

International Shooting Sport Federation Internationaler Schiess-Sportverband e.V. Fédération Internationale de Tir Sportif Federación Internacional de Tiro Deportivo

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ISSF Press Release N. 48/2017 The first individual World Cup Final titles are awarded to France's Goberville, Hungary's Peni and United States' Rhode

New Delhi (IND), 25 October 2017 - After delivering three mixed team titles on day 1, the ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi (IND) continued with its packed schedule, delivering three more seasonal trophies in the 10m Air Pistol Women, 10m Air Rifle Men and Skeet Women events.

10m Air Pistol Women

In today's opening match 31-year-old Pistol shooter Celine Goberville of France climbed on the ISSF World Cup Final podium for the second time in 24 hours, as she added the women's 10m Air Pistol Gold medal to the Silver she won yesterday in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team, alongside her teammate Florian Fouquet.

Goberville shot greatly during the whole final, distancing herself from the pack since the very first series. Her only bad shot came late in the match, as she hit a scary 8.5 on her second-to-last one, allowing People's Republic of China's Lin Yuemei to reduce the gap to 2.2-point, but sealing her victory with an excellent 10.1 on the following and conclusive shot.

Goberville finished with 240.9 points, while Lin closed her final with 237.0. While it took 218.7 points to award the Bronze medal to the current Olympic Champion in this event, People's Republic of China's 26-year-old Zhang Mengxue, who secured her second consecutive Bronze after the one she claimed at the 2016 ISSF World Cup Final in Bologna (ITA).

Outside of the podium positions, Zhang preceded Mexico's 33-year-old Alejandra Zavala Vazquez, winner of the ISSF crystal globe in Bologna (ITA) in 2016, who finished in 4th posiiton with 198.7 points, and Rio 2016 Bronze medalist Anna Korakaki (21) of Greece, who placed 5th with 177.5 points.

Korakaki was followed by Chinese Taipei's 21-year-old Yu Ai Wen in 6th place, who scored 158.1 in her first World Cup Final participation, and by the third Chinese finalist, Cao Xiaoxue (25), who placed 7th with 136.2.

The first athlete eliminated from the match was Switzerland's experienced 48-year-old Heidi Diethelm Gerber, who finished 8th in her fifth World Cup Final start and scored 115.0 points.

10m Air Rifle Men

Hungary's 20-year-old Rifle shooter Istvan Peni secured the ISSF World Cup Final trophy at the Dr. Karni Shooting Range, where he won a thrilling duel in the men's 10m Air Rifle event against Belarus' 42-year-old Vitali Bubnovich.

After entering the final with the highest qualification score, Peni shot remarkably all along the match, missing the 10th ring only twice in the whole performance, and nailing a 10.5-or-higher score with 13 of his 24 shots.

Paired with Bubnovich at the 229.3 mark with two shots left to fire, Peni hit a 10.5-10.0 combination, besting his rival's score on both rounds and signing his first ISSF World Cup Final trophy with the Equaled Junior World Record: 249.8 points.

Despite missing the first step of the podium, 42-year-old Bubnovich celebrated his first medal in an ISSF World Cup Final, finishing with 249.5 points and the Silver medal around his neck.

The third step of the podium was taken by Peni's teammate Peter Sidi (39), holder of the 2016 ISSF World Cup Final title, who secured the Bronze medal with 228.5 points. It's his seventh World Cup Final medal in this event, the eighth overall.

Sidi preceded Serbia's 32-year-old Milutin Stefanovic, Gold medalist at this year's World Cup stage in Gabala (AZE) and current holder of the World Record in this event. Stefanovic placed 4th with 207.6 points, failing to add a second medal to the Silver he won yesterday in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event.

After taking Gold in this event in his ISSF World Cup debut, People's Republic of China's 20-yearold Song Buhan came back to the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range for his first start in a World Cup Final, concluding in 5th position with 186.8 points.

He was followed by Japan's rising talent Atsushi Shimada (19), Bronze medalist at this year's World Cup stage in New Delhi, who sealed his World Cup Final debut with a 6th place and 164.1 points scored; and by 35-year-old Omer Akgun of Turkey, also a first-time World Cup Final participant, who finished in 7th position and scored 144.7.

Home favorite Ravi Kumar (27) of India, another first-time participant, left the match after shot number 12, placing 8th with 123.4 points.

Skeet Women

At the end of an incredible match, once again, it was legendary Skeet shooter Kimberly Rhode who walked to the highest step of the podium. This time she did it at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi (IND), where the 38-year-old American won her third ISSF World Cup Final title. The second consecutive after the one she secured in Rome (ITA) last year.

Leading a trio of United States' finalists that also included 22-year-old Diana Vizzi and 26-year-old Caitlin Connor, Rhode grabbed and maintained the top position all along the final match, despite an unusual double-miss on station 4, but failed to distance herself from Italy's reigning Olympic Champion Diana Bacosi.

The 34-year-old Italian shooter missed four of her first 20 targets, then entering an unbelievable streak of 46 consecutive hits that allowed her to match Rhode's final score of 56 hits out of 60: the Equalled World Record.

In the following shoot-off, despite a couple of breaks due to technical reasons, they both kept shooting outstandingly, and it took 22 additional targets to see Bacosi miss and surrender to Rhode.

The Bronze medal was awarded to first-time World Cup Final participant Diana Jo Vizzi, as she crushed 44 out of 50 targets and secured her second medal of the 2017 ISSF season after the Gold won at the ISSF World Championship in Moscow (RUS).

Vizzi was followed by her other teammate, Caitlin Connor, who missed two targets at a crucial stage and took 4th place with 32 hits out of 40 clays, and by Italy's second finalist Simona Scocchetti (32) who took 5th place with 25 target hits out of 30: the best result of her career in this competition.

People's Republic of China's 28-year-old Wei Meng, currently ranked 7th in the world, finished in 6th positions with 15 hits out of 20 clays.

The ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi (IND) will continue tomorrow with three more finals: the 10m Air Pistol Men, scheduled at 11:30 am (UTC+5:30); the 10m Air Rifle Women, scheduled at 1:00 pm; and the Skeet Men, taking place at 4:00 pm.

All three finals will be streamed live on the <u>ISSF website</u>, on the Federation's <u>Livestream channel</u>, on its official <u>Facebook page</u> and on the <u>Olympic Channel</u>.

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.

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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