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**China claims five medal in Suhl, Croatia and Ukraine also climbs
atop the Junior World Championship podium**

Suhl (GER), 26 June 2017 - An action-packed day in Suhl (GER) opened with the People's Republic of China securing their second individual Gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol.

Competing in his first ever international competition, indeed, 18-year-old Wang Zhehao literally dominated the men's 50m Pistol match from the very start, firing an almost-perfect 10.8 with his first shot and building an impressive lead throughout the first half of the final.

The gap between Wang and his closest opponent touched the 5.6-point mark at the end of the fifth series, and despite missing the 10th ring with his last five shots, the Chinese shooter easily remained on top, pocketing the Gold medal and setting a new Junior World Record with 232.6 points.

Despite placing 8th at the end of the first series, the current Junior European Champion in this event, Russian Federation's Anton Aristarkhov (18), climbed up the table position after position, until he reached and successfully maintained the 2nd place, where he claimed the Silver medal with 229.7 points, 2.9 behind Wang.

On the third step of the podium finished Aristarkhov's teammate Alexander Petrov (18), who secured the Bronze with 206.2 points, while Croatia's Ante Kristo (20) placed just outside of the medal positions, taking 4th place with 185.6 points.

A disappointing 6.8 fired in his sixth series forced 19-year-old Morteza Ali Mohammadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran to leave the match in 5th place with 164.6 points, followed by Republic of Korea's 17-year-old Sung Yunho, who took 6th place with 147.3 points.

In his first international start in this event, Ukraine's Pavlo Krepostniak (19) left the match after shot number 12, placing 8th with 107.5 points. Two shots later, it was Germany's Aleksandar Todorov who had to leave the final, taking 7th position with 129.3 points.

2014 Youth Olympic Games Champion Pavlo Korostylov of Ukraine won the following 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Junior event. The 19-year old shooter from Lviv (UKR) secured the brightest medal at the last series, as he scored 3 hits against the 2 scored by Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Jang Ji Won.

The Ukrainian athlete scored a total of 26 hits to Won's 25, after the two athletes shot neck and neck throughout the last three series of the final.

The Bronze medal went to People's Republic of China's Cheng Zhipeng (18), who made his debut in an international competition here in Suhl scoring 22 hits. His teammate Zhang Jueming, also competing in his first international event, took the 4th place with 18 hits.

Korostylov's teammate Maksym Horodynets (18) was the first to leave the competition at the first elimination, placing in 6th with 9 hits, while Czech Republic's 17-year-old Matej Rampula hit 15 targets to finish in 5th.

An unbelievable finale delivered Croatia their first title at the ISSF Junior World Championship in Suhl (GER), where 20-year-old Miran Maricic overtook People's Republic of China's Liu Yukun (20) at the last shot, turning a 0.8-point disadvantage into a 0.1 winning gap.

It's the first career Gold medal for the young Croatian, who fired 18 of his 24 shots into the 10th ring, finishing with 246.6 points and the Gold medal around his neck.

Liu, who closed the match with 246.5 points, secured his third international medal this season alone: during the 2017 ISSF World Cup Series, in fact, he won a Rifle Prone Silver in New Delhi (IND) and a 3 Positions Bronze in Munich (GER).

The third step of the podium was taken by Maricic's teammate Borna Petanjek with the score of 225.8 points. Japan's 18-year-old Atsushi Shimada, currently ranked 14th in the world and World Cup Bronze medalist this year in New Delhi (IND), finished in 4th position with 205.4 points, missing the podium by just 0.4 points.

India's Arjun Babuta (18) took 5th place with 184.2 points, while Hungary's Istvan Peni slid down from 1st to 6th place after a bad 9.3-9.8 combination in the fourth series, leaving the final two shots later and placing 6th with 163.1 points.

Russian Federation's 19-year-old Ilia Marsov failed to best the 6th place he obtained at the 2017 European Championship, concluding in 7th position with 141.9 points. He was followed by first-time participant Yoon Hyun of the Republic of Korea, who left the match after shot number 12, taking 8th place with 120.6 points.

In the final event of the day, Zhu Yingjie won the third individual Gold medal for the People's Republic of China ruling the women's 10m Air Rifle Junior final at the end of Day 3. The 17-year-old athlete score 250.3 points, climbing atop of the podium with 1.3 points of advantage on Silver medalist Anna Janshen of Germany.

The 2016 Asian Championship Junior Gold medalist, Zhu climbed in the lead after the 20th shot, while her German rival had been leading until then. 15-year-old Janshen, supported by the home crowd, finished in second place with 249.0 points, collecting her best result in an international match after winning Bronze at this year's European Championship in Maribor (SLO).

Zhu's 15-year-old teammate Chen Yimei joined them on the podium, sealing her international debut with 227.7 points worth the Bronze medal.

Rio 2016 Olympic Champion, USA's Virginia Thrasher (20), closed the match in 5th place with 185.8 points, finishing behind Argentina's 17-year-old Fernanda Russo, 4th with 206.5 points, while Serbia's 19-year-old Milica Babic, a member of the West Virginia University team along with Thrasher, took 6th place with 164.7 points.

Anastasiia Galashina (20) of the Russian Federation, and first-time participant Gao Mingwei (16) of the People's Republic of China followed in 7th and 8th place, scoring 143.5 and 123.0 points respectively.

The ISSF Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol will continue tomorrow with two more finals: the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Men Junior, scheduled at 12:30 pm (UTC+2:00), and the 25m Pistol Women Junior, taking place at 5:10 pm.

The 3 Positions final will be streamed live on the [ISSF website](#), on the Federation's [Livestream channel](#) and on its official [Facebook page](#). Live results of the competitions, news and updates will be available on www.issf-sports.org and on all ISSF social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Weibo](#) and [Youku](#).

For the complete 50m Pistol Men Junior results [click here](#).

For the complete 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Junior results [click here](#).

For the complete 10m Air Rifle Men Junior results [click here](#).

For the complete 10m Air Rifle Women Junior results [click here](#).

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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