

23 JUN 2018

UIPM 2018 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP FINAL ASTANA: JUNG LEADS INCREDIBLE KOREAN ONE-TWO



First the world, now the World Cup is in the hands of **Jung Jinhwa** of **Korea** after he won Men's Individual gold at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Final.

The good news continued for **Korea** when **Jun Woongtae** followed his team-mate across the line to win silver after a stunning Laser-Run.

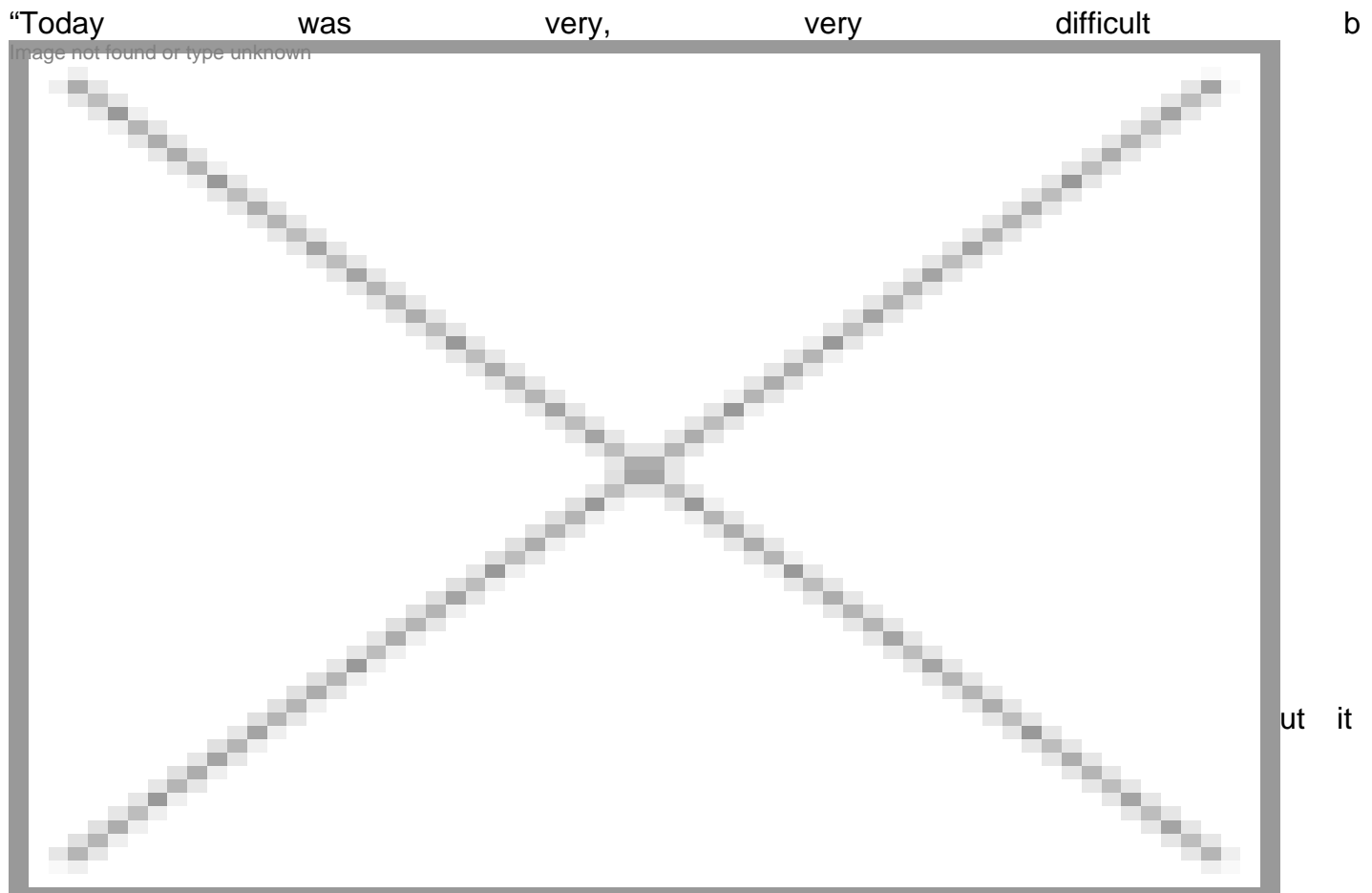
Joining them on the podium was **Arthur Lanigan-O'Keeffe**, who went one better than partner Natalya Coyle 24 hours earlier as he won a historic first Pentathlon World Cup Final medal for **Ireland**.

Jung (KOR), 29, enjoyed a career highlight in 2017 when he won gold at the Pentathlon World Championships in Cairo (EGY). Now he is in possession of two of the three biggest prizes in the sport – as well as the world No.1 ranking – with the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo only two years away.

Jung started the Laser-Run in 1st place with a 24sec lead after a strong performance throughout the final.

His success continued the remarkable rise of **Korea** as the most powerful team in men's pentathlon. **Jun** (KOR) and **Lee Jihun** (KOR) had already claimed two of the four gold medals on offer during this year's Pentathlon World Cup circuit.

Gold medallist **Jung** (KOR) said: "The World Cup season has been difficult but I had a few days' break before the World Cup Final and that was a very good choice.



was a fantastic race. There were many people in the group behind me but I didn't think about them. My focus was on first place.

"I'm ready now to focus again on the World Championships."

Jun (KOR) added: "Today I am the silver medallist and I am very happy, and my team-mate is gold medallist so there is even more happiness in the team.

"The Laser-Run was very difficult, trust me, but I just stayed focused on myself."

Lanigan-O'Keeffe (IRL) and partner Natalya Coyle have won gold in the Mixed Relay two years in a row but neither had come home with an individual medal until today – despite Coyle's best efforts in finishing fourth in the Women's Final yesterday.

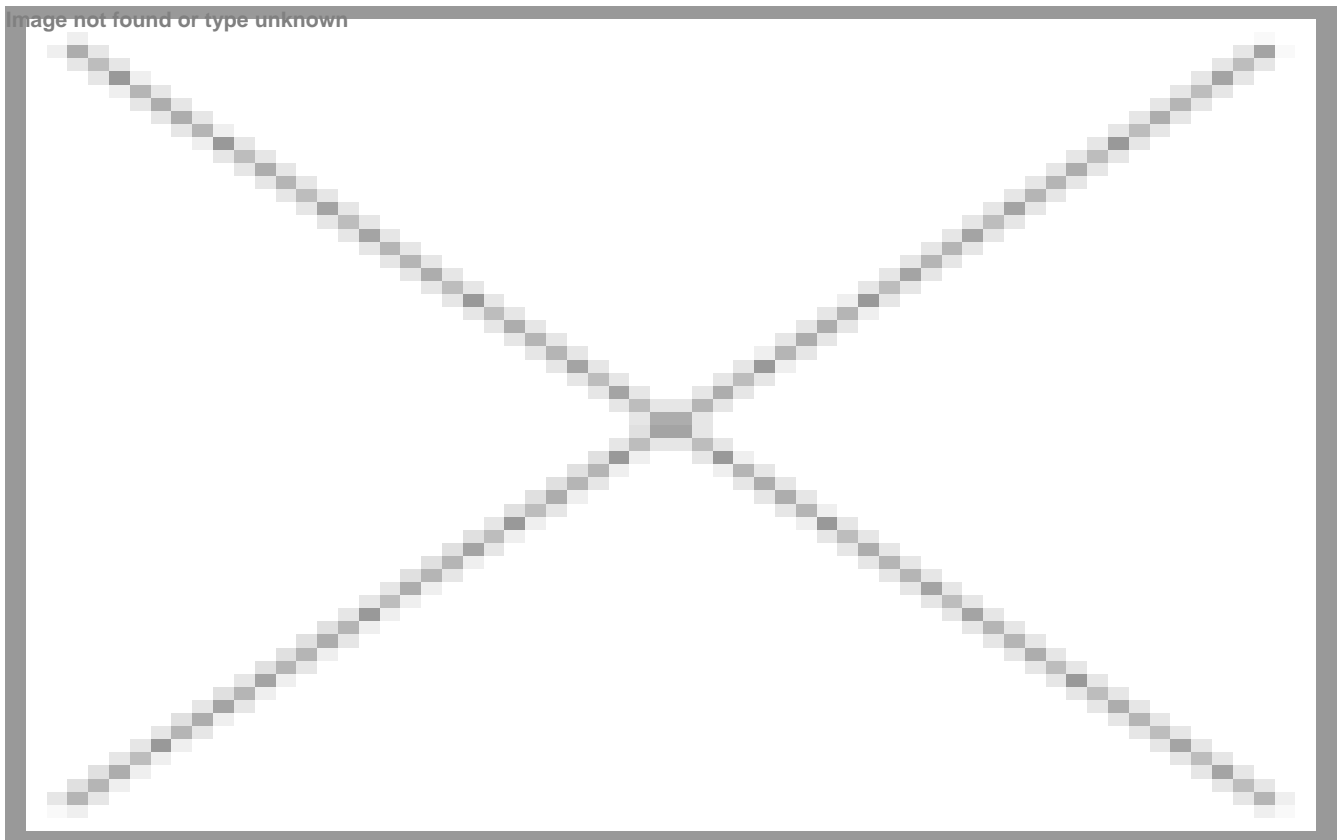
Lanigan-O'Keeffe (IRL) was European individual champion in 2015 and confirmed his excellent form with gold at Pentathlon World Cup Sofia only a few weeks ago. He admitted that the sandy running track had made life difficult for the group of athletes locked in an intense battle for podium places behind the leader **Jung** (KOR).

He said: "It was a very tough course and the sand was deep in places. On the last two laps, everyone around me was feeling it and it was a real battle of guts.

"Anything can happen in Laser-Run and you never know if the leader will keep his head, so I never gave up hope of gold, but Jung was the best man today.

"I just kept chasing everyone who was in front of me, and I managed to get past the Russian [**Alexander Lifanov**] but I couldn't quite catch the second-placed Korean. They have a great team."

Fencing



Reigning world champion **Jung** (KOR) was the outstanding performer on the piste with 25V/9D and two points added during the Bonus Round.

Yuriy Fedechko of **Ukraine** was next best with 23V/11D while **Alexander Lifanov** of **Russia** and **Giuseppe Parisi** of **Italy** scored 22V/12D.

Lanigan-O'Keeffe (IRL) kept in touch with the leaders with 20V/14D, same as the Olympic champion **Alexander Lesun** (RUS), but **Jun** (KOR) faced an uphill task after scoring 18V/16D.

Bence Demeter of **Hungary** added six points to a disappointing Ranking Round score during the Bonus Round.

Swimming

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World Under 19 champion **Ahmed Elgendy** of **Egypt** was quickest in the pool with his time of 2:00.34, although **Lanigan-O’Keeffe** (IRL), **Jun** (KOR) and **Jung** (KOR) were not far behind him on 2:01.91, 2:02 and 2:02.75 respectively.

Riding

Another day, another high-class display of horsemanship in Astana with nine athletes enjoying clear rounds, including **Jung** (KOR), whose composure ensured he would have a massive Laser-Run lead of 24sec.

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Lanigan-O'Keeffe (IRL) also went round clear to give himself a shot at the podium, while **Lesun** (RUS) and **Lee** (KOR) joined them with a top score of 300.

The other riders to enjoy an unblemished round were **Ilya Palazkov** of **Belarus**, **Patrick Dogue** of **Germany**, **Shohei Iwamoto** of **Japan**, **Christopher Patte** of **France** and **Gergely Regos** (HUN).

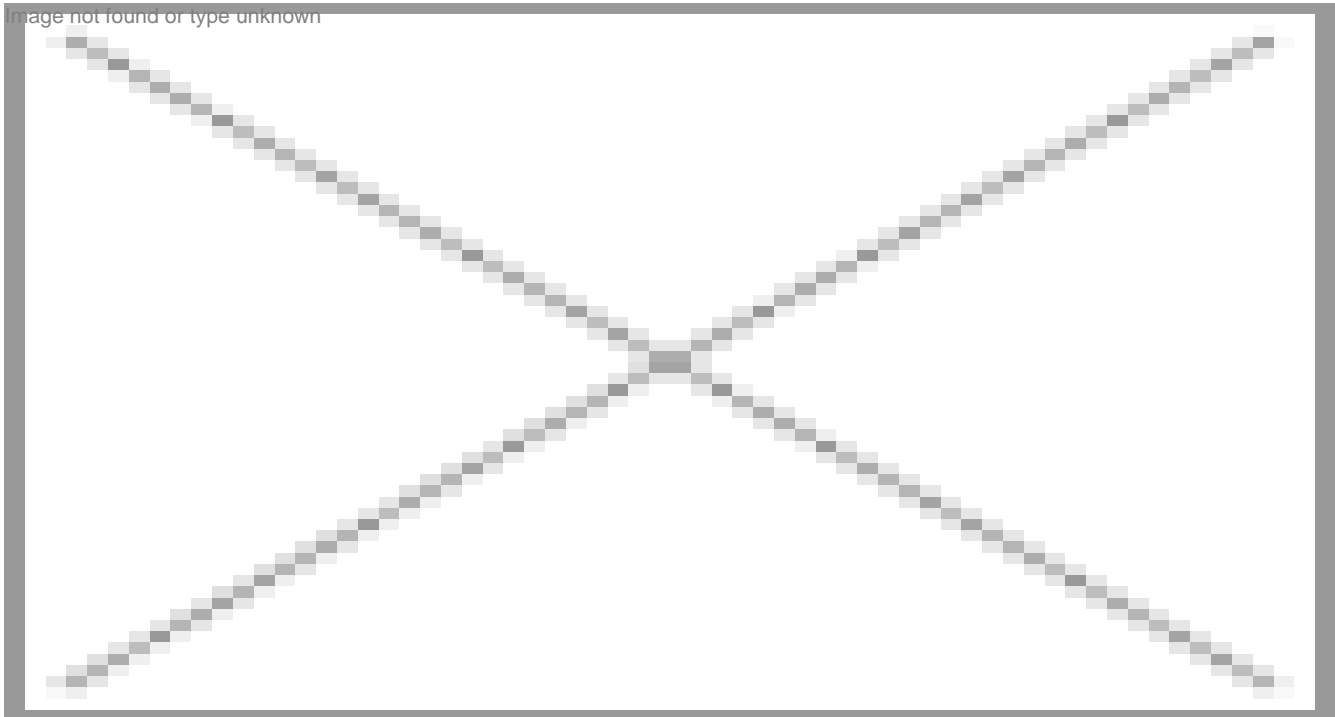
Jun (KOR) dropped seven points for a Laser-Run starting position of 9th, while **Fedechko** (UKR) also conceded just one penalty to protect his overall position of 2nd.

Laser-Run

Jung (KOR) enjoyed an uneventful procession to victory, protecting his 24sec lead with all the professionalism of a world champion. Behind him, battle raged on Astana's sands.

Fedechko (UKR) quickly dropped out of the race for the medals, with **Lanigan-O'Keeffe** (IRL) and **Lifanov** (RUS) taking the initiative – but it wasn't long before they realised they had company.

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Jun

(KOR), who has already won three Pentathlon World Cup gold medals at the age of 22, moved rapidly through the field from his starting position of 9th, and before the halfway mark of the race he had staked a strong claim for silver.

Jun (KOR) ended up with the fastest Laser-Run of the day (11:28.75) and in the end he crossed the line only 5secs behind his compatriot **Jung** (KOR), who took it easy at the end.

Lanigan-O’Keeffe (IRL) stalled at the final visit to the shooting range, and **Lifanov** (RUS) took advantage by moving into the bronze medal position, with **Palazkov** (BLR) also entering the medal equation in 5th.

But the champion of Pentathlon World Cup Sofia was not done, and **Lanigan-O’Keeffe** (IRL) muscled his way back into the podium places by marching past **Lifanov** (RUS); he even put pressure on **Jun** (KOR) in the final stages of a gripping Laser-Run.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “We have not had the opportunity to organise such high-level pentathlon competitions in Kazakhstan in the past 20 years and I am quite happy with the presentation of this Pentathlon World Cup Final in the capital, Astana.

“I must compliment the horses and I must compliment the athletes, who have produced a very good performance, increasing the level and showing their abilities to the world via internet and television.

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“There was some excellent group racing and the athletes gave everything today to try and achieve a good ranking at the end of the season. The facility is nicely set up and the atmosphere is so friendly between the athletes.”

Leonid Zimarev, Secretary General of the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Kazakhstan, said: “The competition has gone perfectly, the winners and medallists earned their reward, the race was amazing, the competition was held at a high level including the technical side of it, and all teams put 100 per cent effort into their performance.

“Tomorrow we are having the Mixed Relay competition and we can't wait.”

UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final Astana concludes on June 24 with the Mixed Relay. A live stream of the Laser-Run is available on UIPM TV and up-to-date results of all competitions are available at the UIPM website.

Rank	Name	Nation	MP Points
1	JUNG Jinhwa	KOR	1431
2	JUN Woongtae	KOR	1426
3	LANIGAN-O KEEFFE Arthur	IRL	1425
4	PALAZKOV Ilya	BLR	1423
5	LIFANOV Alexander	RUS	1419
6	BELYAKOV Kirill	RUS	1416
7	PARISI Giuseppe	ITA	1407
8	PATTE Christopher	FRA	1405
9	REGOS Gergely	HUN	1402
10	DOGUE Patrick	GER	1402
11	DE LUCA Riccardo	ITA	1400
12	NAKONECHNYI Ruslan	LAT	1399
13	TYMOSHCHENKO Pavlo	UKR	1394
14	ELGENDY Ahmed	EGY	1387

15	FEDECHKO Yuriy	UKR	1384
16	GRYCZ Marek	CZE	1382
17	LEE Jihun	KOR	1372
18	ILYASHENKO Pavel	KAZ	1371
19	ZHANG Linbin	CHN	1368
20	BELAUD Valentin	FRA	1368
21	STASKIEWICZ Szymon	POL	1367
22	ONO Tomoyuki	JPN	1365
23	DEMETER Bence	HUN	1355
24	NOBIS Alexander	GER	1351
25	KINDERIS Justinas	LTU	1346
26	RADZIUK Yaraslau	BLR	1345
27	LESUN Aleksander	RUS	1342
28	RASHAD Sherif	EGY	1340
29	HAMAD Eslam	EGY	1331
30	IWAMOTO Shohei	JPN	1313
31	SVECOVS Pavels	LAT	1310
32	MOURCIA Jean Baptiste	FRA	1306
33	SUKHAREV Vladislav	KAZ	1293
34	DOGUE Marvin Faly	GER	1271
35	PAVLYUK Denys	UKR	1262