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UIPM 2015 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: FRANCESCA SUMMERS IS THE NEW JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION



MEXICO CITY, MEXICO - Francesca Summers has been crowned the Women's Individual Champion at the UIPM 2015 Junior World Championships in Mexico City.

In a dramatic finish of the competition, the British pentathlete came from way down the field going into the final Combined Event to take the gold in front of the Russians Sofia Serkina and Uliana Batashova.

The 2014 Youth Olympic Games silver medalist and new Junior World Champion was delighted with this result. She said: "I'm really happy. So happy that I can't even describe.

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"It was a really close finish. I pushed hard all the day and mostly in this combined event and hopefully worked out."

Talking about the future competitions, Summers said: "In two weeks we will have the Senior European Championships and as the top 8 qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games we will see how that goes. I'm looking forward for it".

As with the Men's Final yesterday, the Russians made a strong start with Anastasia Petrova (RUS) posting a time of 2:16.90 to take first in the pool. Britain's Georgia Pipes (GBR) was second followed by Danni Wei (CHN) in third and Russian Uliana Batashova (RUS) in fourth.

After the Fencing, Russia still led the way although this time it was Sofia Serkina (RUS) taking the top honours to move into first place in the overall classification.

Japan's Ayumu Saito (JPN) was second in the Fencing with Aurora Tognetti (ITA) in third, a placing which took the Italian to second overall followed in third place by Russia's Batashova (RUS).

On to the Riding arena it was Mexico's Martha Derrant (MEX) who took top billing followed by Saito (JPN), Xiuting Zhong (CHN), Alexandra Boros (HUN), Uliana Batashova (RUS) and Ekaterina Vdovenko (RUS), all with clean rides.

Despite these placings, Russia's dominance continued with Batashova (RUS) moving from third to first place overall. Italy's Aurora Tognetti (ITA) was tucked neatly in behind on the same points meaning the duo would start the Combined Event together with a 12 second start over third placed Russian Ekaterina Vdovenko (RUS).

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Sunwoo Kim (KOR) and Pipes (GBR) were fourth and

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fifth at further three second intervals from the third placed Russian.

The Combined Event was especially thrilling for the captivated spectators who couldn't take their eyes off the field of play as the favourites heading into it fell away and Britain's Summers (GBR) stormed the field, coming from the 9th position to take first place on the podium.

With a fantastic combined event, Summers started the last running in the first position just followed by Uliana Batashova and Aurora Tognetti but was a fantastic Sofia Serkina that, coming from the 14th position, overtook Batashova and Tognetti and fought for the first place.

In the last 10 meters Summers and Serkina were side by side but with her last effort, Summers got the Gold medal in front of the Russians Serkina and Batashova with silver and bronze respectively.

In the team event, it was Russia who won the gold. Uliana Batashova, Sofia Serkina and Ekaterina Vdovenko stood on top of the podium alongside silver medallists Great Britain (Georgia Pipes,

Prampolini and Aurora Tognetti).

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After this exciting day of modern pentathlon action, UIPM First Vice-President Ivar Sisniega said: "In my opinion, today was one of the most exciting combined events that I've seen in my history in Modern Pentathlon.

"To have the athletes who started in 9th and 14th place fighting for the gold in the last meters was an incredible ending of a really exciting day.

"We should also send congratulations to Russia, the Russian Modern Pentathlon Federation and the Russian Delegation because of their excellent results yesterday and today. They show that they are working very seriously with the young athletes. Also Great Britain with their usual strong women's competitor and Italy need our special word."

He added: "This for sure underlines the level of our athletes and this competition after this fantastic day".

Follow all the action of this UIPM 2015 Junior World Championships with our live results of the Men's Team Relay Competition tomorrow at www.pentathlon.org, our updates through Facebook at www.facebook.com/modpen and Twitter at https://twitter.com/UIPM_HQ