

UNION INTERNATIONALE DE PENTATHLON MODERNE



JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cairo, 9 July 2008 – After exactly 20 years, the Egyptian Federation of Modern Pentathlon hosts again the Junior World Championships and this come back could have never been better. In fact the first gold medal and first world title go to the local pentathlete Aya Medany. The Egyptian pentathlon star took the lead after the 4th event (riding) scoring a perfect clear round in front of the cheering, ardent crowd of Egyptian spectators and never lost it till the finish line.

Medany adds this win to her impressive achievements during the past 12 months with victories in the 2007 World Cup Final, World Cup #5 in Kladno (CZE), the silver medal at the Budapest 2008 World Championships ranking her in first position on the Pentathlon World Ranking.

The competition began at 7.30 with the shooting inside the beautiful sport complex of the Cairo International Stadium. The event was won by Belarussian Yulia Smirnova with an impressive score of 189 target points followed by the Egyptian Yasmen Khaled with 187, while Barbora Kodedova from Czech Republic was third with 185. Medany shot 180 points that placing her in 8th position.



After the shooting the pentathletes moved to the fencing hall, located inside the same venue. The best fencers were the Hungarians Kristina Cseh and the 2007 Junior World Champion Adrienn Toth who both scored 27 victories corresponding to 1048 pentathlon points; third, with an excellent 976 points was Aya Medany who climbed the rank finishing in third position with 2072 behind Cseh (2180 points) and Toth (2084).

In the swimming pool, a Hungarian, Sarolta Kovacs, again dominated posting the fastest of 2'11"52; second was Ekaterina Lapshova of Russia with 2'14"29 while Joanna Gomolinska from Poland finished third in 2'15"05. Medany was 4th with 9 hundreds of a second slower than Gomolinska, enough to step into second place after three events.

The classification following the riding event did not change significantly, this thanks to both the good performances of the athletes and the high quality horses provided by the Local Organising Committee. At the end 14 athletes had a clear round and scored 1200 points, six more finished with 1176 points, meaning they had only one knock down on the course. A very impressive result! The winner of the event was Marina Shcherbakova of Russia with the time of 1'17"64 and 1200 points, followed by Medany who rode Kantero (1'16"00); in third place another Russian athlete Anastasia Abolonina (1'15"00).



Egyptian with silver and bronze respectively. **Report by:** Stefano Giommoni, Athletes Committee Chair

After four events, Medany took the lead with a remarkable score of 4572, followed by the two Hungarians Cseh (4568) and Kovacs (4520). The gap between the first three athletes and the rest of the field was wide enough: on fourth place was Janine Kohlmann (4420) from Germany, fifth was Anastasia Abolonina (4384) while Adrienn Toth chased in 6th position with 4368.

The 3000 metre run did not alter the start order for the top places resulting in gold for Medany, silver for Cseh and Kovacs on the third step of the podium with bronze. Congratulations to 18 year old Kohlmann from Germany who finished a very close fourth came in fourth. The team competition was won by the amazing Hungarian team, followed by Russia and the home team,