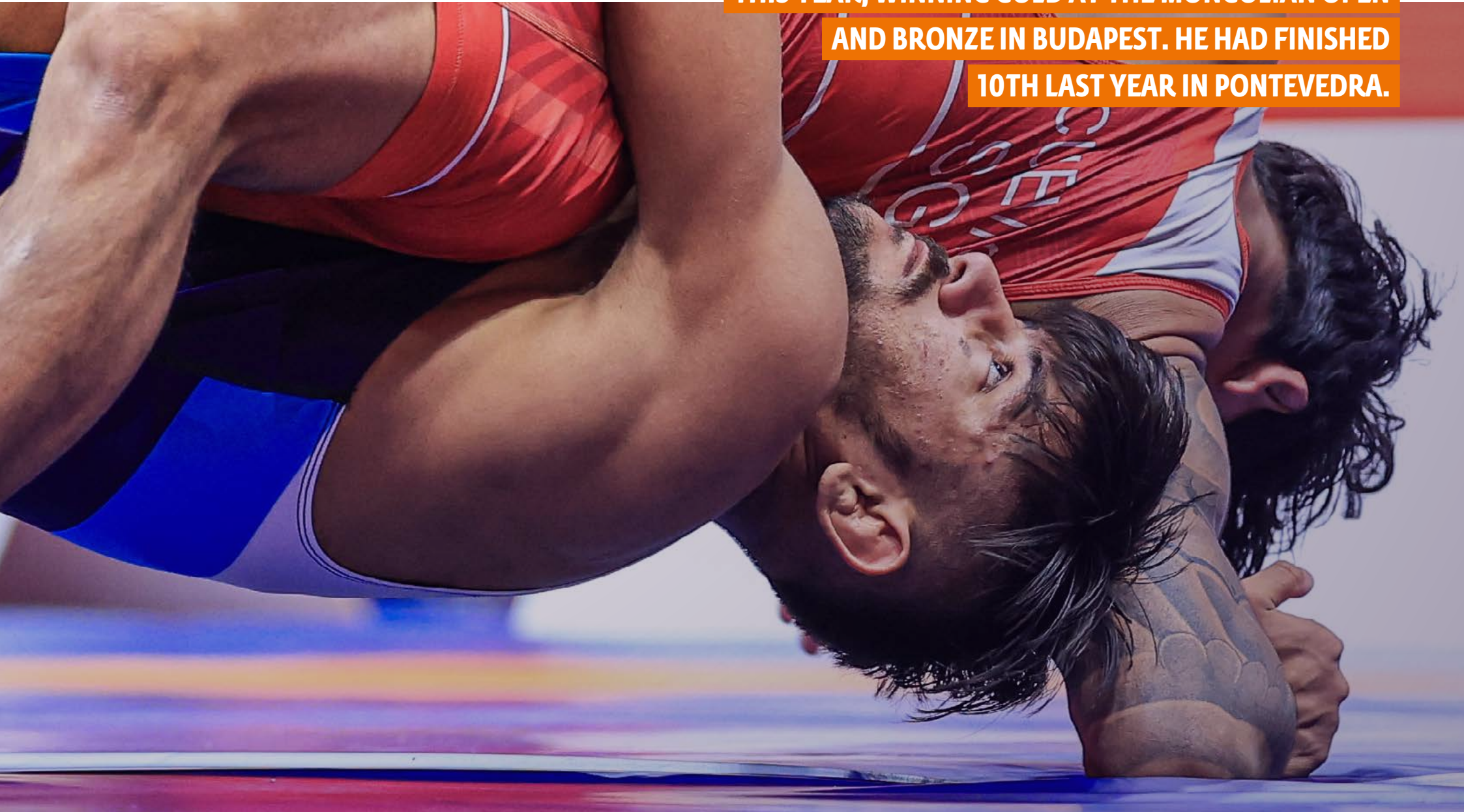
Having lost to **DASHDAMIROV** three times already, he's eager for revenge and a shot at the gold.



Koba Karumidze



**A DARK HORSE TO WATCH IS ANIL MOR (IND), WHO HAS SHOWN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT THIS YEAR, WINNING GOLD AT THE MONGOLIAN OPEN AND BRONZE IN BUDAPEST. HE HAD FINISHED 10TH LAST YEAR IN PONTEVEDRA.**





Ahoura Bouveiri Piani

In a different weight class this year, **Ahoura BOUVEIRI PIANI** (IRI) returns for Iran. After finishing 16th at 72kg last year, he moved up to 77kg.

This will be his third World U20s, and he's aiming for his first medal. It'll be a tough challenge, however, as the weight class includes returning world 72kg champion, **Zaur BESLEKOEV** (UWW), who was also a world U17 champion in 2023.





Another former world U17 champion, **Anri PUTKARADZE** (GEO), won the European U20 gold, and is a strong contender for the world title.

He's known for his formidable par terre defense and a successful gut-wrench.



Anri Putkaradze



Davud Mammadov

Anri Putkaradze

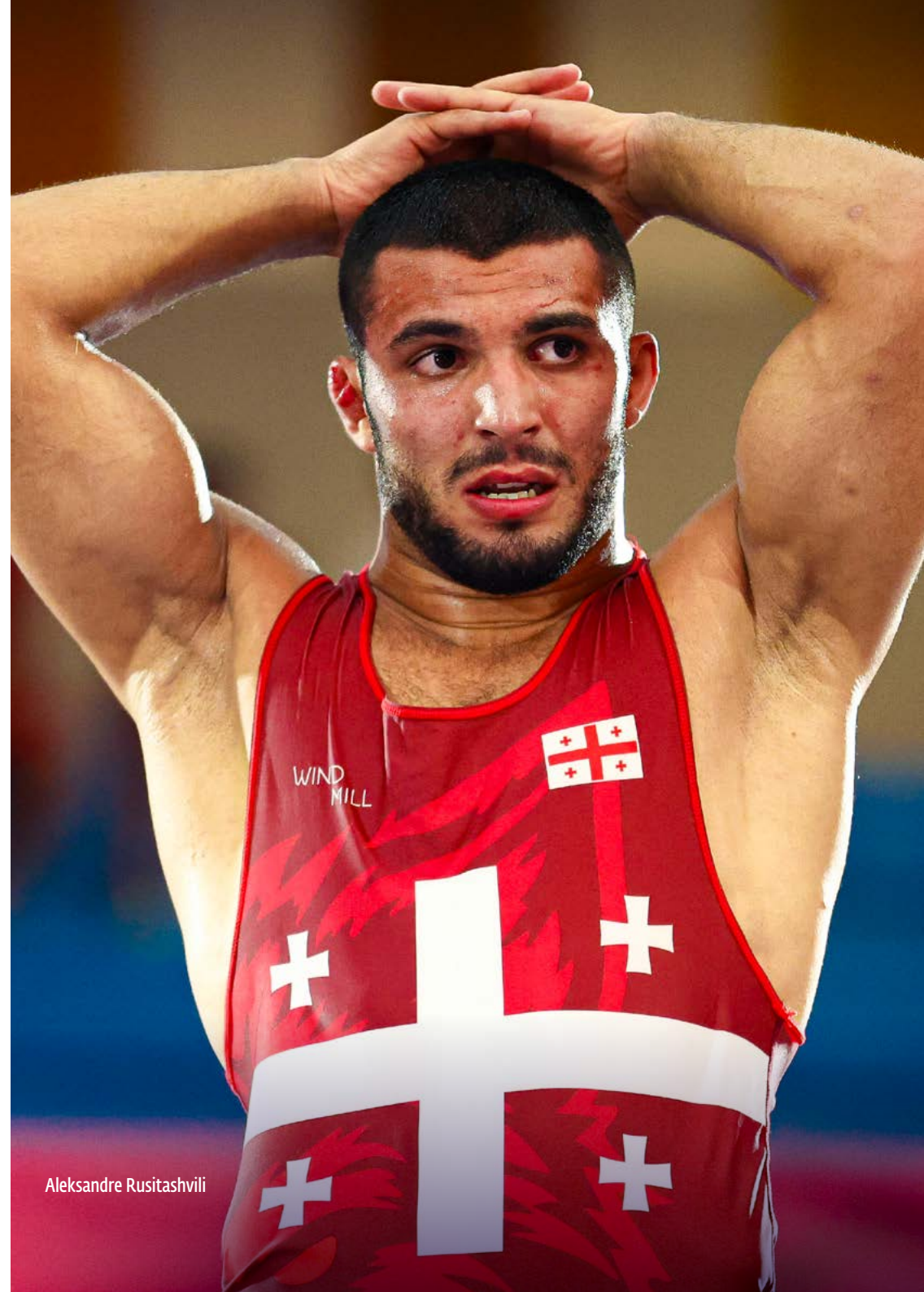
The list of contenders also includes European U20 silver medalist **Davud MAMMADOV** (AZE), who lost to **PUTKARADZE** in the 2024 world U17 final but has senior-level experience.

Asian U23 champion **Akzhan YKYLASSOV** (KAZ) is also a notable entry in this stacked weight class.





Georgia brings more podium threats, including European U20 champions **Aleksandre RUSITASHVILI** (GEO) at 72kg and **Luka KOCHALIDZE** (GEO) at 87kg.



Aleksandre Rusitashvili



Gaspar Terteryan

Aleksandre Rusitashvili

**RUSITASHVILI** will face a familiar field at 72kg, led by his European rival, **Gaspar TERTERYAN** (ARM), a returning ninth from 67kg and 2024 Euro U20s silver medalist.





This weight class is a major focus for Greece, whose best medal hope is former world U17 champion **Arionas KO-LITSOPOULOS** (GRE).

He'll be challenged by **Ahmadreza MOHAMADIAN** (IRI), who is making his U20 debut and seeking revenge after losing to **KOLITSOPOULOS** in the 2023 world U17 final.





Yussuf Ashrapov

Other contenders for gold include returning 67kg silver medalist **Yussuf ASHRAPOV** (KAZ), former world U17 champion **Joel ADAMS** (USA), and Asian U20 champion **Ahmad KODIROV** (UZB).





For **KOCHALIDZE**, repeating his results at 87kg from Euros may be tough, as the weight class features recently crowned world U17 champion, **Amirsam MOHAMMADI** (IRI).





Temirlan Turdakyn

The competition is further intensified by strong gold medal contenders, including Asian U20 champion and returning bronze medalist **Temirlan TURDAKYN** (KAZ) and European U20 silver medalist **Abdurakhman ABDULKADYROV** (UWW).

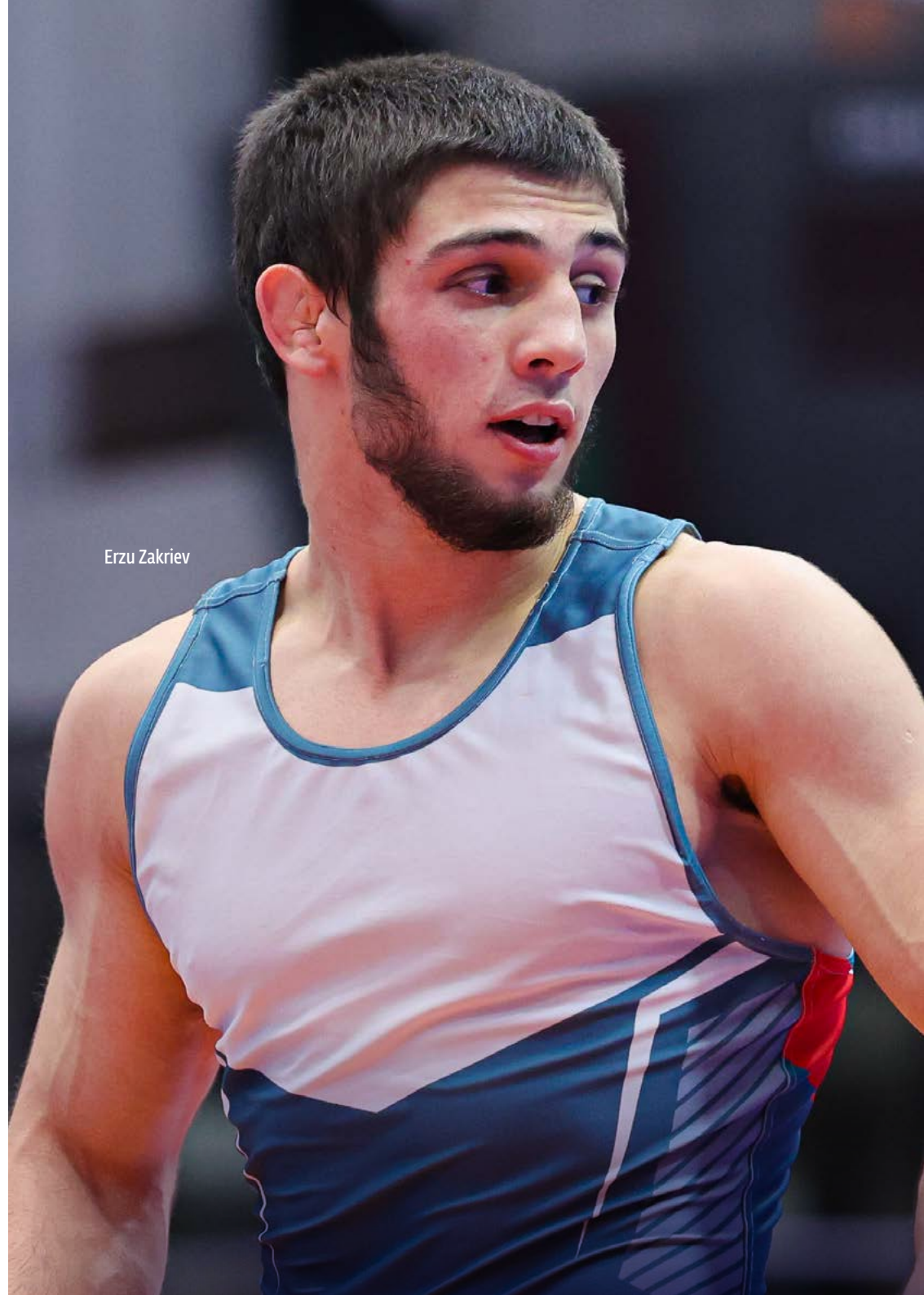




The 67kg weight class is shaping up to be one of the toughest in Samokov.

**Erzu ZAKRIEV** (UWW), the returning world 63kg champion, is the favorite to claim his second title. Last year, **ZAKRIEV** was dominant, his only real test coming from **Anri KHOZ-REVANIDZE** (GEO) in the semifinals.

Erzu Zakriev





**KHOZREVANIDZE, WHO IS ALSO MOVING UP  
TO 67KG, WON BRONZE AT THE EUROPEAN U20S  
AND WAS THE U23 CHAMPION.  
HE WILL BE LOOKING TO AVENGE  
HIS LOSS TO ZAKRIEV AND WIN GOLD.**





Otto Black

Also in the mix is returning silver medalist **Otto BLACK** (USA).

After competing at the senior level in Budapest and Zagreb without medaling, he'll face a new set of challenges with **ZAKRIEV** and **KHOZREVANIDZE** now in his weight class.



**Zhantoro MIRZALIEV** (KGZ), the Asian U20 champion and 2023 world U20 silver medalist, is back with gold on his mind.

**Vladyslav POKOTYLO** (UKR), European U20 silver medalist, and **Fayozbek ESHMIRZAEV** (UZB), Asian U20 silver medalist, are also strong favorites to reach the podium.







Vakhtang Lolua

Aykhan Javadov

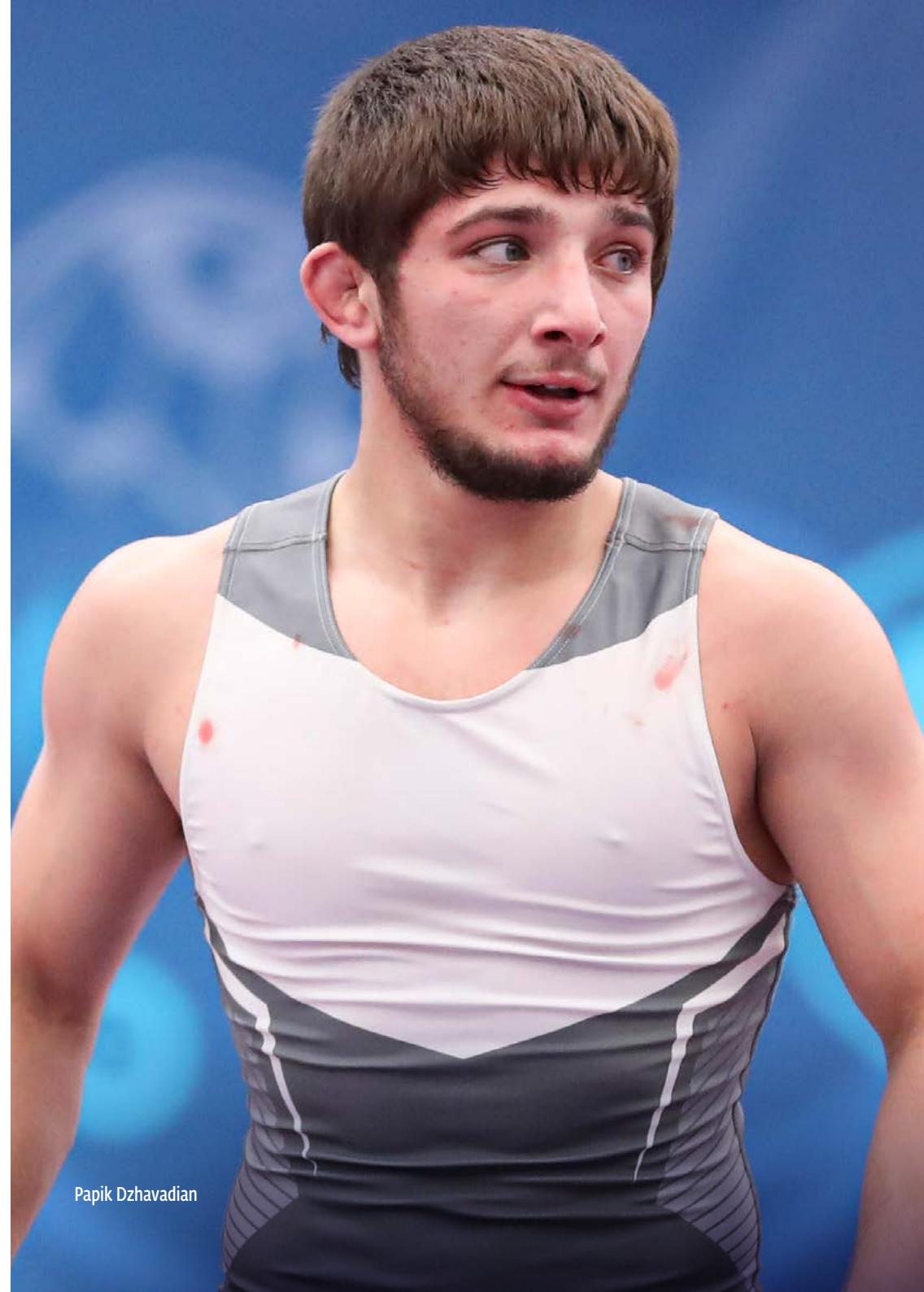
The 60kg weight class is stacked and leading the pack is European U20 champion **Aykhan JAVADOV** (AZE).

He aims to add a world U20 gold to the U17 title he won last year. He will face a familiar rival in senior European bronze medalist **Vakhtang LOLUA** (GEO), whom **JAVADOV** defeated in last year's European U20 final.



Returning bronze medalist **Papik DZHAVADIAN** (UWW), a Euro U23 bronze medalist, is also a serious contender for gold.

Other top names include **Isaiah CORTEZ** (USA), a 55kg silver last year who has moved up in weight, and **Adam SILVERIN** (SWE), a European U20 silver medalist hoping to improve on last year's 12th-place finish to earn Sweden its first world U20 medal since 2021.







Suraj Suraj

Former world U17 champion **SURAJ** (IND) will make his U20 debut and his recent success makes him one of India's strongest medal hopes.



At 97kg, finalists from last year, **Darius KIEFER** (GER) and **Yehor YAKUSHENKO** (UKR), are set to resume their rivalry.

**YAKUSHENKO** is the defending champion, having defeated **KIEFER** 6-4 in the final last year in addition to beating the German wrestler in the European final as well.



Yehor Yakushenko

Darius Kiefer





Yehor Yakushenko

However, **KIEFER** has already avenged his loss at the European level, defeating **YAKUSHENKO** to win gold at this year.

He is now focused on reversing his world U20 loss.

Darius Kiefer



The field also includes strong contenders like **Gor AYVA-ZYAN** (GEO), who won a world U20 silver and European title in 2023 and a world U17 gold in 2022. He finished 12th at the U20 Euros but is a proven threat.

Iran's **Hadi SEYDI AVENDI** (IRI), the Asian U20 champion, also has the talent to go all the way.



Gor Ayvazyan



**THE 63KG WEIGHT CLASS COULD BE UZBEKISTAN'S CHANCE FOR GOLD.**

**FOLLOWING ITS RECENT SUCCESS AT U17 LEVEL, UZBEKISTAN**

**WILL HOPE TO CONTINUE THE TREND AT THE U20 WORLDS.**

**SENIOR ASIAN CHAMPION AYTJAN KHALMAKHANOV (UZB)**

**IS AIMING TO WIN UZBEKISTAN'S FIRST U20**

**GRECO-ROMAN WORLD TITLE SINCE 2011.**



A close-up portrait of Igor Punchenko, a young man with a short beard and closed eyes, looking down. He is wearing a black athletic tank top with a white circular logo on the left chest. The background is a warm, orange-brown gradient.

Igor Punchenko

Standing in his way are several top contenders: European U20 champion **Igor PUNCHENKO** (UWW), silver medalist **Tural AHMADOV** (AZE), and Asian U20 champion **Emirlan DUISHENALIEV** (KGZ).





The 82kg weight class can witness former world U17 champion **Taizo YOSHIDA** (JPN) win gold. He returns as a bronze medalist from last year, is the 2024 senior Asian champion.

The field also has **Anri DAVITADZE** (GEO), whom **YOSHIDA** defeated for the bronze in Pontevedra last year.

Taizo Yoshida





Dias Seitkaliyev

The top challengers are Asian U20 champion **Dias SEITKALI-YEV** (KAZ) and European U20 champion **Mikhail SHKARIN** (UWW), who is also a 2024 world U17 champion.

**YOSHIDA** has a history with **SHKARIN**, having defeated him in a thrilling 8-6 final at the 2023 World U17 Championships.







**RUDIS**

*TaiShan*

UWW.ORG

UWW+



# WATCH ALL THE ACTION



# UWW+

 Download on the  
App Store

 GET IT ON  
Google Play