19 November 2017

The Hague Grand Prix 2017, Netherlands – DAY THREE

COMEBACK COMPLETE FOR TABLE-TOPPING NETHERLANDS

The final day of The Hague Grand Prix 2017 belonged to the Netherlands who won three out of the five heavyweight gold medals on day three to end their comeback competition on the IJF World Judo Tour as the leading nation.

The Netherlands were hosting their first IJF World Judo Tour competition since 2011 and not only did their athletes rise to the occasion but their fans were in full voice and played their part in a highly-successful return for one of judo’s most admired countries.

FIRST GRAND PRIX IN THE HAGUE EARNS HIGH PRAISE

In the final Grand Prix of the year and the first edition in The Hague – which saw the hosts finish top of the table with five gold, two silver and five bronze medals – there were joyous scenes among the spectators who turned out in great numbers to witness a the start of a new chapter for the Dutch Judo Federation.

Dr. Lisa ALLAN, IJF Competition Manager and Executive Committee member, praised the organisation and thinks the competition will be even better next year.

“For a first edition it has been an excellent Grand Prix and already the event has proven to be a very popular addition to the IJF World Judo Tour calendar.

“The IJF and Dutch Judo Federation has established a very strong partnership to deliver this new Grand Prix and both sides are very happy. The hosts had a great strategy to attract spectators and the atmosphere has been electric.”

Mr. Wouter KOEMAN, Dutch Judo Federation Event Manager, said: “We are very pleased with how the competition has gone. This was our comeback event and this edition is a really good benchmark for us. We spoke to all the nations and the feedback has been very positive ands we expect a lot more entries and more nations next year when the competition is part of the qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.”

**Women
-78kg: First Grand Prix win for former world number one** **STEENHUIS**Five-time Grand Slam winner Guusje STEENHUIS (NED) became a Grand Prix winner for the first time on Sunday as the former world leader defeated Abu Dhabi Grand Slam silver medallist Marhinde VERKERK (NED) in all-Dutch final. STEENHUIS was overlooked for Rio 2016 in favour of VERKERK and it’s only now that the former appears to have banished that from her mind and has regained her focus with Tokyo 2020 and the World Championships 2018 in mind. There was nothing to separate the arch-rivals in regulation time and golden score was required. A shido for dropping against VERKERK settled the final as both judoka will continue to have a large role to play in the -78kg category next year.

In the first semi-final STEENHUIS (NED) defeated compatriot Hohhot Grand Prix silver medallist Karen STEVENSON (NED). STEENHUIS threw with an o-guruma for a waza-ari score and went back to the same technique for a second waza-ari moments later. STEVENSON elected to immediately tap out to the hold down from STEENHUIS who advanced to the gold medal contest.

In the second semi-final VERKERK beat 17-time Grand Prix medallist Luise MALZAHN after four minutes of golden score. A shido against the German for dropping was the difference as the hosts’ dream final came to fruition.

The first bronze medal contest was won by MALZAHN who threw Tashkent Grand Prix bronze medallist Anastasiya DMITRIEVA (RUS) and then held down the Russian for ippon. MALZAHN now has more Grand Prix medals than any judoka after this result in The Hague which provided her 18th medal at this level which is more one than GALBADRAKH of Kazakhstan has on her resume. The German judoka scored a waza-ari with an osoto-gari and was never going to lose control of a strong pin as DMITRIEVA was well-beaten.

The second bronze medal was won by STEVENSON who submitted 21-year-old European u23 Championships winner Anna Maria WAGNER (GER) with a koshi-jime.

**Final**VERKERK, Marhinde (NED) vs STEENHUIS, Guusje (NED)

**Bronze Medal Fights**MALZAHN, Luise (GER) vs DMITRIEVA, Anastasiya (RUS)
WAGNER, Anna Maria (GER) vs STEVENSON, Karen (NED)

**Final Results**

1. STEENHUIS, Guusje (NED)
2. VERKERK, Marhinde (NED)
3. MALZAHN, Luise (GER)
3. STEVENSON, Karen (NED)
5. DMITRIEVA, Anastasiya (RUS)
5. WAGNER, Anna Maria (GER)
7. GROENWOLD, Larissa (NED)
7. TURCHYN, Anastasiya (UKR)

**+78kg: World number three** **SAVELKOULS moves the Netherlands out of sight**Abu Dhabi Grand Slam winner Tessie SAVELKOULS (NED) lived up to her billing as the top seed by defeating former Baku Grand Slam bronze medallist Sandra JABLONSKYTE (LTU) to win +78kg gold. SAVELKOULS, who finished fifth at the Openweight World Championships last time out, came into the final with a 2-1 winning head-to-head record against JABLONSKYTE and extended that with a defiant display which has become typical of the fast-rising Dutchwoman. SAVELKOULS went ahead with a waza-ari score and applied a kami-shiho-gatame hold for the full 20 seconds to win by ippon andthrill the home crowd who were treated to a golden medal rush.

In the first semi-final SAVELKOULS made light work of world number 47 Kristin BUESSOW (GER) as she scored two waza-ari before winning by ippon.

In the second semi-final Tashkent Grand Prix bronze medallist Sarah ADLINGTON (GBR) lost out to JABLONSKYTE (LTU) by a waza-ari score.

The first bronze medal was awarded to world number 24 ADLINGTON after former Tashkent Grand Prix bronze medallist Daria KARPOVA (RUS) was penalised with a third shido for passivity. Scottish judoka ADLINGTON is now in the hunt for a place at the World Judo Masters in December which features the top 16 judoka in the world in each weight category.

The second bronze medal was won by BUESSOW against teammate 18-year-old Grand Prix newcomer Samira BOUIZGARNE (GER) who was thrown with a harai-makikomi for the maximum score.

**Final**JABLONSKYTE, Sandra (LTU) vs SAVELKOULS, Tessie (NED)

**Bronze Medal Fights**ADLINGTON, Sarah (GBR) vs KARPOVA, Daria (RUS)
BOUIZGARNE, Samira (GER) vs BUESSOW, Kristin (GER)

**Final Results**

1. SAVELKOULS, Tessie (NED)
2. JABLONSKYTE, Sandra (LTU)
3. ADLINGTON, Sarah (GBR)
3. BUESSOW, Kristin (GER)
5. KARPOVA, Daria (RUS)
5. BOUIZGARNE, Samira (GER)
7. KHOMYN, Aleksandra (RUS)
7.

**MEN
-90kg: World number one KUKOLJ back to form with maiden Grand Prix gold medal**World number one and European champion Aleksandar KUKOLJ (SRB) was back among the medallists for the first time since June as he went unbeaten to win the -90kg title which represented his first Grand Prix win. KUKOLJ came into the arena and touched the mat as he visualised victory before exiting an hour before the final block. The Serbian went in front against Magomed MAGOMEDOV (RUS) with a ko-uchi-gari with 30 seconds left on the clock and had no trouble staying busy to see out the remaining seconds. The 26-year-old tightened his grip of the world number one position ahead of his teammate and world champion Nemanja MAJDOV (SRB) and will be in line for the $50,000 bonus which will go to all world leaders at the end of the year.

In the first semi-final KUKOLJ tapped out European u23 Championships bronze medallist Rafal KOZLOWSKI (POL) with a juji-gatame to guarantee an overdue and very welcome return to the medal podium for the Serbian star.

In the second semi-final Junior European Championships bronze medallist Jesper SMINK (NED) succumb to MAGOMEDOV who prevailed by two waza-ari scores which went unanswered.

The first bronze medal was won by SMINK as the 19-year-old Dutchman beat Junior World Championships bronze medallist Eduard TRIPPEL (GER). SMINK opened the final block in style for the hosts as he caught TIPPEL first with an osoto-makikomi for a waza-ari and then with a ko-uchi-gari for ippon. The German 20-year-old never established his rhythm and had to settle for fifth-place as he did at his home Grand Prix in Dusseldorf in February.

The second bronze medal went to world number 265 KOZLOWSKI who defeated Abu Dhabi Grand Slam winner Nikoloz SHERAZADISHVILI (ESP). The 22-year-old Grand Prix rookie from Poland was the only judoka to score and that was in the form of a waza-ari from a driving ippon-seoi-nage.

**Final**MAGOMEDOV, Magomed (RUS) vs KUKOLJ, Aleksandar (SRB)

**Bronze Medal Fights**SMINK, Jesper (NED) vs TRIPPEL, Eduard (GER)
SHERAZADISHVILI, Nikoloz (ESP) vs KOZLOWSKI, Rafal (POL)

**Final Results**

1. KUKOLJ, Aleksandar (SRB)
2. MAGOMEDOV, Magomed (RUS)
3. SMINK, Jesper (NED)
3. KOZLOWSKI, Rafal (POL)
5. TRIPPEL, Eduard (GER)
5. SHERAZADISHVILI, Nikoloz (ESP)
7. VAN EMPELEN, Bas (NED)
7. ERDENEKHUU, Munkhjargal (MGL)

**-100kg: Russia’s ZANKISHIEV breaks into the world’s top eight**World number eight Kazbek ZANKISHIEV (RUS) became a two-time Grand Prix winner on the last day of The Hague Grand Prix as he saw off surprise finalist Hohhot Grand Prix bronze medallist Joakim DVARBY (SWE). The Russian is a notorious slow starter and both his scores in the final came in the last 45 seconds as DVARBY more than held his own up to that point. An osoto-gari started the scoring and was worth a waza-ari before a sode-tsurikomi-goshi added a second waza-ari and ZANKISHIEV was awarded the win after four minutes.

In the first semi-final world number one Michael KORREL (NED) was shocked by DVARBY who countered the Dutchman with a ko-soto-gake for ippon with 42 seconds left. KORREL had been in the charge of the contest and piled on the pressure, with DVARBY having two shidos, but the Swede took his chance to deliver one of the biggest upsets on day three.

In the second semi-final ZANKISHIEV (RUS) drove past 19-year-old Grand Prix debutant Jelle SNIPPE (NED) by ippon from an emphatic osoto-gari after two minutes.

The first bronze medal was won by SNIPPE who beat former world bronze medallist Ivan REMARENCO (UAE) to mark his IJF World Judo Tour debut with a place on the medal podium. The Dutchman rolled over REMARENCO for a waza-ari and immediately applied a tate-shiho-gatame hold from which the U.A.E veteran tapped out.

The second bronze medal went to KORREL who was patient against 23-year-old Ferdinand ANSAH (NED) to take a scoreless contest. KORREL was too patient it proved as he was surprisingly forced into golden score but ANSAH picked up a third shido after 41 seconds for passivity to send the world number one onto the podium in his homeland.

**Final**ZANKISHIEV, Kazbek (RUS) vs DVARBY, Joakim (SWE)

**Bronze Medal Fights**SNIPPE, Jelle (NED) vs REMARENCO, Ivan (UAE)
ANSAH, Ferdinand (NED) vs KORREL, Michael (NED)

**Final Results**

1. ZANKISHIEV, Kazbek (RUS)
2. DVARBY, Joakim (SWE)
3. SNIPPE, Jelle (NED)
3. KORREL, Michael (NED)
5. REMARENCO, Ivan (UAE)
5. ANSAH, Ferdinand (NED)
7. DICHEV, Daniel (BUL)
7. SCHOENEFELDT, Domenik (GER)

**+100kg: The people’s champion Roy MEYER ends The Hague Grand Prix on a high**The Netherlands’ charismatic heavyweight Roy MEYER (NED) was the main man for the hosts as he turned in the best result from their men’s team. The 26-year-old World Judo Masters bronze medallist showed his power and his personality as he beat Abu Dhabi Grand Slam silver medallist Maciej SARNACKI (POL) in the last contest of The Hague Grand Prix 2017. MEYER went underneath for a seoi-nage but SARNACKI rotated off the attack in a signal of intent from the Dutchman before being caught with a ko-uchi-gari for a waza-ari score. In a tough match both judoka had two shidos next to their names in the closing moments as MEYER lived dangerously despite his lead but was able to stay active to see the Netherlands home with a fifth gold medal. MEYER and SARNACKI put their arms around each other and turned to the fans in a showing of mutual respect and appreciation for the supporters.

In the first semi-final SARNACKI saw off three-time Grand Prix medallist Daniel ALLERSTORFER (AUT) by a waza-ari which score which came from a polished sasae-tsurikomi-ashi technique.

In the second semi-final MEYER held down Antalya Grand Prix bronze medallist Musa TUMENOV (RUS) for ippon to make sure that he would be on the medal podium at home. MEYER failed with a drop seoi-nage but cleverly turned over his opponent and overpowered him for 20 seconds to ignite the crowd.

The first bronze medal was won by two-time Grand Prix medallist Soslan BOSTANOV (RUS) who took over his countryman with ashi-waza and held him down for 20 seconds for ippon. A third Grand Prix medal for BOSTANOV kept Russia’s medal column ticking over and all but assured the 34-year-old veteran more run outs in 2018.

The second bronze medal went to former Moscow Grand Slam winner Javad MAHJOUB (IRI) who racked up three scores against ALLERSTORFER on his heavyweight debut. MAHJOUB looks a new man at the heavier weight and came in at 117kg which suited him as he threw the heavier man twice with a seoi-nage for waza-ari scores having already led by one waza-ari.

**Final**MEYER, Roy (NED) vs SARNACKI, Maciej (POL)

**Bronze Medal Fights**TUMENOV, Musa (RUS) vs BOSTANOV, Soslan (RUS)
MAHJOUB, Javad (IRI) vs ALLERSTORFER, Daniel (AUT)

**Final Results**

1. MEYER, Roy (NED)
2. SARNACKI, Maciej (POL)
3. BOSTANOV, Soslan (RUS)
3. MAHJOUB, Javad (IRI)
5. TUMENOV, Musa (RUS)
5. ALLERSTORFER, Daniel (AUT)
7. CULUM, Zarko (SRB)
7. HARMEGNIES, Benjamin (BEL)

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