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CHRISTA DEGUCHI SOLID TO GOLD IN LIMA

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Canada's Christa Deguchi sustained her momentum on the international scene by standing on the top of the podium at the Pan American Championships in Lima, in Peru. She was crowned the champion for a second year in a row. Jessica Klimkait didn't compete in Lima.

In the gold-medal fight, the Canadian won by ippon against Rio Olympics gold medallist, Brazilian Rafaela Silva. "She has already defeated me in the past, but I did better this time. I fought better than I did last year."

Before reaching the final, Deguchi had defeated Kiara Arango Miranda (Peru), Keyla Vasquez (Columbia), and Anailys Dorvigny (Cuba) by ippon.

The gold medallist had a good season and is now ranked second on the individual Olympic world ranking in her category. "I'm very happy to be in the top 3, but I'm not first, and I'm a little disappointed about that," she said.

The next major event for Deguchi will be the World Championships, this summer, in Tokyo. It should be a special tournament for Deguchi, who comes from Japan.

"I already feel the pressure, and I'm a little nervous, because I didn't have good results in Japan in the past," commented the bronze medallist of the 2018 World Championships in Baku, in Azerbaijan.

“I’ll try my best and try to stay calm.”

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