



UIPM
Pentathlon
World Cup
CAIRO, EGYPT

AN EXCEPTIONAL FIRST LEG OF THE UIPM WORLD CUP SERIES 2018 IN CAIRO

By Menna Loutfy

THIS YEAR PLATINUM CLUB NEW CAIRO HOSTED THE OPENING EVENT OF THE UNION INTERNATIONALE DE PENTATHLON MODERNE (UIPM) SEASON. SWIMMING, FENCING, SHOWJUMPING, LASER SHOOTING, AND RUNNING ACTION-PACKED COMPETITIONS CONTINUED FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE DAYS. WITH WORLD-CLASS ATHLETES COMPETING IN ADDITION TO A BRILLIANT ORGANIZATION, IT WAS DEFINITELY UNMISSABLE!





A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY

Modern pentathlon was created by the founder of the modern Olympic Games: Baron Pierre de Coubertin. He created the event to simulate the experience of a 19th-century cavalry soldier who has to return from behind enemy lines, running, swimming, shooting and sword fighting all the way. The sport involves a variety of elements, such as agility, speed, coordination, self-discipline, and overall physical fitness.

Someone who is an excellent swimmer might not excel at fencing. The fastest runner may not be the best shot. Those who are great at riding could easily struggle with one of the other four facets of the face-off.

ORGANIZING THE WORLD CUP SEASON'S OPENING IN CAIRO

Egypt was chosen to host the opening leg of this season that was held from February 28th until March 4th in cooperation with The Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports, in addition to The International Modern Pentathlon Federation.

"Our mission is to showcase the beauty and intensity of the sport through an exciting, international, elite-level event; organized on the majestic land of Cairo."

THE COMPETITIONS

The first two days of competition were the qualification rounds and afterwards the final rounds started with a very close competition that left the audiences on the edge of their seats.

The Rio 2016 Olympic silver medalist Elodie Clouvel (FRA) opened the 2018 season with a great victory in the Women's Individual Final with Tamara Alekszejev (HUN) coming in second place and following these was an outstanding performance by Ilke Ozyuksel (TUR) who came all the way from 14th place to claim the bronze.





Ahmed Sabbour, Hesham Hattab and Sharif El-Erian

FRANCE GOES ALL THE WAY UP!

France continued its road to the podium as the French Pentathletes also won gold and silver in the thrilling Men's Individual Final. Christopher Patte claimed the gold, followed closely by his team mate Valentin Belaud, and Pavel Ilyashenko (KAZ) took home the bronze.

"That was my best competition today so I'm very happy. It's my first competition coming back after one year. Training began in September and I am very ready." Patte said.

ITALY WINS THE MIXED RELAY

Italy denied France a clean sweep of all competitions at UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo as Gloria Tocchi and Gianluca Micozzi clinched the gold in the Mixed Relay. After fierce competition France's Elodie Clouvel and Valentin Belaud came in second place, followed by Elena Potapenko and Vladislav Sukharev from Kazakhstan.

AN AMAZING OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Most of the attendees said they enjoyed their time during the World Cup with the beautiful venue at Platinum Club where the world-class fencing halls, swimming pool, laser run and riding arena were closely located to each other and that made everything easier. They also had positive feedback about the organization of the event and even the entertainment planned throughout the five days.

Great credit must be given to the teams who worked hard to make such success become tangible. These organizers include The Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation with its president Engineer Sharif EL Erian, the UIPM and its president Dr. H.C. Klaus Schormann, The Egyptian National Olympic Committee represented by Engineer Hesham Hattab, The Egyptian Ministry of Youth & Sports represented by Minister Khalid Abd EL Aziz and, of course, Platinum Club which opened its doors to the event under close supervision by its owner Engineer Hussein Sabbour. 🏆

All photos by Ehab Eld