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UIPM 2019 YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (U19 & U17): GOLDEN JOY FOR KOREA AND HOSTS BULGARIA

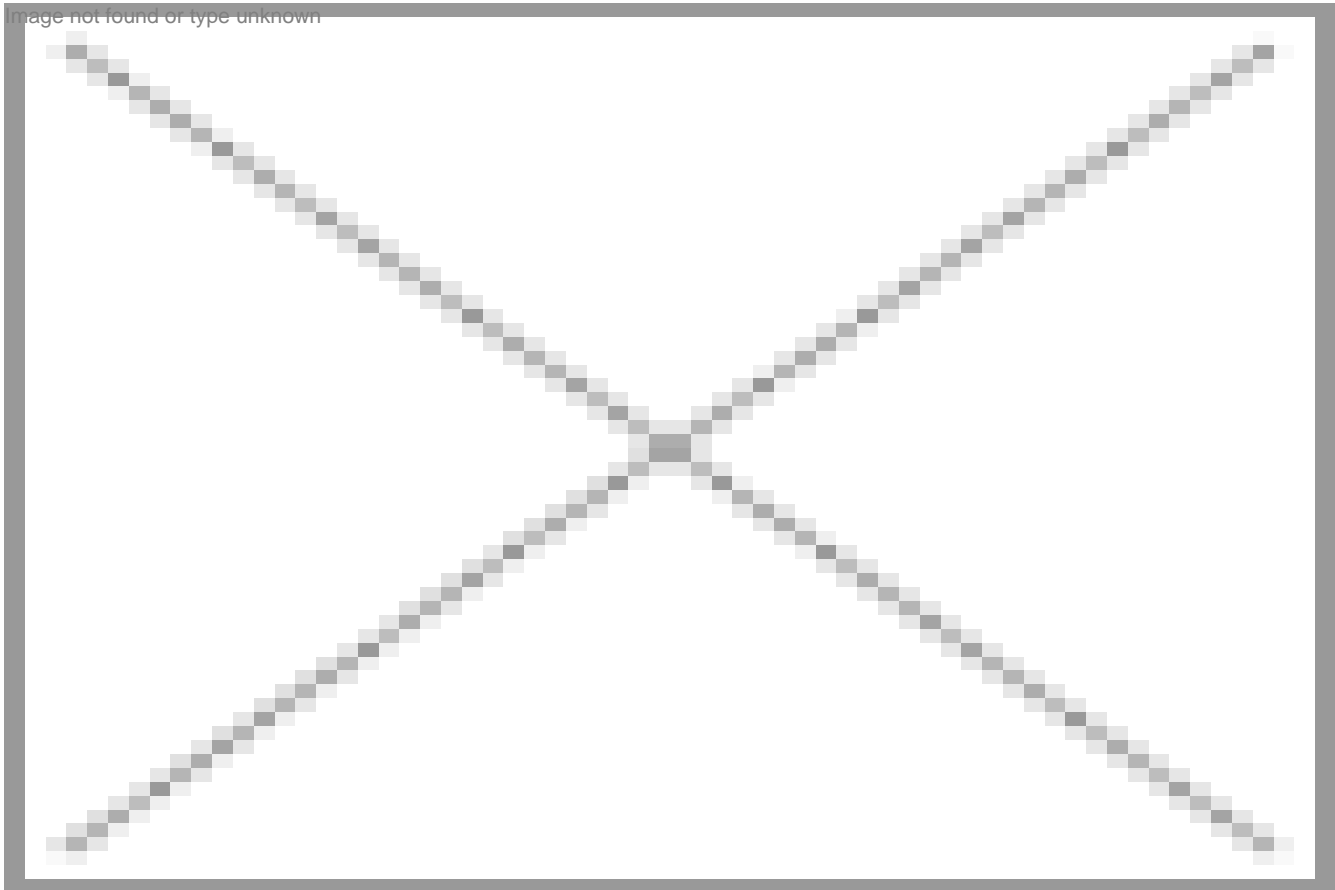
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- Kim and Yoon (KOR) enjoy big win in U19 Mixed Relay
- Great Britain secure silver ahead of bronze medallists Mexico
- Zgurova (BUL) lights up Sofia with dramatic U17 women's gold

An unforgettable moment of joy for host nation **Bulgaria** and an outstanding performance by **Korea** lit up day three of the UIPM Youth World Championships (U19 & U17).

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In a

competition marked so far by dramatic photo finishes, the U19 Mixed Relay became a smooth procession as **Kim Jaehak** and **Yoon Yangji** (KOR) took gold by an impressive 14sec.

Great Britain picked up silver thanks to an excellent Laser Run by **Sarah Wilson** and **Joshua Hood**, while bronze went to **Catherine Mayran Oliver** and **Miguel Alexis Vazquez** of **Mexico**, ensuring representation for three continents on the podium.

This intriguing Mixed Relay climax came one hour after a 16-year-old athlete had become the toast of Sofia. **Svetla Zgurova** (BUL) won an impressive individual gold medal in the U17 Women's Final, holding off intense competition from **Hungary** rivals **Dorina Dobronyi** and **Dorka Sara Toth**, who joined her on the podium.

U19 MIXED RELAY

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Russia set the pace in the Swimming pool thanks to a time of 02:01.20 from **Maria Samoilova** and **Andrei Smirnov**. Not far behind were **Australia** duo **Tully Watt** and **Rhys Lanskey** (02:02.66), with **Mikita Piatrouski** and **Darya Latsevich** of **Belarus** third-fastest (02:03.54).

Hungary topped the Fencing standings after **Nora Killai-Simoka** and **Bence Katona** scored 28V/12D in the Ranking Round. Mexico (Oliver/Vazquez) and Great Britain (Wilson/Hood) put themselves in the frame with 26 and 25 victories respectively.

Russia (Samoilova/Smirnov) set off first in the Laser Run but they struggled to find any rhythm, as did Hungary (Killai-Simoka/Katona), and both were left trailing by Korea (Kim/Yoon) and Mexico (Oliver/Vazquez) and, eventually, Great Britain (Wilson/Hood).

Great Britain (Wilson/Hood) overcame a 22sec starting handicap to win silver with the fastest Laser Run time of the day, 11:26.40, while 11:30.30 was fast enough for Korea (Kim/Yoon) to win gold without alarm.

Guatemala duo **Paula Sofia Valencia** and **Andres Fernandez** finished 4th after a rapid 11:30.80, with **Ukraine** (**Olha Klunnikova** & **Valentyn Ilkiv**) crossing the line 5th and **Turkey** (**Yaren Nur Polat** & **Hakan Can Gungor**) in 6th.

[Click here to see the full results.](#)

U17 WOMEN'S FINAL

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Another extraordinarily close finish saw four athletes separated by just 4sec at the finish line of the U17 Women's Final.

Individual victory went to the athlete who started first, Zgurova (BUL), to the delight of the home crowd, but only after she held off the challenge of two chasing Hungarians.

Dobronyi (HUN) couldn't quite snare the gold medal but she grabbed silver from her team-mate Toth (HUN) after a photo finish. **Anastasia Malasenoka** of **Latvia** was only 2sec further back, narrowly missing out on the podium.

It was a European-dominated final, with **Elizaveta Tychkina** of **Russia** finishing 5th and **Nela Szczur** of **Poland** completing the top six.

Zgurova (BUL) had been fastest in the Swimming event, timing 2:14.95 ahead of **Gina Speakman** of **Great Britain** (2:16.49) and **Reka Kozma** (HUN, 2:18.00).

Toth (HUN) was comfortably the quickest around the Laser Run circuit, timing 09:09.90, with Dobronyi (HUN) and Malasenoka (LAT) next-fastest.

Hungary won gold in the team event and they were joined on the podium by Russia (silver) and Poland (bronze).

[Click here to see the full results.](#)

UIPM REACTION

Viacheslav Malishev, UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, said: “It was a great day, like the previous two days. We have witnessed a fantastic competition and this is a historic moment for UIPM with the U19 and U17 World Championships combined.

“Most importantly we see happy young athletes and coaches and a great atmosphere here in Sofia.

“In the remaining four days I hope to see many different countries from different continents enjoying success. Today we saw Great Britain, Mexico and Korea together on the podium, which shows Pentathlon is a worldwide sport with progressive development.”

WATCH AND FOLLOW

The UIPM 2019 Youth World Championships (U19 & U17) in Sofia (BUL) runs from July 18-24 and continues on Sunday, July 21 with the U17 Men’s Final and qualification for the U19 Women’s Final.

Visit the UIPM website or download “UIPM Central” from your app store to keep track of live results throughout the championships.