



PRESS RELEASE #16

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***Day 3 of 2009 World Championships:
3 gold medals for DPR Korea and 2 gold medals for Russia and
Czech Republic each***

Competitions of the third day of the XVI ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships finished today at Yubileyny Sports Complex. The evening programme featured six sparring finals – in three male weight categories and three female weight categories. The team of DPR Korea has strengthened its positions in team ranking winning 3 gold medals in this category – now it has 17 gold medals. The second place in team ranking is taken by team Russia-1 that has won so far 4 gold medals, the third position belongs to the Czech team with 3 gold medals. The Russian and Czech sportsmen took 2 gold medals each on the third day of the 2009 World Championships. The Russians were the best in sparring while the Czechs had no equals in special technique competitions.

The fight in the weight category up to 75 kg turned out the most dramatic today with Sa Ok Jin (DPR Korea) defeating Liubina Spasova (Bulgaria) despite her serious arm injury that forced her to call for medical help several times during the fight.

Volodymyr Nazin (Ukraine), World Champion in weight category up to 71 kg: I would like to dedicate my victory today to my coach Yury Rodozhan. My toughest fight at this championship was of course the fight against the Russian Nezvanov. This is not my first world championship and I can say that the organization level of the championship in Saint Petersburg deserves highest appraisal.

Alexander Bakirov (Russia-2), World Champion in weight category up to 57 kg: Before the competition I felt great confidence and had great hope for a victory. Even in the match against a Korean fighter I believed in my ability to win and the support of the audience was also of great help to me. As for the future plans, I hope to repeat my success in Saint Petersburg at the next world championships.

Svetlana Metegina (Russia-1), World Champion in weight category up to 51 kg: I realized that I became a world champion about 30 seconds before the end of my final fight. I had no doubts then. I can say that at a home competition the audience helped me a lot, added more adrenaline. But this did not influence the judges – they always remained objective and honest. As for the toughest match, it was of course, the semi-finals since I had several fights in a row and had no enough time to rest. That was really tough.

Individual sparring, female

Up to 51kg

1. Metegina (Russia-1); 2. Batcheva (Bulgaria); 3. Orgill (England), Giselle (Argentina)

Up to 63kg

1. An Yun Mi (DPR Korea); 2. Gayfutdinova (Russia-1); 3. Konecna (Czech Republic), Khamidova (Tajikistan)

Up to 75kg

1. Sa Ok Jin (DPR Korea); 2. Spasova (Bulgaria); 3. Kardanova (Russia-1); Ivas (Croatia)





Individual sparring, male

Up to 57kg

1. Bakirov (Russia-2); 2. Kazhimov (Kazakhstan); 3. Figari (Argentina), Pak (Uzbekistan)

Up to 71kg

1. Nazin (Ukraine); 2. Nezvanov (Russia-2); 3. Taras (Greece), Perez (Spain)

Up to 85kg

1. Pak Yong Bom (DPR Korea); 2. Tyuryaev Daler (Tajikistan); 3. Hwang (Kyrgyzstan), Alexyuk (Kazakhstan)

