Beat: Sports

PARIS 2024 CHOOSES A DUO OF FRENCH CHAMPIONS TO ACCOMPANY THE FLAME

ON ITS FINAL METRES OF RELAY IN GREECE

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USPA NEWS - With the Olympic Flame handover ceremony taking place tomorrow evening at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, the identities of the last two French Torchbearers on Greek soil have been revealed. Paris 2024 has selected Béatrice Hess, France's greatest Paralympic champion, and Gabriella Papadakis the official Olympic champion ice dancer, was chosen by Coca-Cola, one of the Official Partners of the Paris 2024 Torch Relay. Olympic, Paralympic: the whole Games family will be together to receive the Flame!

These champions will accompany the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch into the Panathenaic Stadium alongside Greek athletes Antigoni Ntrismpioti, the reigning European champion in the 20km and 35km race walking, and Ioannis Fountoulis, captain of the Greek water polo team and silver medallist at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The latter will light up the cauldron and bring the 11-day Relay in Greece to a close.

GABRIELLA PAPADAKIS & BEATRICE HESS CHISEN TO REPRESENT FRANCE AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY

The choice of the two French athletes to close the Olympic Torch Relay in Greece was inspired by their exceptional careers. Papadakis, whose origins symbolise the link between our two countries, forms an exceptional duo with her partner Guillaume Cizeron, with whom she began skating with at the age of nine. Together, they thrilled the crowds at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018, winning the silver medal, before going on to win gold at the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

Hess is one of France's most illustrious Paralympic swimmers, and competed at the highest level from 1984 to 2004. A five-time medallist at the Paralympic Games Athens 2004, she has won a total of 26 Paralympic medals, making her one the most successful athletes in the history of the Games.

The Olympic Flame will be handed over to Paris 2024 tomorrow at the traditional handover ceremony organised by the Hellenic Olympic Committee. The Flame will then board the Belem, the Caisse d'Epargne Foundation’s famous three-masted ship, at the port of Piraeus, bound for Marseille!" Source: Paris 2024

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:
UPA United Press Agency LTD
483 Green Lanes
UK, London N13NV 4BS
contact (at) unitedpressagency.com
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