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UIPM 2019 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP SOFIA: POLAND POWER THEIR WAY TO MIXED RELAY GOLD

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Smooth partnership work between **Marta Kobecka** and Jaroslaw Swiderski enabled **Poland** to win gold in the Mixed Relay at UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia.

The Polish duo fought off competition from higher-ranked athletes from **Great Britain** (**Francesca Summers & Jamie Cooke**) and **Germany** (Rebecca Langrehr & **Marvin Dogue**) to cross the line first on the last day of the competition.

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Thailand took part for the first time along with four other Asian teams while **Mexico**, China and **Guatemala** all finished in the top six.

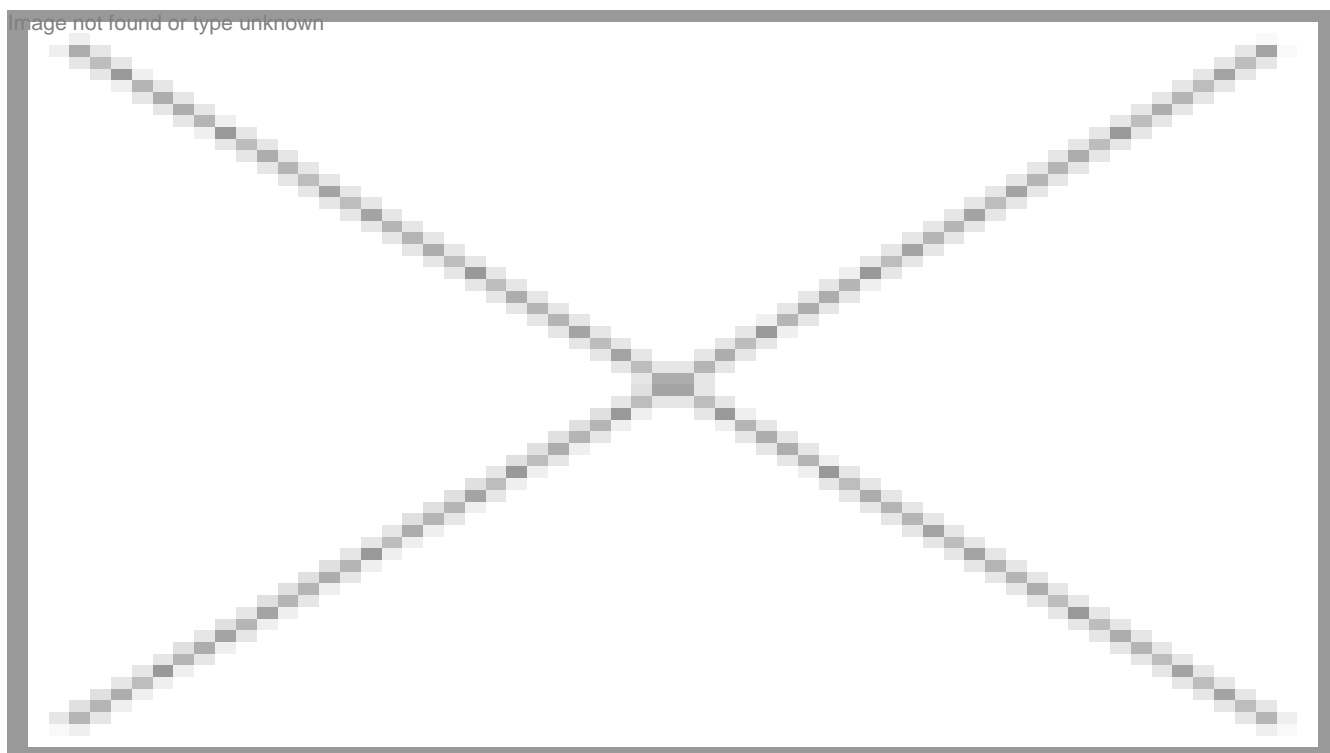
Medallists' reaction

It was a first taste of glory in a UIPM competition for 23-year-old Kobecka (POL), a Mixed Relay champion at the FISU 2018 World University Championships alongside Lukasz Gutkowski.

Kobecka (POL) said: "I'm very surprised to win gold, but the Mixed Relay is a great event and I feel good doing this kind of competition.

"We started the Fencing tournament with a 50/50 record but we really improved that and ended up with +8, and that was very good for us."

Her partner, Swiderski (POL), added: "The key for us today was very good shooting and nice running. Fencing is very difficult for me but today was OK."



Great Britain were never far away from gold and in fact Summers (GBR) overtook Kobecka (POL) during the Laser Run before relinquishing the lead at the shooting range.

Individual world champion Cooke (GBR) said: "It's been good fun here with Frankie – we had a really good swim and then she carried me through the Fencing, we both had a good ride and then a good Laser Run too.

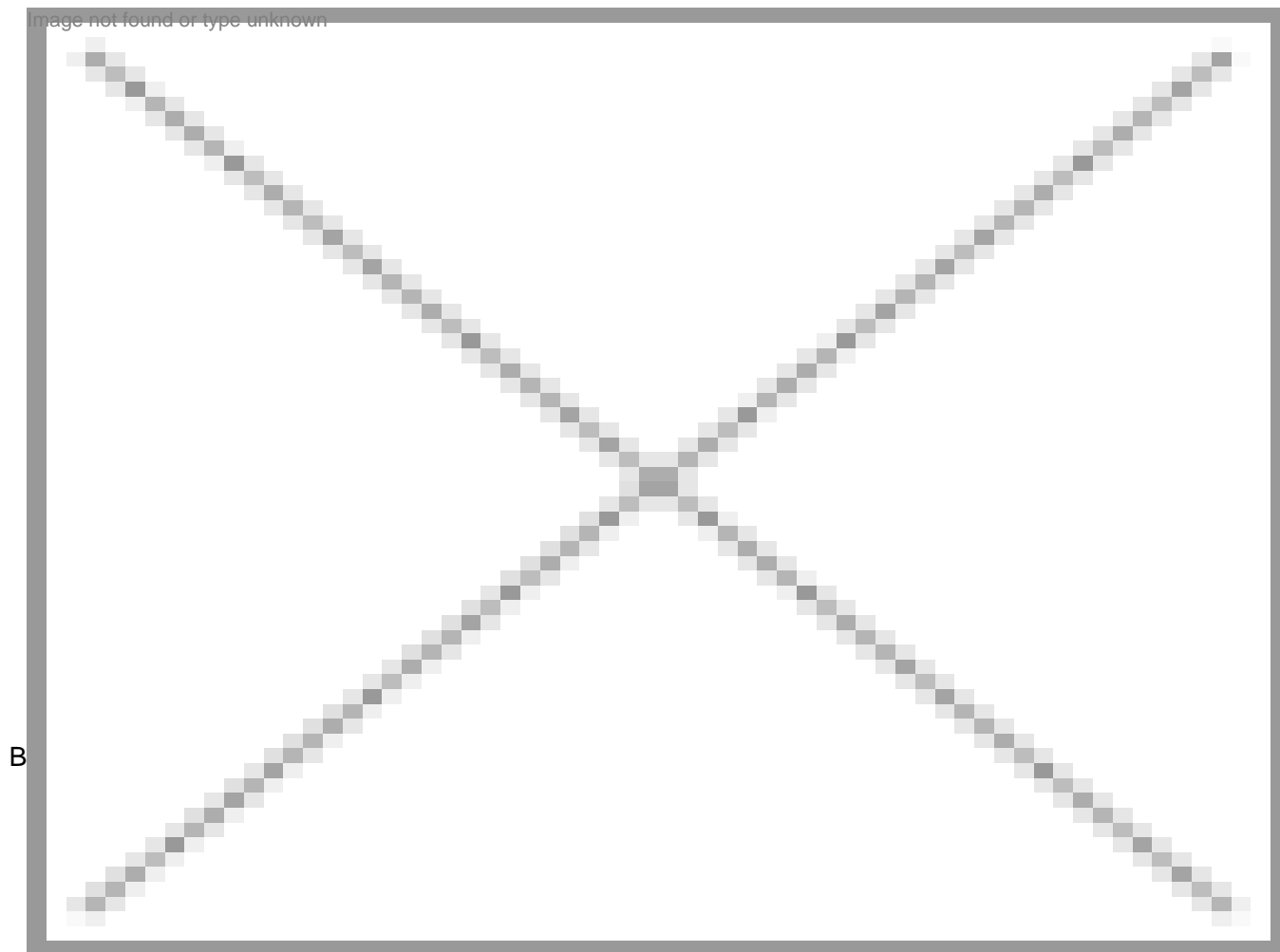
"There has been a really good diversity of nations taking part in this Mixed Relay – we had a team from Thailand for the first time, and to have 21 entries was fantastic.

"Competition is really strong in our team and the team spirit is strong, too. We are all aiming to do well in the European Championships in Bath, August 6-11 – see you there!

"Going into an Olympic qualifying year, it's an individual sport so there is rivalry between us, but it's a fantastic squad and we support each other as well as competing against each other."

Summers (GBR) added: "I'm really happy that all the hard training has paid off today and I'm looking forward to the rest of the season.

“There were so many different people to compete against from the 21 teams, and I hope to build on this form for the rest of the season. I’m looking forward to the European Championships in Bath.”



ronze medallist Langrehr (GER) said: “It was a very tough race and everyone was sprinting in the first round, I was dying. But the last shooting went well and I was able to hand over to Marvin in 4th place.”

Her partner, Dogue (GER), added: “It’s a very good feeling because before the Laser Run we were not expecting a medal. We were hoping to hold on to 5th place or maybe improve on that, so it’s very amazing.

“There were many ups and downs today. I was swimming next to Jamie Cooke, the best swimmer, but it was a solid swim and we are both good fencers, but today was a struggle and we only had a 50/50 record.

“We went to the Riding and wanted two clear rounds and apart from a couple of time penalties we got that.”

Swimming

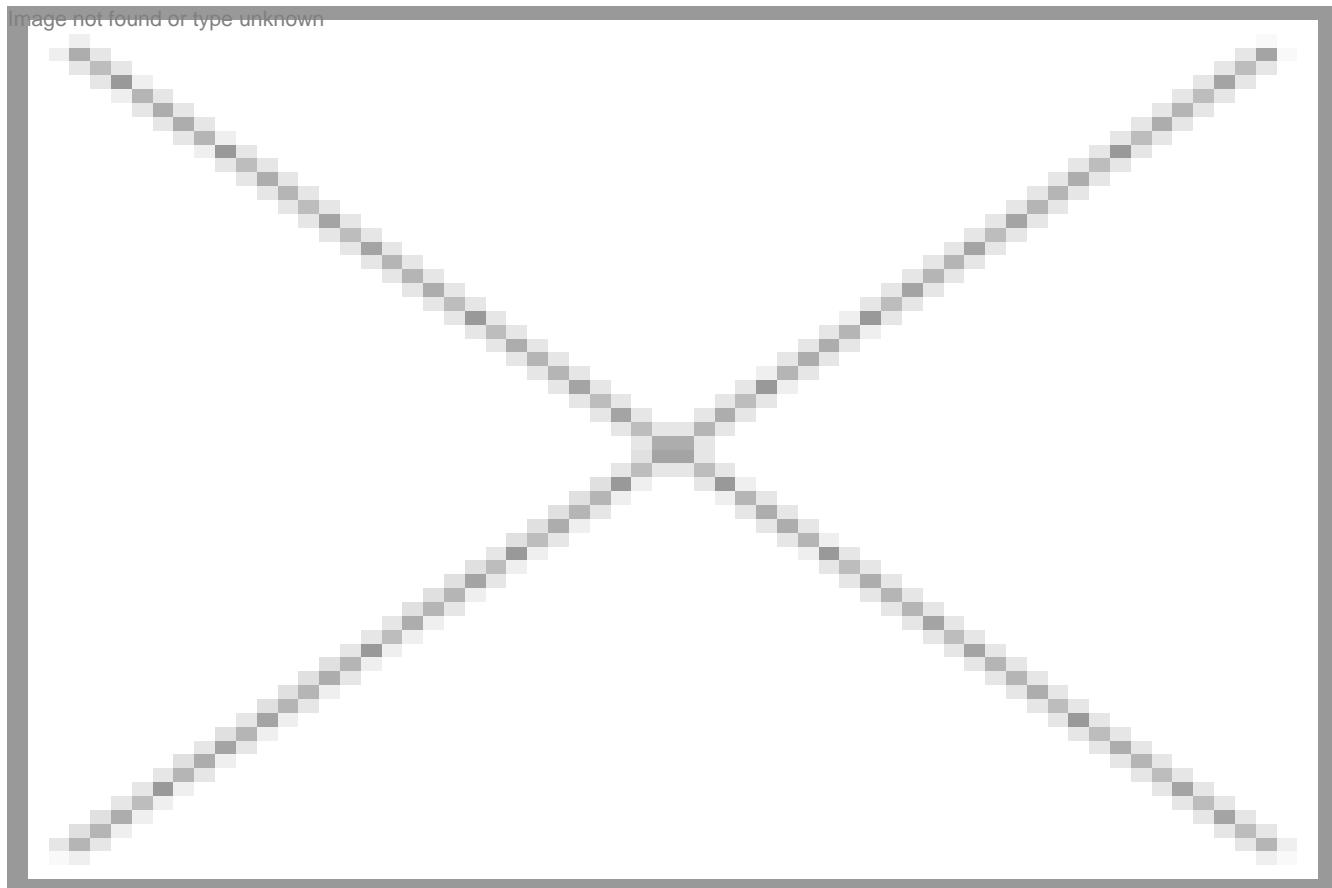
Two competing nations managed to break the 2min barrier in the pool. **Korea (Kim Sunwoo & Kim Soengjin)** were fastest with 1:58.33, ahead of **Russia (Gulnaz Gubaydullina & Egor Gromadskii)** in 1:59.97.

Fencing



Mexico (Vega/Padilla) scored 27V/13D and added two points in the Bonus Round, stealing a march on the four nations who managed 24V/16D.

Poland (Kobecka/Swidorski) and **Great Britain** (Summers/Cooke) built the foundation of their success with a solid performance, while **Korea** (Kim/Kim) and **Czech Republic** (Eliska Pribylova & **Ondrej Polivka**) also scored 24V/16D.



Riding

Poland (Kobecka/Swidorski) were top performers on horseback, with two clean rounds and a time of 96sec enabling them to come within six points of a perfect score of 300.

Guatemala (**Sofia Cabrera** and **Charles Fernandez**) put themselves in contention with a score of 288 and **Great Britain** (Summers/Cooke) stayed there with 286. In contrast, **Mexico** (Vega/Padilla) surrendered their overall lead – and ultimately their podium prospects – with the concession of 38 penalties.

Laser Run



With the men's world champion waiting in the wings, Great Britain looked favourites for gold now but a 25sec shoot from Summers (GBR) at the second visit to the range allowed Kobecka (POL) to wrest back control and hand over a solid advantage to Swiderski (POL).

Cooke (GBR) may have fancied his chances of making up the deficit, but Swiderski (POL) exited the range in 14sec and the 2017 UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final bronze medallist refused to give his rival any encouragement thereafter, winning by 9sec in the end.

The battle for bronze was more intriguing, and it looked certain to be heading the way of Mexico after individual champion Padilla (MEX) raced clear of the pack at an early stage of the third lap.

However, the laser range claimed another victim when Padilla (MEX) struggled with his second shoot, and it was at this point that Dogue (GER) seized his opportunity.

Padilla (MEX) threatened to chase him down but he may have had tired legs after his exploits on Saturday, and Dogue (GER) held him at bay by 3sec.

Behind them, China (**Bian Yufei & Luo Shuai**) grabbed 5th place as Luo (CHN) surged past Fernandez (GUA) on the line.

President's reaction

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "We had 21 teams for the Mixed Relay here at Pentathlon World Cup Sofia and that is a super number for our movement.

"We had a team from Turkey and a team from Thailand, so new federations are joining us in the Mixed Relay and we have seen a dramatic competition that the athletes really enjoyed.

"You see a team spirit in the Mixed Relay that is something very special, and we are so happy because the nations want it and they support it.

"The Mixed Relay is creating new challenges and I am very happy and thankful that the athletes are involved in this important feature of our future in the Olympic programme."

Watch and follow

You can catch up on highlights from Pentathlon World Cup Sofia at UIPM TV and find results and reports at the UIPM website.

The next competition on the UIPM 2019 calendar will be Pentathlon World Cup Szekesfehervar from May 1-5, followed by Pentathlon World Cup Prague from May 22-27.

Live stream of all finals is available on UIPM TV and the World Pentathlon Facebook page.

Rank	Team	Nation	MP Points
1	KOBECKA Marta SWIDERSKI Jaroslaw	POL	1438
2	SUMMERS Francesca COOKE James	GBR	1429
3	LANGREHR Rebecca DOGUE Marvin Faly	GER	1425
4	VEGA Tamara PADILLA Manuel	MEX	1422
5	BIAN Yufei LUO SHUAI	CHN	1419

6	CABRERA Sofia FERNANDEZ Charles	GUA	1418
7	IBATULLINA Adelina GROMADSKII Egor	RUS	1412
8	KIM Sunwoo KIM Soengjin	KOR	1400
9	PRIBYLOVA Eliska POLIVKA Ondrej	CZE	1396
10	ZAPATA Ayelen SILVA Leandro	ARG	1394
11	SOTERO Alice DE LUCA Riccardo	ITA	1389
12	BELHAMRI Julie MOURCIA Jean-Baptiste	FRA	1377
13	KHALDOBA Tatsiana KASYANIK Kirill	BLR	1374
14	PERMYKINA Valeriya PAVLYUK Denys	UKR	1369
15	KANDIL Amira HEFNY Yasser	EGY	1366
16	SHIMAZU Rena ONO Tomoyuki	JPN	1355
17	BARTA Luca REGOS Gergely	HUN	1346
18	AKSIN Ipek UNAL Bugra	TUR	1343
19	POTAPENKO Elena MICHSHENKO Vladislav	KAZ	1317
20	JAWAID Marlina MIHALEV Todor	BUL	996
21	PALASRI Panalee KESORNPORN Nattaphon	THA	906