



International Shooting Sport Federation
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Rio de Janeiro (BRA), 07 August 2016

ISSF Press Release 51/2016

People's Republic of China and Australia in the spotlights at Rio's Olympic Shooting Centre

Zhang Mengxue won China's first Olympic Gold medal in Rio de Janeiro. Catherine Skinner claimed the women's Trap title for Australia.

The second competition day at the Olympic Shooting Range in Deodoro was a stage of success for the People's Republic of China, thanks to Zhang Mengxue (25), who claimed the country's first Olympic Gold at this Olympic edition, winning the women's 10m Air Pistol event.

Zhang performed an impressive comeback, as she failed to hit the 10th ring with her first four shots. Scoring then four consecutive 10.2-or-plus shots, she climbed up to the top of the scoreboard, holding a narrow lead until a perfect 10.9 on her 17th shot sealed the victory with final score of 199.4 points, a new Final Olympic Record.

"I am so excited! I am still in that mood, and winning the Olympic Gold was my goal since I was young. Now I have it," she said. "It happened to be my mother's birthday yesterday, so this will be the best gift ever for her!"

Vitalina Batsarashkina of the Russian Federation secured the Silver medal with a solid performance. The 19-year-old finished on the second step of the podium with 197.1 points, overtaking Greece's Anna Korakaki with a 10.1-10.5 combo in the 8th series of the match.

Korakaki, 20, went through some ups and downs during the match, narrowly surviving the elimination. Zeroing in right in time, the Greek athlete concluded with the third best score of the match, 177.7 points, securing the first medal in Shooting since 1896.

"I was afraid of finishing in fourth as it happened at the Youth Olympic Games two years ago," said Korakaki after the medal ceremony. "Having the experience of the Youth Olympics helped me a lot. The village, the media, the spectators... I had already experienced all that in Nanjing."

At the following women's Trap Final, Australia's 26-year-old Catherine Skinner who beat New Zealand's Natalie Ellen Rooney (28) to become the Olympic Champion in her very first Olympic participation.

Skinner entered the Gold medal match with the best semifinal score - 14 hits - while Skinner had to beat USA's Corey Cogdell in another shoot-off after they both crushed 13 targets.

In the Gold medal match, Skinner missed her very first target, and found herself 2-hits behind after the fifth clay. Rooney, however, missed two of her own in the midst of the match, allowing her Australian opponent

to level the score at 7 hits when 6 targets were left to shoot, eventually claiming the Gold with a final score of 12 hits to 11.

"I cannot really describe my emotions because it has not quite sunk in. It has been one of these dreams that has come along, and you just hope for the best and keep chipping away, but at the end of the day in this sport, it all comes down to on the day," Said an emotional Skinner after the medal ceremony.

USA's Corey Cogdell (29) beat Spain's reigning World Champion Fatima Galvez (29) in a shoot-off by 1 to 0 hits to win her second Olympic Bronze eighth years after Beijing. Cogdell scored 13 hits in the semi-final and lost a shoot-off against Rooney to land in the bronze medal match, where she hit 13 more clays to tie Galvez.

"My husband and I compete in almost everything we do together. We definitely push each other to achieve the next level," said the American shooter speaking about her husband Mitch Unrein, a professional football player. *"I was truly touched to see his team, the Chicago Bears, coming together and supporting me personally and on social media."*

Two more Shooting sport events are scheduled for tomorrow: the 10m Air Rifle Men, with the final taking place at 12:00 PM (UTC-3), and the Trap Men, with the semifinal scheduled for 3:00 PM.

Notes for the editors:

The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic Shooting events, and it has over 160 affiliated National Federations worldwide. Shooting is an Olympic sport since the very first edition of the modern Olympic Games, Athens 1896. Find out more about the International Shooting Sport Federation at www.issf-sports.org.

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