



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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Manu Bhaker crowns her fantastic year
with the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic title

Buenos Aires (ARG), 9 October 2018 - Manu Bhaker of India is the Youth Olympic Champion in the 10m Air Pistol Women event, as she ruled the final match in Buenos Aires and added another gold medal to her impressive collection of prizes.

Last March, in fact, the talented 16-year-old won Air Pistol gold in her first ISSF World Cup participation in Guadalajara (MEX), then pocketing two Junior World Cup gold medals — won in Sydney (AUS) and Suhl (GER) — and a number of continental and national titles.

In Buenos Aires, where the 3rd edition of the Youth Olympic Games kicked off on October 6th, Bhaker led the 10m Air Pistol Women event throughout the whole day, first entering the final with the highest qualification score — 576 points — and then all along the final, firing eight of her first ten shots inside the 10th ring and eventually claiming the brightest medal with 236.5 points.

“Actually I have no idea I’ve been in the lead for the whole match, I was trying to focus completely on my shooting, checking the score every four or five shots, to see how I was doing,” said Bhaker after the medal ceremony.

“I can’t really express how happy I am, this medal is so happy!” she added. “This is the most beautiful victory of my career so far, no doubt!”

To climb on the highest step of the podium, Bhaker had to prevail over Russian Federation’s Iana Enina, junior bronze medalist at the 2018 European Championship in Gyor (HUN): the 18-year-old Russian closed her match 0.6 points behind Bhaker, taking silver with 235.9 points.

Accompanied and coached by eight-time Olympian Nino Salukvadze, Georgia’s 18-year-old Nino Khutsiberidze completed the podium in 3rd place, winning the Youth Olympic bronze medal with 214.6 points. The Georgian athlete, who previously placed 7th among juniors at last month’s ISSF World Championship in Changwon (KOR), fired out of the 10th ring with both her 21st and 22nd shot, sliding down one place and finishing 3rd.

A bad 8.0 nailed in her 20th shot costed Thailand's Kanyakorn Hirunphoem a place on the podium. The 17-year-old Thai shooter, indeed, slid down from the 3rd to the 4th place at a crucial moment, barely missing the medals and scoring 194.3 points.

Hirunphoem was followed by 18-year-old Anja Prezelj of Slovenia, who concluded the match in 5th place with 173.5 points, and by People's Republic of China's Lu Kaiman (18): the two-time Junior World Cup medalist placed 6th with 153.0 points.

The bottom-two positions were taken by 18-year-old Fatimah Abbas Waheeb Al-Kaabi of Iraq and 17-year-old Greta Rankelyte of Lithuania, who both scored below the 44.0-point mark in their first 5-shot series: the Iraqi young shooter took 7th place in her first final participation, signing off with 130.7 points and preceding her Lithuanian rival, who claimed 8th position with 110.4 points.

Shooting sport at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games will award another title tomorrow, as the 10m Air Pistol Men final is going to take place at 11:15 am (UTC-3:00).

Results of the competition, news and updates will be available on www.issf-sports.org, on bueno-saires2018.com and on all ISSF social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Weibo](#) and [Youku](#).

For the 10m Air Pistol 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.