

29 MAR 2018

UIPM 2018 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP LOS ANGELES: GLORY FOR GUBAYDULLINA (RUS)

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Gulnaz Gubaydullina of **Russia** confirmed her status as world No.1 with a well-controlled victory in a strong field in the Women's Individual Final at UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Los Angeles.

The 2017 world champion performed consistently throughout the day and moved from 2nd to 1st with great conviction in the Laser-Run to win gold by a margin of 7secs.

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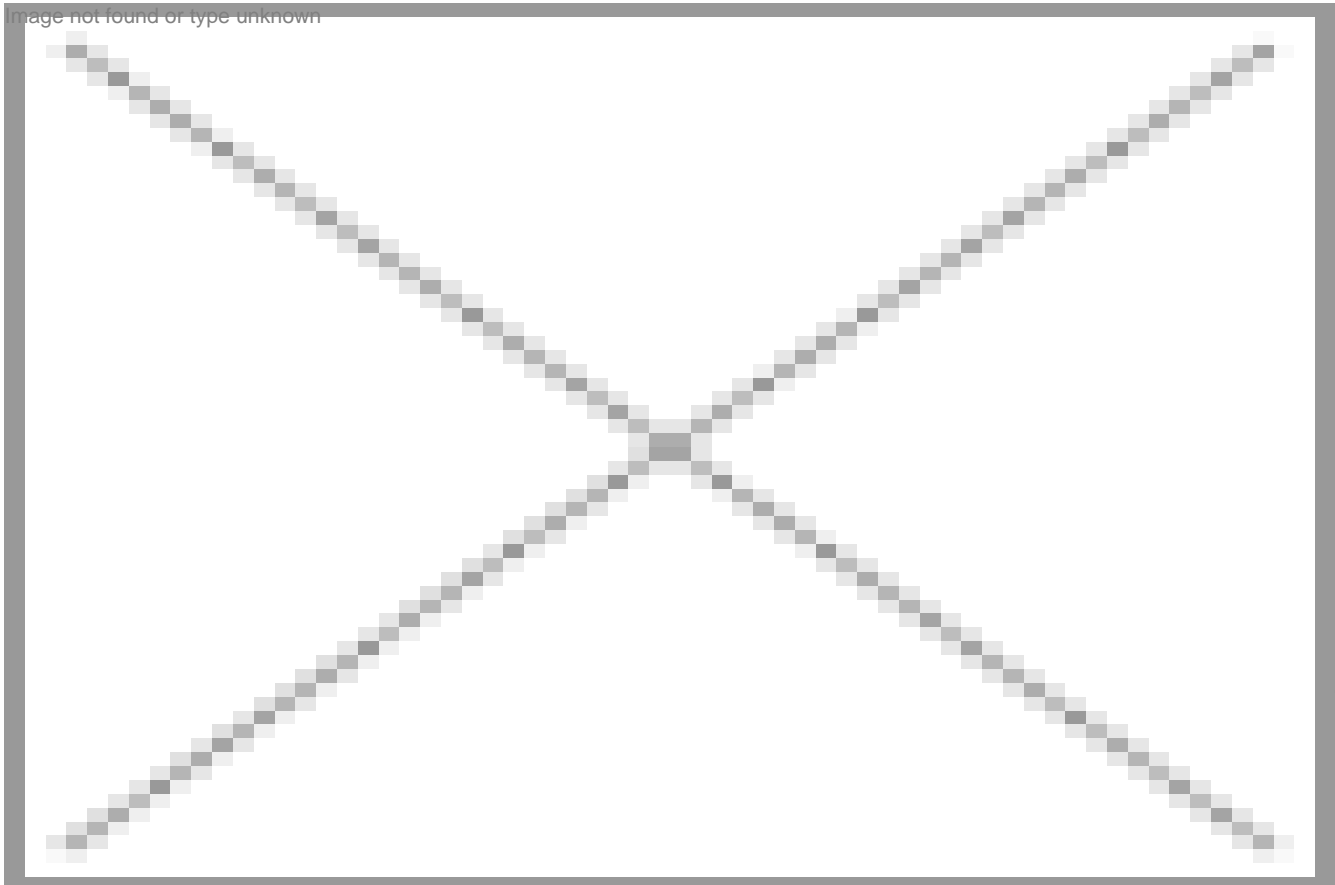
Alice Sotero of **Italy** performed strongly to claim silver while **Tamara Alekszejev** of **Hungary** ensured a podium finish with bronze after losing the lead in the deciding discipline.

The top 10 was made up of three athletes each from **Italy** and **France**, with **Julie Belhamri (FRA)** recording a superb Laser-Run time of 12mins 20secs to finish 4th. Olympic silver medallists **Samantha Murray** of **Great Britain** and **Elodie Clouvel (FRA)** finished 5th and 6th respectively while **Bian Yufei** of **China** came in 7th.

Victory was another reminder of the exciting talent and dedication of **Gubaydullina (RUS)**, who said at the finish line: "It was a very hard day. Swimming pool: hard. Horse: hard. Fencing: hard. Everything was hard!"

"I like Los Angeles, I like America, every time I come here the people are very friendly."

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The

bronze medal also confirmed the prominence of **Alekszejev (HUN)**, who was a surprise winner of the 2017 World Cup Final. She said: "I'm super happy to be in USA as LA is my favourite city and I like to compete here in the warm weather with the beautiful mountains.

"Today my best discipline was Fencing but I was not so happy about my Laser-Run, especially my shooting. In the end I pushed really hard to stay on the podium.

"I'm looking forward to the European Championships this year because it's happening in my home town of Székesfehérvár. But I'm also targeting the Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico City."

SWIMMING

The day began well for the world No.1 as **Gubaydullina (RUS)** swam fastest in 2:08.45, an improvement on her time from her pace-setting time at Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, ahead of **Clouvel (FRA)** in 2:11.01 and **Sotero (ITA)** in 2:11.65.

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FENCING

Alekszejev (HUN) matched her score of 25V/10D from Cairo in the Ranking Round, and this time it was enough to put her at the top of the standings as **Iryna Khokhlova (ARG)** managed one victory fewer. **Natalya Coyle** of **Ireland** also stood out with 24V/11D, while **Murray (GBR)** was among a group on 23V/12D and **Gubaydullina (RUS)** kept in touch with 21V/14D.

In the Bonus Round, **Francesca Tognetti (ITA)** enjoyed a superb run of victories, winning the last four bouts to give herself an additional 4sec to play with in Laser-Run. **Murray (GBR)** also took the opportunity to increase her score with some great form on the showpiece piste which gave her a narrow overall lead.

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RIDING

Six athletes managed a clean round for a maximum 300 points, including Cairo gold medallist **Clouvel (FRA)** and her compatriot **Oteiza (FRA)**. There was a moment of joy for the home crowd as **Samantha Achterberg** of **USA** enjoyed a clean round after struggling in Fencing, while **Isabella Isaksen (USA)** scored 298. The other athletes who managed a perfect score were **Alexandra Bettinelli** of **Germany**, **Sarolta Kovacs (HUN)** and **Kseniia Fraltsova (RUS)**.

Alekszejev (HUN) maintained her challenge with only one penalty point conceded. The standard was very high with 21 athletes incurring 10 penalty points or fewer. However, **Murray (GBR)** lost some ground with her score of 279 and **Coyle (IRL)** fell out of contention after picking up 58 penalties.

LASER-RUN

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Alekszejev (HUN) started with a lead of 9secs but **Gubaydullina (RUS)** immediately made up some ground on the first lap as **Sotero (ITA)** moved past **Marie Otiez (FRA)** into 3rd.

Gubaydullina (RUS) claimed a narrow lead at the second visit to the shooting range, while **Sotero (ITA)** showed great tenacity to create a leadership group of three. Behind them, **Belhamri (FRA)** moved rapidly through the field and into 4th place.

At the 3rd shoot, **Gubaydullina (RUS)** opened up a 10sec cushion and it was clear in this moment that it was going to be her day. **Sotero (ITA)** in turn created a gap between herself and **Alekszejev (HUN)** but all three finished strongly to confirm their places on the podium.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "We are happy to be here for the second Pentathlon World Cup of the season at Fairplex, close to the 2028 Olympic Summer Games host city Los Angeles.

"We have good conditions here in terms of weather, good horses and high-level athletes, and we see very young and new athletes coming to the World Cup, but also the result shows that the best athletes from last season are again on the podium.

"My thanks go to all the team here at Fairplex, the sports council of Los Angeles and the United States Modern Pentathlon Association."

UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Los Angeles continues tomorrow (March 29) with the Men's Final before the Mixed Relay concludes the competition on March 30.

For full results visit the UIPM website.

Rank	Name	Nation	MP Points
1	GUBAYDULLINA Gulnaz	RUS	1359
2	SOTERO Alice	ITA	1352
3	ALEKSZEJEV Tamara	HUN	1341

4	BELHAMRI Julie	FRA	1334
5	MURRAY Samantha	GBR	1331
6	CLOUVEL Elodie	FRA	1329
7	BIAN Yufei	CHN	1313
8	FREZZA Alessandra	ITA	1309
9	MICHELI Elena	ITA	1303
10	OTEIZA Marie	FRA	1303
11	POTAPENKO Elena	KAZ	1302
12	TOGNETTI Francesca	ITA	1295
13	OZYUKSEL Ilke	TUR	1291
14	BRASSIL Sive	IRL	1287
15	COYLE Natalya	IRL	1285
16	ACHTERBERG Samantha	USA	1284
17	FRALTSOVA Kseniia	RUS	1283
18	SUMMERS Francesca	GBR	1282
19	MALISZEWSKA Anna	POL	1281
20	KOVACS Sarolta	HUN	1278
21	BETTINELLI Alexandra	GER	1277
22	ISAKSEN Isabella	USA	1270
23	OLIVER Mayan	MEX	1269
24	KIM Sunwoo	KOR	1266
25	SCHLEU Annika	GER	1262
26	TOMONAGA Natsumi	JPN	1259
27	YANG Soo jin	KOR	1258
28	BATASHOVA Uliana	RUS	1256
29	KIM Sehee	KOR	1251
30	ARCEO Mariana	MEX	1238
31	VEGA Tamara	MEX	1230
32	CARRIER Marina	AUS	1219
33	YAMANAKA Shino	JPN	1170
34	ZHANG MINGYU	CHN	1158
35	KHOKHLOVA IRYNA	ARG	943
36	MATTHES Anna	GER	899