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9 JULY 2019

First medals awarded in sparring events in Taekwondo

NAPOLI, 9 July - On the third day of competitions in taekwondo, the Palazzetto dello Sports arena was full of action and drama from early morning onwards. After the peaceful artistic performances in the past two days that portrayed traditional patterns of taekwondo, overnight the stage was transformed to offer three mats for individual battles.

Men competed in weight categories under 68kg and 80kg while women contested medals in the weight category under 57kg. The team spirit inside the hall was incredibly strong as national delegations supported their teams with passion and heart.

The preliminary and elimination rounds brought up some interesting fights and the highest number of participants were registered in the men's category - 68kg.

The fight between Ukrainian Dmytro Govorun and Italian Simone Crescenzi in the round of 32 was remarkable. Trailing at the beginning, the Italian later pushed his opponent into an additional round. After a decisive strike to the head, Simone then moved one step closer to the finals.

Another spectacular battle was between Roberto Botta and Achraf Mahmoudi in the round of 16, which the Moroccan won in the end, despite the loud vocal home crowd support for Botta.

In the men's -68kg semifinals, Iran's Mirhashem Hosseini had Korea's Kyungdeok Kim down on the floor with some solid attacking. In pain, Kim fought back but Hosseini expanded the gap with precise spinning kicks. He advanced to the finals to face Mohamed Si Ketbi from Belgium.

In the -80kg category semifinals, Egypt's Seif Eissa created an early six-point lead and took the victory over Wei-Ting Liu from Chinese Taipei. He would compete for gold against Minwoo Kang of South Korea.

In the women's -57kg event too, the fights were intense starting from the preliminary rounds. Yujin Kim knocked out athletes from Russia and Iran in her first two matches to meet Patrycja Adamkiewicz from Poland in the semifinals. Thanks to her strong defensive skills, she advanced to the final battle.

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Pressure built up in the afternoon, as the final fights could decide a spot at the Olympic Games 2020.

In the men's -68kg, Mirhashem Hosseini led from the start, with a score of 12-0 soon over Mohamed Ketbi. The Belgian athlete earned his first points only 1.5 minutes before the end of the third round. The Iranian won convincingly, 20-3, and celebrated his victory with his national flag.

Also a winner at Taipei 2017, Hosseini later told FISU, "The level and quality of the competition is very high. I had strong motivation today. My aim is to go to the Olympic Games next year and win a gold medal."

The women's -57kg final was also one sided as after the second round, Yujin Kim was already leading 12-0 over Chinese Taipei's Yu-Chuang Chen. Chen earned her 2 points at the end of the match.

Patrycja Adamkiewicz, who won bronze, commented on her performance. "I am very happy about my bronze medal. Today I fought four fights, but the hardest one was the match for the medal and also the match in the first round against the athlete from Mexico. It took me additional effort to move further in the draw." Patrycja will also compete in the team event which start later this week.

On Wednesday, July 10, women will fight for individual medals in weight categories 46-49kg and 62-67kg. Men will compete in weight category 54-58kg. After the following two days of fights in other weight categories, the competition in taekwondo will conclude on July 13 with team's Kyorugi presented by women and men.

Results

Men -68kg

Gold: Mirhashem Hosseini (Iran)
Silver: Mohamed Ketbi Si (Belgium)
Bronze: Kyungdeok Kim (South Korea)
Bronze: Sergey Vardazaryan (Armenia)

Men -80kg

Gold: Minwoo Kang (South Korea)
Silver: Seif Eissa (Egypt)
Bronze: Wei-Ting Liu (Chinese Taipei)

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Bronze: Denys Voronovskyi (Ukraine)

Women -57kg

Gold: Yujin Kim (South Korea)

Silver: Yu-Chuang Chen (Chinese Taipei)

Bronze: Patrycja Adamkiewicz (Poland)

Bronze: Fernanda Aguirre Ramirez (Chile)

The International University Sports Federation – FISU

Founded in 1949, FISU stands for Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (International University Sports Federation). FISU was formed within university institutions in

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order to promote sports values and sports practice in harmony with the university spirit. Promoting sports values means encouraging friendship, fraternity, fair-play, perseverance, integrity and cooperation amongst students, who one day may have responsibilities and key positions in politics, economy, culture and industry.

With FISU's motto being 'Today's Stars, Tomorrow's Leaders', all FISU events include educational and cultural aspects, bringing together sport and academia from all over the world to celebrate with a spirit of friendship and sportsmanship. FISU cooperates in developing its events and programmes with all major international sports and educational organisations. As major outcomes of those collaborations, in 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) proclaimed the International Day of University Sport to be celebrated annually on 20 September – an event that has seen huge growth in its first few years.

FISU is composed of 174 Member Associations (National University Sports Federations). The FISU General Assembly elects the members of the FISU Executive Committee, its board of directors. A total of 14 permanent committees advise the Executive Committee in their specialised areas. For the daily administration of FISU, the FISU Executive Committee relies on the Secretary General, who is assisted by the FISU staff. FISU's headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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