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Rome (ITA), 15 October 2016

ISSF Press Release 65/2016

Croatia's Cernogoraz defended his world cup title on ISSF World Cup Final closing day

The 2012 Olympic Champion won his second consecutive Trap Men world cup title, on the closing day of the 2016 ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Rome, which saw the best 55 shotgun shooters of the world competing for the ISSF Globes.

Two of the best shotgun shooters of the world met at today's Trap Men gold medal match, the closing event of the 2016 ISSF Shotgun World Cup Final in Rome, Italy.

The 2012 Olympic champion Giovanni Cernogoraz of Croatia (33), defended the world cup title he had won in Nicosia last year, beating the current world champion Erik Varga of Slovakia (40), after they both qualified for the medal match with an equal score of 14 hits in the semi-final.

Cernogoraz took an early lead as Varga missed his second clay in the gold medal match, and left no chances to his opponents by completing the round with a perfect tally of 15 hits out of 15 targets, to Varga's 14.

"I won the world cup series last season, and it's great to keep the ISSF Globe also this year. This is a nice way to close the season, after a disappointing result in Rio de Janeiro. I finished in 9th there," Cernogoraz said. "Today's victory gives me new motivations," he continued, "I will take a break and start again in January to prepare for the 2017 season. I am already looking forward: the next aim is to win a quota place for Tokyo 2020."

Four shooters tied at 13 hits at the end of the semi-final. Poland's 28-year old Piotr Kowalczyk and Spain's Antonio Bailon (32) passed through the following shoot-off with 13+2 hits, making it into the bronze medal match and leaving the Rio 2016 Olympic Champion Josip Glasnovic of Croatia in 5th place with 13+1 and the winner of this year's world cup stage in San Marino Jiri Liptak of Czech Republic in 6th with 13+0 hits.

In the following bronze medal match, Bailon prevailed over Kowalczyk by 11 to 10 clays, joining Cernogoraz and Varga on the podium.

"We have been extremely happy and proud to host this ISSF World Cup Final, and to invite here in Italy the best shotgun shooters of the world," the ISSF Vice-President, and President of the Italian shotgun shooting federation FITAV, Mr. Luciano Rossi, said at the closing ceremony.

"I would like to thank the Organizing Committee for their excellent work, and the volunteers who helped us making this possible. And we should not forget to thank our sponsors, Beretta and Perazzi, who have been supporting us in the organization of this event," continued Mr. Rossi, also thanking the ISSF Vice Presidents Gary Anderson and Vladimir Lisin.

The ISSF Technical Delegate for this competition, Mr. Bhattacharka Bunnag, officially closed the competition. "We have come to the end of a very successful ISSF World Cup Final. This is the best organized Final I have ever seen: athletes love to compete here, at the highest standards, and I wish we will be back soon! Arrivederci Roma!"

The 2017 ISSF Shotgun World Cup Series will kick-off in New Delhi, India where the first world cup stage of the year will be held from the 22nd of February through the 4th of March.

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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