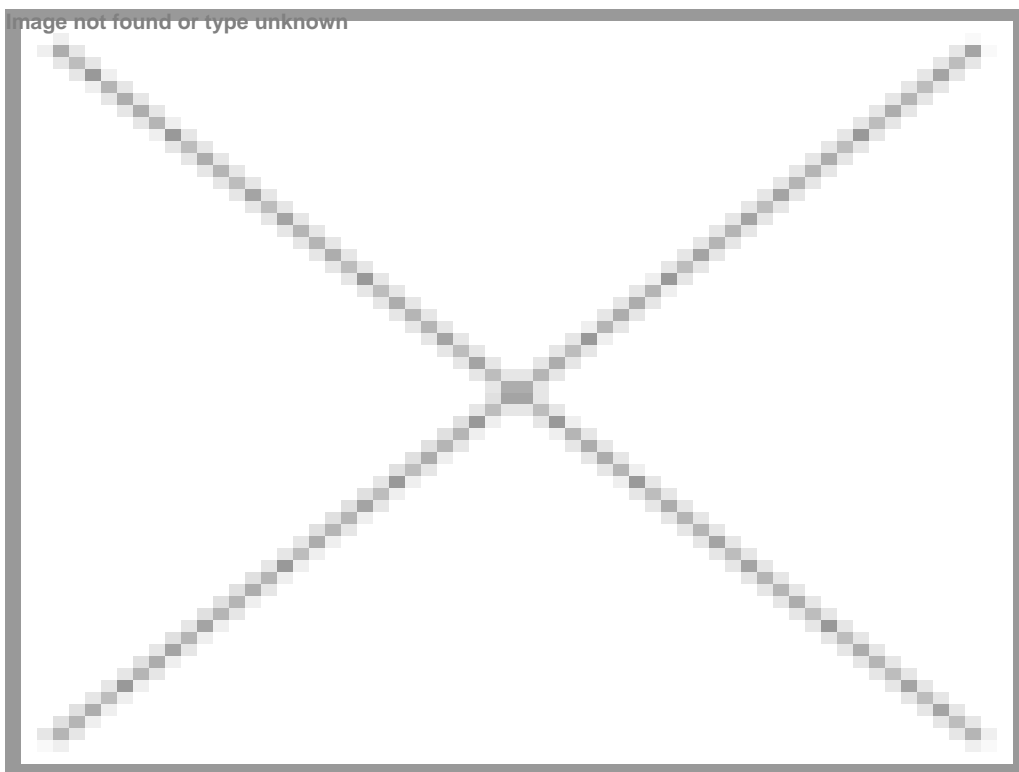


27 FEB 2014

36 WOMEN BOOK THEIR PLACES FOR WORLD CUP #1 FINAL



After having dealt with the sweltering heat at the Unidad Deportivo Acapulco, 36 women emerged from 3 tough qualification on the first day of competition at World Cup #1 to book their places for Friday's Final.

In Group A, the pentathletes got proceedings underway with the swim where a time of 2:16.80 was enough for Russia's **Gulnaz Gubaydullina** to claim 290 points and provisional first place as **Emilija Serapinaite** of Lithuania and Spain **Marta Garcia-Miguel** finished second and third respectively in the first discipline of the day.

In the fence, it came as no surprise to see the talented Belarusian **Katsiaryna Arol** dominate with her 17 victories giving her 250 points. The day in that group however belonged to the German pair of **Annika Schleu** and **Janine Kohlmann** comfortably won the combined. They crossed the finished line holding hands just ahead of Russia's Gubaydullina and **Donata Rimsaite**. Ukraine's **Iryna Khokhlova** finished fifth overall.

Now injury-free and looking in good form, Kohlmann told us, "It felt good, despite the hot and

humid and conditions. I had a good fence and enjoyed the combined". On her prospects for the Final, she added, "Overall I am looking for a repeat performance, maybe a bit more speed in the pool. I am feeling strong and relaxed, and really looking forward to it".

The action in Group B had begun with fencing and it was **Oktawia Nowacka** who was victorious on the pistes as the Polish 23-year-old held off the challenge of Ukraine's 2013 Junior World Championships bronze medallist **Anastasiya Spas** who finished in second. **Ekaterina Khurashkina** of Russia ended the first event of the day in third whilst the home supporters were pleased to see **Tamara Vega** place fourth, just ahead of Canada's **Mathea Stevens**.

A strong swim by Nowacka then ensured she would be in pole for the combined. The fastest in the pool was USA's **Grace Kittle** with a time of 02:10.64, just ahead of Great Britain's London 2012 silver medallist **Samantha Murray**. In the run/shoot, Nowacka conformably held onto to her lead to finish first with Spas and Vega finishing in second and third respectively. Khurashkina was fourth overall with Ukraine's **Ganna Buriak** and European Champion **Zsafia Foldhazi** just behind her.

France's **Elodie Clouvel** was once again dominant in her heat in the pool in Group C to take the lead after the first discipline before her 17 wins with the epee, equal with Italy's **Claudia Cesarini** and Brazil's **Priscilla Oliveira**, gave her a 24-second head to start in the combined. After looking on course to win the Group, a nightmare in the last round of shooting at the range saw her drop to ninth. In the end, Cesarini finished first ahead of a packed group that included Russia's **Olga Karmanchikova**, Germany's **Lena Schoneborn**, **Freyja Prentice** of Great Britain, USA's **Margaux Isaksen** and Brazil's **Yane Marques**.

With so much quality set to feature in Friday's Final, it promises to a real spectacle.

WC1 Women's Group A results - WC1 Women's Group B results - WC1 Women's Group C results

Tomorrow sees over 80 men compete in 3 qualification groups with their Final to be held on Saturday.

Men Qualification schedule (subject to change due to extreme heat)

Group A

- Swimming 10:00
- Fencing 12:30
- Combined 16:00

Group B

- Fencing 09:30
- Swimming 13:30
- Combined 17:15

Group C

- Swimming 11:30
- Fencing 15:30
- Combined 18:30

Keep up to date with all the LIVE results on www.pentathlon.org