

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

ISSF • Bavariaring 21 • D-80336 München • Germany Phone: +49-89-5443550 • e-mail: munich@issf-sports.org Fax: +49-89-54435544 • internet: http://www.issf-sports.org

New Delhi (IND), 27 February 2017

ISSF Press Release 07/2017 China's Zhang Yiwen and Australia's James Willett increase their countries' Gold count on Day-4 in New Delhi

In the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Women final, 21-year-old Zhang Yiwen extended the Chinese domination in the Rifle/Pistol disciplines, while in the Double Trap Men final James Willett, also 21, secured Australia's second Gold in this competition.

Nobody can stop the People's Republic of China: the strongest Rifle/Pistol team of the first World Cup of the year collected another Gold medal thanks to Zhang Yiwen, who sealed the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Women victory this morning.

On day 4, half-way thorough the competition, Chinese shooters won all the Rifle/Pistol finals conducted in New Delhi (IND), leaving just two Shotgun matches to Italy and Australia.

Zhang Yiwen (21) made it while making her first appearance in an ISSF World Cup: the young shooter finished the kneeling series in 4th with 151.7 points, climbing then up in third place with a strong prone position fraction she closed with 306.3 points. Zhang reached the lead during the standing position series, nailing the brightest medal with 455.7 points in spite of a spine-chilling 9.3-point last shot.

Singapore's Jasmine Ser Xiang Wei (26) had a chance to overtake the Chinese winner, but a disappointing 8.3 landed her in 2nd place with 453.8 points.

Two-time World Cup medalist Eva Roesken of Germany (32) finished the kneeling section of the match in the lead with 153.0 points, sliding then in second place at the end of the prone series with 307.7 points, to eventually finish the final in 3rd place with 443.6 points,

She was followed by her teammate Jolyn Beer, the 22-year old shooter who won last year's ISSF World Cup in Bangkok (THA) at her first appearance, who closed today's match in 4th place. After completing the kneeling series in 8th place with 149.1 points, she moved up in the scoreboard through the standing position collecting a total of 433.0 points.

Rio 2016 Olympic finalist, Nina Christen of Switzerland (23), currently ranked 7th in the world in this event, took the 5th place with 422.8 points, while Japan's first-time finalist Shumizu Ayano, secured the 6th place with 411.4 points.

Shooting on her home turf, India's Tejaswini Sawant (36) claimed the 7th place with 402.4 points. She was eliminated along with Rio 2016 Olympic finalist Najmeh Khedmati of the Islamic Republic of Iran (20) who finished in 8th with 402.2 points.

In the afternoon, the third Shotgun event of the ISSF World Cup Stage 1 in New Delhi (IND) crowned another young Australian, as Double Trap Men shooter James Willett (21) doubled the Gold medal pocketed by women's Trap athlete Penny Smith on February 24th.

At the Dr. Karni Shooting Range, Willett took an early lead in the final match by crushing all of his first 36 targets, but gradually lost ground to India's Ankur Mittal (24) and found himself tied with his rival after 30 doubles, when the two of them were the only remaining shooters in the match.

There the Indian missed three hits in a very short span of time, while Willett shot with great precision and found himself sitting on a consistent gap with only five doubles remaining. The Australian athlete managed his advantage wisely, maintaining the lead and collecting the Gold medal with 75 hits, against Mittal's with 74.

"I'll keep competing in Double Trap this year, I'll try to be at the top for the World Championship and for the Commonwealth Games," said the Gold medalist.

"I'll soon switch to Trap," he concluded, talking about his plans for the mid-future.

On the third step of the podium, competing in a final match for the first time in his senior career, climbed James Dedman. The 18-year-old, who participated here in his third ISSF World Cup, finished with a score of 56 hits, missing a crucial target in his third-to-last double and marking a new Junior World Record in this event.

Dedman was followed by his more experienced teammate Steven Scott (32), who placed in 4th position with 46 targets. The British shooter previously avoided the elimination by completing an almost perfect fourth series, where he crushed 9 out of 10 targets, overtaking Italy's 26-year-old Alessandro Chianese who then closed in 5th position with 36 hits. India's second final participant Sangram Dahiya (27) concluded in 6th position with 24 hits.

The ISSF World Cup Stage 1 in New Delhi will continue tomorrow with two more finals: the 10m Air Pistol Men at 11:30 am (UTC+5:30) and the 50m Rifle Prone Men at 1:30 pm. Both of them will be streamed live on www.issf-sports.org and on the ISSF official Facebook page.

News and updates about the competition are available on the <u>ISSF website</u> and on its social media profiles: <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, <u>Weibo</u> and <u>Youku</u>.

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.

ISSF Media Contact:

Marco DALLA DEA, ISSF Communication Manager, marco@issf-sports.org