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UIPM 2024 PENTATHLON U17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: KHALIL (EGY) AND GNEDTCHIK (AIN) SAVOUR INDIVIDUAL GLORY



The individual finals at the UIPM 2024 Pentathlon U17 World Championships in Caldas da Rainha (POR) provided a stunning glimpse of tomorrow's world as two pentathletes aged 13 and 15 won the gold medals by staggering margins.

Aged 13 years and seven months, **Farida Khalil** of **Egypt** is now a two-time champion at this level having already secured the U17 crown in 2023 – aged 12.

Khalil (EGY) won by a clear margin in Caldas da Rainha (POR), finishing 20sec ahead of silver medallist **Diana Rajncsak** of **Hungary** in the Women's Final, as **Charlotte Keister** of **Germany** pipped **Lily Farag** (EGY) for bronze. None of the top four athletes has yet turned 16.

The Men's Final was similarly dominated by **Akim Gnedtchik** (AIN), another 15-year-old who

seems to have the world at his feet as Modern Pentathlon enters the Obstacle era. Gnedtchik, younger brother to senior world No.6 Mariya Gnedtchik, turns 16 only next week but he was 19 points too good for the competition in Portugal.

Omar Abdelkader (EGY) added a second individual medal for the North African powerhouse as he held on to the silver medal under pressure from bronze medallist **Maksym Kovalchuk** of **Ukraine** and **Nemere Szecsi** (HUN), who missed out by 1sec.

Both Team gold medals were won by Egypt, with Hungary and **Poland** winning silver and bronze on the women's side and Ukraine and **Italy** respectively doing likewise in the men's event.

Champions' reaction

Women's gold medallist Khalil (EGY) said: "I am very, very happy that I got the gold medal, because I worked a lot for this moment. I found it a very tough competition, but I worked so hard to get this medal and these good scores.

"My target is a gold medal at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028."

Men's champion Gnedtchik (AIN) said: "I am very happy. My Fencing was very good, and every other discipline was so-so. In the Laser Run I had a big advantage over 2nd place.

"My target is gold in the LA28 Olympics. I would like to say hello to my sister Mariya, who is a very good pentathlete, and I am thankful to my coaches and my mother. We are a team."



Women's Final

The greatest threat to Khalil (EGY) was expected to be her team-mate **Ritage Ramadan**, who had upstaged the champion in the Fencing Ranking Round with 28 wins to her rival's 27.

But Ramadan (EGY) made a decisive error in the Obstacle discipline, failing to obey the instructions of a technical official and suffering elimination. She was the only athlete eliminated out of 36 in the round, as Keister (GER) set the standard with an impressive 26.88sec, closely followed by **Sara Beggio** (ITA) on 27.78. Khalil (EGY) showed her all-round mastery by also completing the course in less than 30sec.

There were six wins in the Fencing Bonus Round for **Wakana Uchiyama** of **Japan** and five for **Juliette Barnades** of **France**, and while Khalil (EGY) lost the final bout to Ramadan (EGY), she rebounded in Swimming with the second-fastest time of the day – 2min 15.16sec. Only Uchiyama (JPN) went faster than that, delivering an outstanding 2min 12.13.

Into the Laser Run and Khalil (EGY) proved well able to protect what looked like an unassailable lead, finally retaining her title by a 20sec margin as team-mates Farag (EGY) and **Alia Enayet** (EGY) joined her in the top six. The day's best Laser Run time was recorded by **Andrea Flores** of **Mexico**, whose 9:11.64 eclipsed the 9:11.99 of **Annachiara Allara** (ITA) by a tiny margin.



Men's Final

Unlike Khalil (EGY), Gnedtchik (AIN) had nobody for company at the top of the Fencing leaderboard, and he added the maximum four points to his overnight score of 270 as **Yerafeyeu Yahor** (AIN) upped his tally by 10 points with five Bonus Round touches and **Prakopchyk Tsimafei** (AIN) won four.

Gnedtchik (AIN) made the top five in Obstacle, in a cluster of athletes around the 25sec mark, but there was no doubting the dominant racer. **Lukas Lagunavicius** of **Lithuania** blew away the competition with a blistering time of 21.13.

Tsimafei (AIN) stood out in Swimming, timing 2:02.84 ahead of **Tomas Grigorov** of **Bulgaria** and **Maksymilian Dobosz** (POL), but nobody was able to make a gain on the leader as **Muhammet Emir Kurtulan** of **Türkiye** started Laser Run in 2nd place, 25sec off the pace.

As Gnedtchik (AIN) completed the victory procession, Kovalchuk (UKR) refused to give up his starting position of 3rd but the big move came from Abdelkader (EGY), who vaulted from 8th to 2nd to claim silver. But even that wasn't the best Laser Run of the day – that honour went to **Aly Aboelfetouh** (EGY), who shot round the course in 8:06.22.



Follow the action

The UIPM 2024 Pentathlon U17 World Championships concludes tomorrow (Sunday 15 September) with the Mixed Relay.

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Rank	Name	Nation	Points
1	KHALIL Farida	EGY	1391
2	RAJNCSAK Diana	HUN	1371
3	KEISTER Charlotte	GER	1366
4	FARAG Lilly	EGY	1364
5	ALLARA Annachiara	ITA	1350
6	ENAYET Alia	EGY	1349
7	ABZALOVA Samira	UZB	1346
8	KESEBIR Tulya	TUR	1344
9	HERBAK Hanna	HUN	1339
10	TURBUCZ Ivola	HUN	1332
11	NACHEVA Antoniya	BUL	1328
12	DUDKA Anna	UKR	1320
13	JAKUBOWSKA Hanna	POL	1319
14	SZONDELMAJER Maja	POL	1318
15	UCHIYAMA Wakana	JPN	1315
16	HASSELL Daisy	GBR	1310
17	TSELIAPNIOVA Yanina	AIN	1307
18	REZNIK Elizaveta	UKR	1306
19	LEE Hoyeon	KOR	1304
20	TAJTA Sara	HUN	1301
21	THOMATOS Tatiana	RSA	1300
22	BABICH Anna	UKR	1295
23	BARNADES Juliette	FRA	1294
24	GRADON Zuzanna	POL	1287
25	BLOCK Jennifer	GER	1281
26	FLORES Andrea Nahomi	MEX	1280

Rank	Name	Nation	Points
1	GNEDTCHIK Akim	AIN	1499
2	ABDELKADER Omar	EGY	1480
3	KOVALCHUK Maksym	UKR	1477
4	SZEC SI Nemere	HUN	1476
5	VALEIKA Liutauras	LTU	1469
6	ABDELHAMED Ahmed	EGY	1469
7	CAWLEY Reuben	GBR	1464
8	DOBOSZ Maksymilian	POL	1456
9	ABOELFETOUH Aly	EGY	1452
10	LAGUNAVICIUS Lukas	LTU	1452
11	CHERNYSHEV Roman	UKR	1449
12	KURTULAN Muhammet Emir	TUR	1448
13	YAHOR Yerafeyeu	AIN	1446
14	VISCO Federico	ITA	1442
15	GROVE Daniel	RSA	1440
16	BOERO Alessandro	ITA	1438
17	BIS Piotr	POL	1437
18	RADWAN Sany	EGY	1433
19	PARK Inchan	KOR	1420
20	CHERNYSHEV Oleksandr	UKR	1415
21	TAKANO Yusei	JPN	1414
22	KIM Min-hyeok	KOR	1410
23	GRIGOROV Tomas	BUL	1408
24	HRYN Maksym	UKR	1408
25	CARINGI Umberto	ITA	1408
26	KALUHIN Aliaksandr	AIN	1401