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United States' Hancock claims the last gold in Changwon,
the People's Republic of China finishes atop the medal standings

Changwon (KOR), 29 April 2018 - The ISSF world Cup Stage 2 closed today at the Changwon International Shooting Range, the same venue that later this year — from August 31st to September 15th — will host the final competition of the 2018 season: the 52nd ISSF World Championship in all events.

Skeet Men

The final event of the World Cup awarded United States' shooter Vincent Hancock with the Skeet Men gold medal: his second in 2018 after the one he claimed in Guadalajara (MEX) last March.

At the new Changwon International Shooting Range, Hancock started off by hitting all of his first 35 targets, then missing his one and only on station number 4. As the gap on Italy's Gabriele Rossetti (23) grew slowly, but steadily, the American 29-year-old didn't look back, shooting perfectly for the rest of the final and finishing with 59 hits out of 60 clays, while Rossetti — the current Olympic and World Champion — took silver with 55, pocketing the third World Cup medal of his stellar career.

Furthermore, just like he did in Guadalajara, Hancock equaled the current World Record in the Skeet Men event, set by Italy's Riccardo Filippelli and Great Britain's Ben Llewellyn at the 2017 ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi (IND).

Taking bronze with 43 hits out of 50, Spain's Juan Jose Aramburu (36) won the fourth World Cup medal of his career, celebrating his 50th start in the ISSF World Cup Series and adding it to the three other bronzes he won in 2006, 2013 and 2016.

The following positions were taken by France's Anthony Terras and Kuwait's Mansour Al Rashedi: the French 32-year-old — winner of the World Championship silver medal in Lonato (ITA) in 2015, behind Hancock and ahead of Rossetti — concluded with 33 hits out of 40 clays, missing three of them from station number 4 and failing to climb atop the podium for what would've been his sixth World Cup medal.

33-year-old Al Rashedi, instead, paid a costly streak of three consecutive missed at the end of the first round, which made him slip in 5th place and leave the match with 25 clay hits out of 30.

Finally, at the 20-target mark, the first shooter to be eliminated from the match was Republic of Korea's Lee Jongjun, who finished with 15 hits and placed 6th in his second World Cup participation, besting the 21st position he obtained in Gabala (AZE) in 2015.

Medals and records

The competition followed the ISSF World Cup Stage 1 and the ISSF Junior World Cup 1, which respectively took place in Guadalajara and Sydney (AUS). A total of 876 athletes participated in the competition, representing 70 National Olympic Committees and piling up 1400 starts.

At the top of the final medal standings placed the People's Republic of China, who closed the championship with a total of seven medals: four golds, two silvers and one bronze.

The Russian Federation followed in 2nd place with three gold and two silver medals, while the United States of America closed in 3rd position and won two golds and one bronze in the final two days of competition. A total of 24 countries made their way to the podium during the competition.

Five new World Records were set in Changwon:

- Kimberly Rhode of the United States of America hit 58 targets in the Skeet Women event
- Ji Xiaojing and Wu Jiayu of the People's Republic of China scored 487.7 points in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event
- Kim Junhong of the Republic of Korea scored 38 hits in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men event
- Alexander Dryagin of the Russian Federation scored 251.2 points in the 10m Air Rifle Men event
- Zhao Ruozhu of the People's Republic of China scored 252.4 points in the 10m Air Rifle Women event

In the last event contested, then, United States' Vincent Hancock scored 59 hits, equaling the current Skeet Men World Record.

Six new Qualification World Records were also set during the competition:

- Snjezana Pejic of Croatia scored 1180 points in the elimination phase of the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Women event
- Manu Bhaker and Om Prakash Mitharval of India scored 778 points in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event
- Sarah Alhawal and Khaled Almudhaf of Kuwait hit 145 targets in the Trap Mixed Team event
- Alessandra Perilli of San Marino hit 122 targets in the Trap Women event
- Vladimir Maslennikov and Daria Vdovina of the Russian Federation scored 838.7 points in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event
- Wu Mingyang of the People's Republic of China scored 629.6 points in the 10m Air Rifle Women event

Among junior shooters, Zhao Ruozhu also set a new Junior World Record in the women's 10m Air Rifle event with her 252.4 points, while Wang Zeru signed a new Junior Qualification World Record in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Women event with 1172 points.

The 2018 ISSF World Cup Series will continue next month in Fort Benning (USA) and Munich (GER), where the third and fourth stage are expected to take place: first from the 7th to the 15th of May, then from the 22nd to the 29th.

The 2018 ISSF World Cup Series will continue next month in Fort Benning (USA), where the third stage of the season is scheduled from May 7th to May 15th.

All ISSF competitions will be streamed live on the [ISSF website](#), on the Federation's [Livestream channel](#), on its official [Facebook page](#) and on the [Olympic Channel](#).

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 Skeet Men complete results [click here](#).

For the final medal standings [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.

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