



THE THIRD WORLD CUP FOR SHOTGUN PROMOTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION, ISSF, IN THE YEAR 2005 WAS ORGANIZED AT THE NEW SHOOTING RANGE „BG SPORTS CENTER KOVILOVO“ IN BELGRADE FROM 15TH TO 20TH JULY. „DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHOOTING RANGE, I TRIED TO AVOID ALL THOSE MISTAKES THAT HAD DISTURBED ME DURING MY COMPETITIONS AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL RANGES,“ HOST AND PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, MR. SOTRA COMMENTED DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH ISSF TV. AT THE END OF THE COMPETITION, ALL HIS GUESTS AGREED: MILAN SOTRA, A SPORT SHOOTER FOR OVER 45 YEARS, CREATED A SUPER-LATIVE COMPLEX, A DREAM COME TRUE.



OPENING CEREMONY

After the parade of the 47 nations accompanied by a group of military musicians, Mr. Milan Sotra, the President of the Organizing Committee, welcomed the participating 300 athletes and officials of the ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Belgrade to the shooting range “BG Sports Center Kovilovo”. Mr. Sotra expressed his gratitude to ISSF President, Olegario Vázquez Raña, Secretary General, Horst G. Schreiber, and to ISSF Vice-President and

Technical Delegate of this World Cup, Medhat Wahdan, for allowing the federation to organize this ISSF World Cup. The President of the Organizing Committee also thanked the President of the National Olympic Committee of Serbia and Montenegro, Ivan Curkovic, the Minister of Defence, Prvoslav Davinic, the Mayor of the City of Belgrade, Nenad Bogdanovic, and City Secretary of Sports, Nebojsa Ilic for the support they had provided which was necessary for the organization of this shotgun competition.

The floor was then given to Ivan Curkovic, who complimented the brand-new shooting range “BG Sports Center Kovilovo” for fulfilling the requirements for hosting this competition. He thanked Milan Sotra for his great work and for constructing such a unique complex and expressed his delight to the organizer for improving sports in the country and for helping to elevate them to such a high level.

ISSF Vice-President and Technical Delegate, Medhat Wahdan, concluded the speeches by expressing his thanks to the Organizer for hosting the World Cup in the beautiful city of Belgrade. He praised Milan Sotra for the construction of one of the best shooting ranges in the world. Medhat Wahdan expressed his wish that these competitions be conducted with great fairness and friendship among the participating athletes. At the end of his

speech, Medhat Wahdan presented the ISSF Gold medal of appreciation to the President of the National Olympic Committee of Serbia and Montenegro, Ivan Curkovic. The opening ceremony was wrapped up with a folk dance group from South East Serbia and a modern dance group that combined traditional dances with modern parts of aerobic elements. Fireworks sealed the opening ceremony.

RECORDS BROKEN OR EQUALLED

When the elite shooters of the world come together, world record scores are inevitable. 33-year-old Elena Little from Great Britain achieved the first record with an almost perfect score of 74 targets in the skeet qualification and by adding 22 targets in the final she tied the final world record, set by Veronique Girardet-Allard of France six weeks before in Lonato. The third world record was achieved by 35-year-old Elena Tkach from Russia who tied the final world record of 94 targets in the Trap Women final. Record numbers four to six were set in the Skeet Men’s event: In the qualification round Tino Wenzel from Germany and Mario Nunez from Spain equalled the World Record of 124 targets. In the final, Mario Nunez added a full round of 25 targets and also equalled the final world record of 149 targets.

Foto: Wolfgang Schreiber

ELENA LITTLE SETS RECORDS AND WINS GOLD

“Work well during the day and you get good results,” said Elena Little, 33, from Great Britain after winning the Gold medal in the Skeet Women’s event, the first final of the ISSF World Cup in Belgrade.

The bronze medal winner of the World Championships Lahti in 2002 started the final by setting a new world record of 74 targets and finished first with a final round score of 22 resulting in an equalled final world record of 96 targets. “Good preparation and all the confidence in my equipment,” summarized Little as the reason on her performance. “Competing this year with a new gun makes my performance much more stable,” informed Little. The silver medal went to Zhang Shan, 37, from China and world cup gold medalist of Cairo 2001, with a total of 94 targets.

The bronze medal was decided in a shoot-off round between Diana Valk, 30, from the Netherlands, Svetlana Demina, 44, from Slovakia, Christine Brinker, 24, from Germany and Diana Bacosi, 22, from Italy. After Brinker and Bacosi missed their second double shot, Demina and Valk continued their hunt for the medal, which was eventually decided in favour of the 1997 World Championship’s silver medalist of Lima, Diana Valk, 8 to 7 to seven.

SKEET WOMEN



“WORK WELL DURING THE DAY AND YOU GET GOOD RESULTS”
1st LITTLE, Elena (GBR)



1st TKACH, Elena (RUS)



2nd LIU, Yingzi (CHN)



3rd ZHU, Mei (CHN)

TRAP WOMEN

TKACH'S MENTAL CONTROL BRINGS HER GOLD

"If you think you'll win than you'll never be the winner", said Elena Tkach after being questioned on her expectations before starting the Trap Women final .With a score of 73 targets the former World Champion of Lahti in 2002 had started the final round with one bird in the lead and shot a final score of 21 targets. Tkach equalled the current world record of 94 and finished as the gold medal winner of the world cup in the Trap Women's event. "I credit my performance to my good mind control. I my opinion, everybody had psychological problems rather than any other difficulties like clouds or sun," said Tkach who only missed one target up to her 18th shot, whereas the majority of her competitors lost many more targets up to that stage of the final. Only Zhu Mei, 34, from China and second time World Cup participant in the Trap Women event after Kumamoto City 1999, seemed to be on par with Tkach during the final. With a final of 23 targets Zhu made up for her starting sixth place to be in the shoot-off for the silver medal against her team mate, Liu Yingzi, 34. Liu Yingzi though won the shoot-off for the second place 1 to 0, putting Zhu Mei in third place. Both Chinese athletes won an ISSF medal for the first time.



1st BERNASCONI, Emanuele (ITA)



2nd FRASCA, Erminio (ITA)



3rd FILIPOVIC, Mario (SVK)

TRAP MEN

BERNASCONI WINS GOLD AT HIS SECOND TRAP COMPETITION

Emanuele Bernasconi, 30, from Italy, a long-time Double Trap shooter and winner of the World Cup in Lima 1999 in the Double Trap discipline won the Trap Men's final with a total score of 146. "I am very happy to win that medal. I expected to be in the final already at the World Cup in Rome," said Bernasconi, who participated in Rome for first time in the Trap event ever. Now, during the final in Belgrade he only missed two targets." After that eighth and tenth target I looked at my coach and then something made me recover my concentration," said Bernasconi. Also, in great form was his team mate, the Junior World Champion of Nicosia 2003 Erminio Frasca, 22, who seized second place by hitting the same number of targets as Bernasconi during the final. Next to Emanuele Bernasconi, Mario Filipovic, 29, from Slovakia and Zoravar Singh Sandhu from India started the qualification round with 123 targets. After being passed by Frasca only Filipovic managed to remain on the podium and won the Bronze, while Sandhu fell back to fifth place behind Pavel Gurkin from Russia. The Trap Men's Quota place for Beijing went to Slovakia, won by Mario Filipovic. Italy had already obtained two quotas through Massimo Fabrizi and Giovanni Pelliolo at the World Championships in Lonato 2005 and the ISSF World Cup in Changwon 2005.



" I WAS NOT AFRAID OF ANYBODY AND I WAS NOT AFRAID OF MYSELF."
1st NUNEZ, Mario (ESP)

GREAT CHEERS AFTER NUNEZ'S PERFECT 25

With a perfect final score of 25 targets Mario Nunez, 25, from Spain won the gold medal in the Skeet Men's event and his team cheered when Nunez also secured with his first place an Olympic Quota place for Beijing 2008.

Nunez, who entered for the first time an ISSF World Cup Final round equalled the current world record of 124 and final world record of 149, both set by the current World Champion Vincent Hancock, 16, from USA at this year's first ISSF World Cup in Changwon. Hancock who also was a finalist at this Skeet competition started the final with 123 targets and, just like Nunez, achieved a perfect 25 during the final, turning the young talent the ISSF World Cup Belgrade silver medallist. "Looking at the results, my greatest rivals were Vincent Hancock and Ennio Falco, who participated here at last week's European Championships, but not at this World Cup. But I was not afraid of anybody and I was not afraid of myself," said Nunez reviewing the competition. The Bronze medal was decided in a shoot-off between Tino Wenzel, 31, from Germany and Antonis Nicolaides, 38, from Cyprus. Wenzel ranked second after the qualification round with 124 targets, missed two birds during the final and lost the shoot-off against the Cypriot athlete 11 to 10, ending up on place four. Nicolaides won his fourth ISSF World Cup bronze medal since his last one in Sydney 2004.



2nd HANCOCK, Vincent (USA)



3rd NICOLAIDES, Antonis (CYP)



SKEET MEN



"3% IS THE SHOTGUN AND 97% IS THE TECHNIQUE."
1st ALMAKTOUM, Ahmed (UAE)

DOUBLE TRAP MEN



2nd CHETCUTI, William (MLT)



3rd MAKITALO, Mikko (FIN)

ALMAKTOUM'S UNBEATABLE TECHNIQUE BRINGS GOLD

"The only thing I was worried about was if I could use my technique. When I am able to follow that, then I have nothing to worry about", said Ahmed Almaktoom, 41, from the United Arab Emirates, Double Trap Olympian of Athens 2004. Almaktoom, who had just qualified for the next Games in Beijing 2008 at the recent World Championships in Lonato, continued his streak of success by winning the Double Trap Men's final. "The Organization and the range are perfect here in Belgrade. Before starting the competition I knew the winner would have to shoot an excellent score and there would be no excuse", said Almaktoom.

With three targets in the lead, the self-made man Almaktoom started the qualification round ahead of Rathore Rajyavardhan Singh from India. After missing three birds during the final, Almaktoom finished with a total score of 192. "I am not concerned about my fellow competitors," said Almaktoom after the final. "3% is the shotgun and 97% is the technique" Almaktoom added. For the Double Trap Silver medal, the European Junior Champion of Nicosia 2004 William Chetcuti, 20, from Malta and Mikko Makitalo, 27, from Finland met in a shoot-off. After both presented a great final with only three missed targets,

the shoot-off for the second place was decided in favour of William Chetcuti 6 to 5. Makitalo won Bronze. The Finn took fifth place at this year's ISSF world Cup in Rome and won his first ISSF world cup medal. Walton Eller from the United States of America finished in fourth place, followed by Vitali Fokeev from Russia and by Rathore Rajyavardhan Singh from India. Rathore missed nine targets during the final and lost the shoot-off for the fifth place against Fokeev 2 to 1.

Katharina Mückl



LAPORTE
The N° 1

Traps: "no problem"
Less than 0.1% "No Birds"
The best quality and the best price

Traps used in Athens August 2004
Marcopoulos Shooting Club



Magazine 8 or 12 columns
Model 2004



Rustproof stainless steel
throwing plate
(zero maintenance).

Aluminium and stainless
steel construction with
epoxy coating.
Making it virtually rustproof.



Model 2004
SKEET OLYMPIC
TRAP OLYMPIC
SPORTING TRAP
ZZ



Anti-vibration
throwing arm assembly
- Significant reduction
of vibration



Shock absorbing
target drop plate



New very strong Arm
Extremely consistent
and accurate trajectory.

20 REASONS TO BUY LAPORTE:

VISIT OUR DYNAMIC WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

LAPORTE BALL-TRAP - 357, Allée du Val de Pome - 06410 BIOT FRANCE

Tel. : +33 (0)4 93 65 77 77 - Fax : +33 (0)4 93 65 77 78

info@laporte.biz - www.laporte.biz