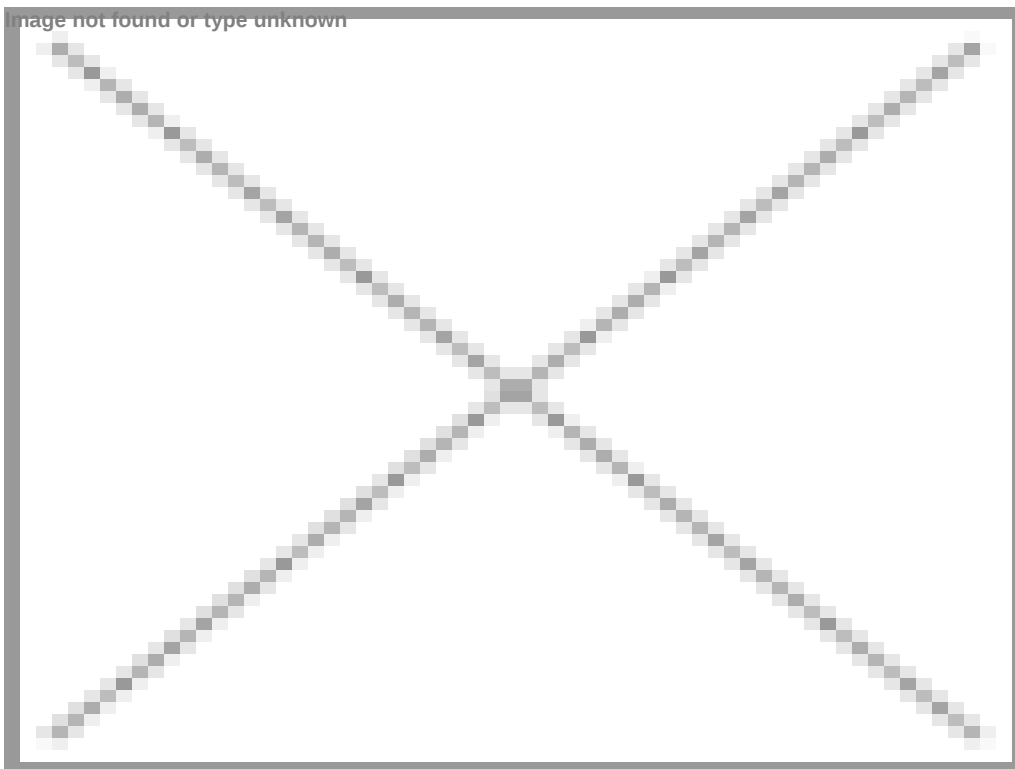


24 MAR 2021

UIPM 2021 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP BUDAPEST: 13-YEAR-OLD OHTA (JPN) IN STUNNING WIN



- Teenager from Olympic Games host nation achieves joint highest qualification score
- Senior debut becomes fairytale on opening day of elite Modern Pentathlon season
- Clouvel (FRA), French (GBR) and Prokopenko (BLR) also among top scorers

A 13-year-old from **Japan** caused a sensation on the opening day of the UIPM Modern Pentathlon season by winning her qualification group and cruising into the Women's Final.

Natsu Ohta (JPN) burst onto the global scene at the UIPM 2019 Youth World Championships when she won gold in the Under 17 Women's Relay alongside her sister Kaede – but this achievement was on another level altogether.

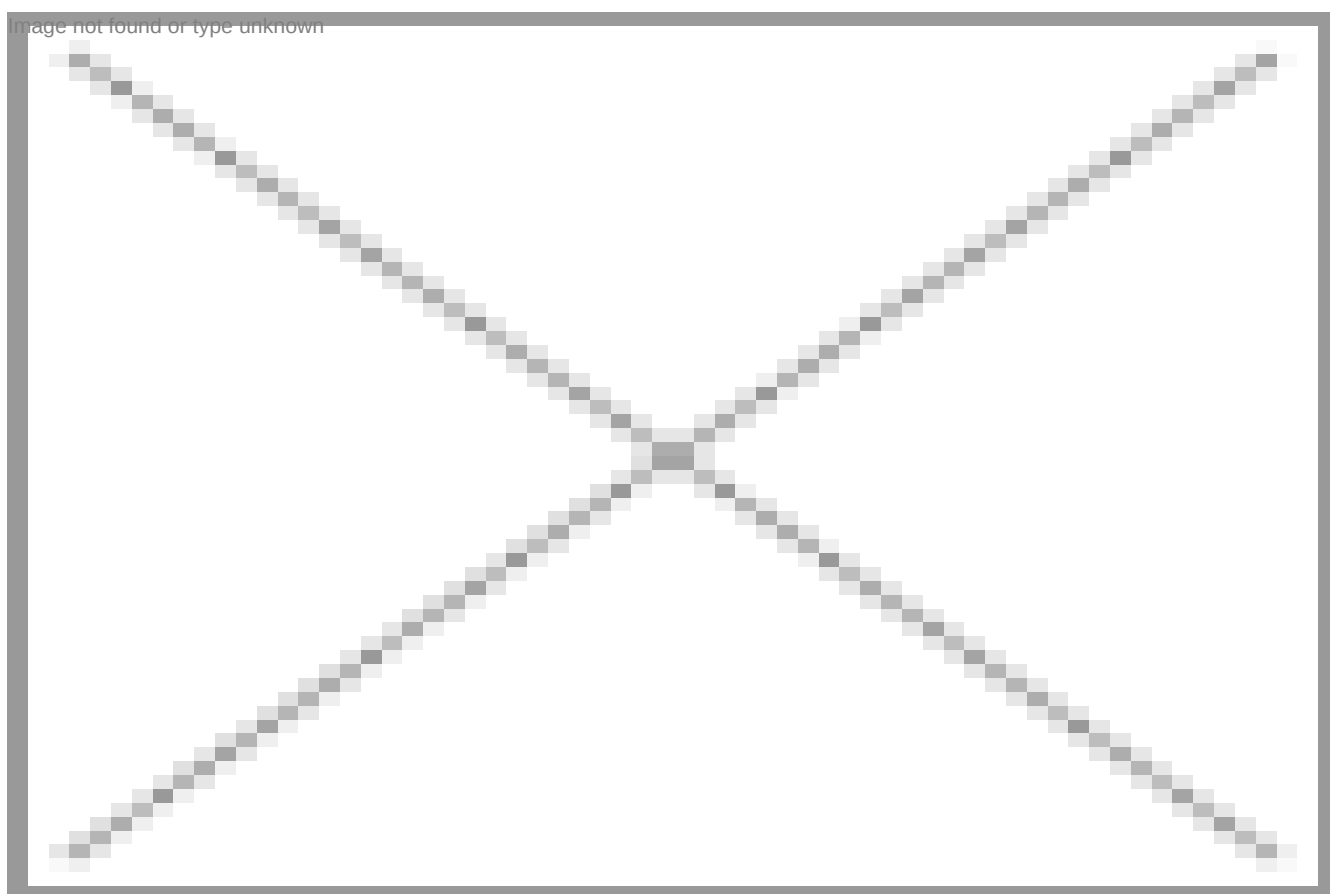
On her senior debut, Ohta (JPN) was competitive in Swimming (2:13.15) and Fencing (12V/14D) – but it was far from guaranteed that she would secure one of the 36 places in the Final from that position.

Surrounded by athletes of the calibre of 2019 world silver medallist **Elena Micheli** of **Italy**, 2017 World Cup Final winner **Tamara Alekszejev** of **Hungary** and Laser Run world record holder **Ilke Ozyuksel** of **Turkey**, the final challenge of the day might have overawed other young athletes.

But not young Natsu.

Far from succumbing to the pressure of her first senior Laser Run, Ohta (JPN) scorched around the course to record the fastest time of her heat (12:07.00) and cross the line first to book her place in Friday's Final. Her total score of 1,059 points – matched only by **Elena Potapenko** of **Kazakhstan** – was the joint-highest of the 80 athletes taking part on the opening day of the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup season.

With Riding added into the mix on Friday and her fellow 35 finalists leaving nothing in the tank, the prodigious youth might find it tough to replicate her success but her remarkable performance today suggests a bright future lies ahead – and there is even a possibility that Ohta (JPN) could qualify to represent the host nation in the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.



Elsewhere, world No.1 and Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist, **Elodie Clouvel** of **France**, was among the pacesetters along with world No.3 **Kate French** of **Great Britain** and 2018 world champion and Beijing 2008 bronze medallist **Anastasiya Prokopenko** of **Belarus**.

Pentathlon World Cup Budapest continues tomorrow (March 25) with qualifying for the Men's Individual Final. The finals take place from March 26-28.

Live stream of the finals is available on UIPM TV and all competition results are available at the UIPM website.

The list of qualified athletes for the Women's Individual Final is:

Rank	Name	Nation	MP Points
1	OHTA Natsu	JPN	1059
2	POTAPENKO Elena	KAZ	1059
3	KHOKHLOVA Iryna	UKR	1056
4	KANDIL Amira	EGY	1055
5	FRENCH Kate	GBR	1055
6	HEREDIA Laura	ESP	1054
7	ALEKSZEJEV Tamara	HUN	1054
8	OTEIZA Marie	FRA	1053
9	ABDELMAKSOUD Salma	EGY	1053
10	PROKOPENKO Anastasiya	BLR	1053
11	COYLE Natalya	IRL	1053
12	OZYUKSEL Ilke	TUR	1052
13	MICHELI Elena	ITA	1052
14	KOVACS Sarolta	HUN	1051
15	VEGA Tamara	MEX	1051
16	JURT Anna	SUI	1051
17	BRASSIL Sive	IRL	1050
18	GUBAYDULLINA Gulnaz	RUS	1050
19	BATASHOVA Uliana	RUS	1050
20	OLIVER Catherine Mayran	MEX	1050
21	DAVIS Jessica	USA	1048
22	HERNÁNDEZ Sophia	GUA	1047
23	VENCKAUSKAITE Gintare	LTU	1044
24	LANGREHR Rebecca	GER	1043
25	RAJNOCH Barbora	CZE	1042
26	SILKINA Volha	BLR	1040
27	SHIMAZU Rena	JPN	1038
28	PRASIANTSOVA Iryna	BLR	1038
29	SUMMERS Francesca	GBR	1038
30	CLOUVEL Elodie	FRA	1038
31	GULYAS Michelle	HUN	1036
32	GUZI Blanka	HUN	1036
33	YAMANAKA Shino	JPN	1035
34	MUIR Joanna	GBR	1034
35	OLIVER Mayan	MEX	1032
36	ARCEO Mariana	MEX	1029