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South Korea takes more taekwondo gold as Iran also notch another win

Su triumphs for Chinese Taipei to give the delegation their first taekwondo gold of the games

Napoli, July 12 - Park Inho upset Kazakhstan's Smayl Duisabay, the number-one seed in the men's under-87 kg category, as South Korea grabbed their seventh Taekwondo gold medal at the Napoli 2019 Summer Universiade on Friday.

Park Inho took the first two points in a cagey opening round to the gold-medal bout. Duisabay was more aggressive in the second round and came close with some spectacular back-kick attempts before levelling the score from close range. The fighters exchanged point-scoring punches to keep it tight.

The Korean landed two punches early in the closing round and showed skill and composure as Duisabay battled furiously to land a head shot in the closing seconds to win 7-4.

Defeated semi-finalists Andres Beceiro Pizarro Suarez of Mexico and Russia's Rafael Kamalov both took bronze.

Iran also continued their strong showing, with Soroush Ahmadi claiming their fourth gold in Taekwondo, although Niyaz Pulatov of Uzbekistan made him work very hard for it in the men's under-63 kg division. Defense dominated in the first round, which ended 0-0.

Ahmadi, ranked fourth in the world, went ahead in the second with a big turn kick to the head, but Pulatov weathered the storm and pulled the score back to 3-2. The Iranian came forward again in the final round and was 0-5 up thanks to a turning kick and some fine punches.

But Pulatov then produced a splendid spinning kick to the trunk to level the score at 10-10 and force a golden round. Ahmadi was not to be denied though and kicked his way to gold within seconds in the deciding period.

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China's Wu Yichao and France's Dylan Chellamootoo were the bronze medallists.

Su Po-Ya gave Chinese Taipei their first taekwondo gold of the games with victory over South Korea's Ha Minah in the women's under-53 kg category. Things were tight until the final round in this clash too. But Su was rewarded for her aggressive approach and pulled away to win 10-4.

The bronze medals went to Latvian Inese Tarvida and Patimat Abakarova of Azerbaijan.

The Taekwondo tournament at the Universiade concludes with Saturday's team competition.

– ANSA --

The International University Sports Federation – FISU

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