



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>

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India, Greece and USA pocket World Cup golds on Guadalajara's
second-to-last competition day

Guadalajara (MEX), 10 March 2018 - Three more finals went down today at the Club Cinegetico Jalisciense in Guadalajara, where the first World Cup stage of the season kicked off on March 1st.

50m Rifle 3 Positions Men

The fifth and last Rifle event of the competition gave India its fourth gold medal of the competition.

In his first-ever World Cup participation, indeed, 22-year-old Akhil Sheoran climbed on top of the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions podium, adding his name to the ones of Shahzar Rizvi, Manu Bhaker and Om Prakash Mitharval: the other Indian gold medalists in Guadalajara.

Sheoran, who was in 4th place after the kneeling position and 2nd at the end of the prone one, fired two 10.8s during the elimination phase, definitely taking the lead and distancing himself from Austria's Bernhard Pickl.

The Austrian 27-year-old took silver with 452.0 points, besting the 8th place he nailed in Fort Benning (USA) in 2014, his only previous World Cup start.

The bronze medal was awarded to Istvan Peni (21), bronze medalist in this event at last year's World Cup Final and gold medalist in the men's 10m Air rifle event six days ago. The 21-year-old Hungarian finished with 442.3 points, securing his second World Cup in this event.

After standing on top position at the end of both the kneeling and prone series, Sheoran's teammate Sanjeev Rajput (37) finished in 4th place with 430.9 points, followed by Hungary's 39-year-old Peter Sidi, who placed 5th with 419.4 points in his sixty-fourth World Cup participation in this event.

The third Indian shooter of the final — 22-year-old first-time participant Swapnil Kusale — finished in 7th position with 407.2 points, while France's 2016 Olympic bronze medalist Alexis Raynaud followed in 7th with 397.7.

Along with the French 23-year-old, also eliminated at the 40th-shot mark was Fu Zuyun of the People's Republic of China, who took 8th place in his first World Cup start ever and scored 396.6 points.

25m Pistol Women

The final event of the Pistol discipline in Guadalajara crowned Greece's Olympic Champion Anna Korakaki, who climbed atop the ISSF World Cup podium for the first time in her career in this event.

Despite struggling in her final series, where she only scored 1 hit, Korakaki successfully defended the top position and pocketed the brightest medal with 29 hits, while Germany's Doreen Vonnekamp — who also closed his match with a disappointing 1-hit series — took silver with 27.

The 3rd step of the podium was taken by France's Mathilde Lamolle, who won bronze by finishing with 24 hits. The 20-year-old shooter — Junior World Champion in Granada (ESP) in 2014 — secured the first World Cup medal of her young career.

Placing just outside of the podium positions, People's Republic of China's Chen Yan failed to add a medal to the highest qualification score she signed earlier. The 20-year-old, Junior World Champion in Suhl (GER) in 2017, concluded in 4th place with 23 hits.

She was followed by India's Manu Bhaker (16) — 5th on the table with 19 hits — and Germany's Michelle Skeries (21) — currently ranked 10th in the world in this event — who finished in 6th position with 17 hits. Skeries left the final after nailing a 1-hit series in a three way shoot-off against Lamolle and Bhaker.

The 2016 Olympic bronze medalist, Switzerland's Heidi Diethelm Gerber (48) took 7th place with 13 hits, while 16-year-old Qin Sihang — the second Chinese shooter in the final — was the first athlete eliminated from the match, finishing in 8th place with 8 hits.

Skeet Women

Legendary shooter Kimberly Rhode did it again: in the second-to-last event at the ISSF World Cup Stage 1 in Guadalajara, the 38-year-old United States' athlete won the 11th Skeet Women gold of her outstanding career.

After missing two targets in her very first station, Rhode sealed her match with an impressive streak of 30 consecutive hits, eventually equalling her own world record of 56 hits.

Rhode preceded United States' second finalist Caitlin Connor (28), who took silver with 52 hits. It's the second medal-combo for the United States in Guadalajara, after the one pocketed by Ashley Carroll and Aerial Alease Skinner in the Trap Women final.

The bronze medal was awarded to Great Britain's Amber Hill, who pocketed another World Cup medal after the gold she won at the ISSF World Cup in Acapulco (MEX) in 2013. Hill finished with 42 target hits out of 50.

The British 20-year-old was followed by Slovakia's Danka Bartekova and People's Republic of China's Wei Meng, who respectively placed 4th and 5th. Bartekova (33) crushed 32 of her 40 targets, missing two costly targets in her last round on station 5; while 28-year-old Wei placed 5th with 24 hits out of 30 targets.

Eliminated after 20 targets, Argentina's shooter Melisa Gil (33) took 6th position with 13 hits, matching the best result of her career thirteen years later — another 6th place signed in Americana (BRA) in 2005.

The ISSF World Cup Stage 1 in Guadalajara will conclude tomorrow with the Skeet Men final, scheduled at 5:00 pm (UTC-6:00).

The 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 50m Rifle 3 Positions Men complete results [click here](#).

For the 25m Pistol Women complete results [click here](#).

For the Skeet Women complete results [click here](#).

For editorial photos [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.

ISSF Media Contact:

ISSF Communication Manager: marco@issf-sports.org.