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UIPM 2018 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: CZECH DUO STRIKE GOLD IN MEN’S RELAY

There was jubilation for the home nation on day two of the UIPM 2018 Junior World Championships as **Czech Republic** denied **Korea** the chance to retain their Men’s Relay title.

So Hyunseok and **Seo Changwan** proved to be every bit as strong as last year and went into the decisive Laser-Run in the lead on behalf of **Korea** . But they were denied by an exceptional performance from **Marek Grycz** and **Martin Vlach**, who surged past them to win by 7secs and earn the right to stand on top of the podium and hear the **Czech Republic** national anthem.

Behind the top two, **Italy** picked up a second bronze medal in consecutive days thanks to a solid performance by **Matteo Cicinelli** and **Giorgio Malan**.

Poland (**Lukasz Gutkowski** / **Daniel Lawrynowicz**) finished just off the podium in 4th, once place ahead of **Great Britain** (**Myles Pillage** / **Luke Sutton**), while there was another sign of progress from **China** (**Liu Xinglong** / **Zhao Zhonghao**), who completed the top six.

Vlach (CZE) said: “It’s amazing. After Riding I was worried that we couldn’t make it for the gold, but we did.

“At the beginning I felt quite angry, because my second shoot was very bad. I was looking all the time at my colleague from Korea. But in the end I just did my best.

“The beginning of my Fencing today was quite good so I hope in the individual it will be the same.”

So (KOR) said: “Generally it was OK, although the final event and especially shooting was difficult for me. But the Czechs did really well. I will do my best in the individual competition.

“We are training together with the senior guys in Korea, but they are in another league. We respect them and we want to be like them.”

Malan (ITA) said: “It was a good day. Other countries were very strong in the Laser-Run and we both made a mistake in the shooting, and that’s why we didn’t win, but 3rd place is very good.”

Swimming

Great Britain (Pillage/Sutton) gave themselves a good lead with their speed in the pool. Their time of 1:47.48 was more than 3sec faster than second-placed **Italy** (Cicinelli/Malan, 1:50.78) with **Argentina** (**Alexis Corradini Martinez** / **Vicente Lima**) ranking 3rd in 1:51.84.

Fencing

The action on the piste was a wonderful spectacle for local supporters as **Czech Republic** (Grycz/Vlach) topped the standings with an excellent 21V/11D and two extra points in the Bonus Round.

Once again **Italy** (Cicinelli/Malan) were not far behind the leaders as they matched **Korea** (So/Seo) on 21V/13D.

Riding

Korea (So/Seo) put themselves in pole position overall as they emerged with a clear round. Only two other nations managed a perfect score of 300: **Poland** (Gutkowski/Lawrynowicz) and **Russia** (**Ivan Tarasov** / **Pavel Babanin**).

Great Britain (Pillage/Sutton) came back into contention with 295 points, but **Italy** (Cicinelli/Malan) lost ground after two errors, conceding 14 points.

Laser-Run

Czech Republic (Grycz/Vlach) started in 3rd place, 6secs behind **Italy** (Cicinelli/Malan) and 12secs behind leaders **Korea** (So/Seo).

Ten minutes later, the margin between the top two remained largely unchanged but the complexion of the competition was transformed by the local favourites, who completed the course in a highly impressive 10:27.99 to claim gold by a significant margin.

Czech Republic (Grycz/Vlach) proved untouchable but there were also good performances by **Hungary** (**Andras Gal** / **Barnabas Burcsik**, 10:33.60) and **Poland** (Gutkowski/Lawrynowicz, 10:38.16).

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Again the hot conditions were not easy for the athletes but it was impressive to see how strong they were in the Laser-Run at the end of the competition.

“As with yesterday with the Women’s Relay we had an exciting competition and the host country winning the gold medal is something very special, and a special gift the athletes have given to their federation and the organisers.

“To also have Korea in 2nd place, again representing Asia on the podium, and Italy on the other side shows it was another strong competition.”

The championships continue on August 2 and 3 with individual qualifying ahead of the Women’s Individual Final on August 4 and Men’s Individual Final on August 5. The Mixed Relay closes the championships on August 6.

All results are available at the UIPM website and updates will be published on UIPM’s Twitter and Facebook pages.

Rank	Team	Nation	MP Points
1	GRYCZ Marek VLACH Martin	CZE	1525
2	SEO Changwan SO Hyunseok	KOR	1518
3	MALAN Giorgio CICINELLI Matteo	ITA	1510
4	GUTKOWSKI Lukasz LAWRYNOWICZ Daniel	POL	1492
5	PILLAGE Myles SUTTON Bradley	GBR	1468
6	LIU Xinglong ZHAO Zhonghao	CHN	1463
7	TARASOV Ivan BABANIN Pavel	RUS	1450
8	BURCSIK Barnabas GAAL Andras	HUN	1448
9	CORRADINI MARTINEZ Alexis LIMA Vicente	ARG	1401
10	KHAMTSOU Ivan HARNASTAEU Mikita	BLR	1389
11	KHRIPCHENKO Radion MIAGKIKH Ilia	KGZ	1386
12	MOURCIA Jean Baptiste GREZANLE Valentin	FRA	1383
13	SANTIS Alejandro PICON Wilhelm	GUA	1343
14	KACHURA Konstantin MALAKHOV Yevgeniy	KAZ	1329
15	BODEMER Kyle MILLETT Seamus	USA	1212
16	WEN-HSIEN Su YI Hu	TPE	1055
17	SHABAN Mohanad SEWILAM Alyeldin	EGY	916