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Rhode (USA) and Willett (AUS) secures ISSF Shotgun World Cup titles on WCF Rome day-1

The ISSF Shotgun World Cup Final in Rome kicked-off today with two medal events, the men's Double Trap and the women's Skeet finals. Australia's Olympic finalist Willett secured the Double Trap title by beating USA's 2014 World Cup Final winner Holguin. Six-time Olympic medalist Kimberly Rhode of USA sealed the women's Skeet victory with a perfect score in the gold medal match.

USA's Kimberly Rhode (37) won the women's Skeet final at the 2016 ISSF Shotgun World Cup Final in Rome, today, beating Wei Meng of the People's Republic of China in the gold medal match by 16 to 15 hits.

Rhode had cleared the semi-final with 14 hits out of 16 shots, passing through a three-way shoot-off with +7 to access the gold medal match.

The US champion had already met Wei a couple of months ago, in Rio de Janeiro: while competing in the Olympic final, they met in the bronze medal match finishing third and fourth, respectively.

Today's bronze medal went to the world's #4 Sutiya Jiewchaloemmit (THA), who scored 15 targets (semi-final: 14+6+3) to beat Italy's Olympic Champion Diana Bacosi, 4th with 14 hits in the bronze medal match (semi-final: 13+6).

"It was an incredible experience," said Rhode, who had already won an ISSF World Cup Final in 2011. "We had some fantastic competitors out there, a lot of experience on the line. I am just very happy to be able to compete against them, and do as well as I did. I am very thankful for the day."

Rhode confirmed once again to be one the best Skeet shooters of the world, just two months after winning an Olympic bronze in Rio, where she collected her sixth Olympic medal in six consecutive Games.

"Going for that record, six for six, and having attained it in Rio, was an amazing, very humbling experience. And hopefully there's more to come," she commented today.

"There's a lot of sacrifice. Motivation comes from the people, and the competition. I really love being in that moment, out there, on the field, down to the last target. Sometimes you win, sometimes you don't, but it's really about the journey."

Earlier today, Australia's James Willett won the men's Double Trap title. The 20-year old shooter and beat USA's Jeffrey Holguin in the gold medal match, claiming the title by 1 target with a score of 28 hits to Holguin's 27.

The two athletes had cleared the semi-final with 28 hits, and passed through a three-way shoot-off with +2 hits, leaving Germany's Andreas Loew in the bronze medal match with 28+1 hits.

There, Loew faced Malta's William Chetcuti, who beat him 29 to 24 hits to collect today's Bronze.

Rio 2016 Olympic Champion – the Independent Shooting Participant Fehaid Aldeehani - closed the match in 6th place with 27+1 hits in the semi-final, behind the Olympic bronze medalist Steven Scott of Great Britain, 5th with a score of 27+1 clays.

“Obviously the ISSF World Cup Final was great. I came over here a few days ago and enjoyed the range and the shooting, and I managed to put a good score together and win today,” Willett said.

“I had a big year, in 2016. I got to represent Australia at the Olympic Games. I managed to come 5th in Rio. I was a little bit disappointed on not winning a medal. I came here trying to finish the year on a high, and I can't complain,” he added. “The next aim is to make the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, and hopefully to win a gold medal there.”

55 athletes from 25 countries are competing in the 2016 ISSF Shotgun World Cup Final in Rome, Italy, from the 11th through the 15th of October. Tomorrow (October 13th) the next medals will be assigned at the men's Skeet Final, starting at 2.00 PM (UTC+2). All finals will be broadcasted live on www.issf-sports.org and on the [Olympic Channel](#).

More information and quotes, [click here](#).

Editorial photos are available at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/issf_shooting

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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