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UIPM 2026 PENTATHLON WORLD CUP CAIRO: MOHAMED (EGY) MOTORS HOME TO WIN MEN'S FINAL



Having proved unbeatable for much of last season, **Moutaz Mohamed** motored home to deliver more glory on home soil for **Egypt** in the Men's Final at UIPM 2026 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo.

The 2025 world champion started Laser Run with a 19sec deficit to the athlete who won silver in Kaunas (LTU) last August, but they ended up in the same podium positions after another blistering Laser Run from the world No.1.

A new-format world record of 10:00.23 (for a points total of 1,608) saw the local favourite take the tape, roared on by a joyous home crowd, by 11sec from **Mathis Rochat** of **France**, with **Mihaly Koleszar** of **Hungary** clinching bronze.

Behind the medallists, **Yuriy Kovalchuk** of **Ukraine** sprinted past **Liuchang Li** of **China** for an impressive 4th place, with **Matej Lukes** of **Czechia** finishing 6th after an eventful day, and **Lukasz Gutkowski** of **Poland** and **Jean-Baptiste Mourcia** (FRA) completing the top eight.

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Fencing

There was intrigue in the early rounds as **Christian Zillekens** of **Germany** made light work of **Balazs Szep** (HUN) and then pushed No.1 seed Gutkowski (POL) all the way, finally succumbing 4-5.

The real story, however, was the emergence of Chinese contenders from the middle seedings. Both **Shuai Luo** (CHN) and Li (CHN) enjoyed wins in the Top 16 and Top 8, accounting for some highly-rated athletes on their way to the Semi-finals.

The biggest scalp came when Lukes (CZE) eliminated Gutkowski (POL) 5-3 in the Top 8, and his run continued all the way to the Final where **Ivan Khamtsou** (AIN) prevailed with a defensive masterclass, picking up the maximum 250 points. In the context of the overall competition, Lukes (CZE) took a 36-point lead over gold-medal favourite Mohamed (EGY).

Obstacle

Home advantage may have been part of it, but intensive training and supreme athleticism seemed to be the main factors as the crowd was treated to an Egyptian takeover in the Men's Final Obstacle.

Four of the top five times were set by local athletes, with **Moustafa Abouamer** (EGY) very nearly upstaging world record-holder **Mohamed El Ashqar** (EGY) with a deficit of just 0.06sec to his compatriot's top time of 20.80. The stunning exhibition of technique and talent was reprised by **Mohamed Hassan** (EGY, 22.50) and world champion Mohamed (EGY, 24.04), with only Rochat (FRA) interrupting the Egyptian hegemony – a brilliant 22.73 took him to the top of the leaderboard.

Lukes (CZE) stepped on to the course hoping to relieve his fellow 2025 World Championships medallist of the mantle of leadership, only to incur a foot fault on Tilting Ladders that saw him crash down to 9th overall. It was a surprising concession with only one other athlete – Luo (CHN) – failing to complete all obstacles at the first attempt, and it meant that Mohamed (EGY) moved within 22 points of the apex.

Swimming

Another intriguing discipline saw Mohamed (EGY) close the gap on the front-runners. His Heat 2 winning time of 54.74 was bettered only by El Ashqar (EGY), winning Heat 3 in 54.70 ahead of Rochat (FRA), who refused to relinquish his overall lead. He duly took his place in pole position for Laser Run with a 21sec lead over Mohamed (EGY) and with El Ashqar (EGY), Li (CHN) and Koleszar (HUN) causing congestion in between.

Laser Run

The congestion didn't take long to clear. Mohamed (EGY) runs on a different level to most pentathletes and after a solid opening shoot, made his way into 2nd place during the opening 600m to put early pressure on Rochat (FRA). An 8sec shoot saw the 21-year-old burst out of the range and into a lead he was never going to relinquish.

Behind him, an intriguing game of cat and mouse was played out between Rochat (FRA) and Koleszar (HUN), with the longer legs of Rochat (FRA) finally proving decisive despite the Hungarian's consistent sub-10 shooting.

Performing at this level for the first time, Li (CHN) did well to remain in the podium equation for much of the race, but never quite made it to the shoulder of the European duo destined to finish 2nd and 3rd. Kovalchuk (UKR) delivered a time of 10:03.84 that hints at big things for him in the season ahead.

But nobody in the sport can match Moutaz Mohamed on present form, where he can afford to lose in the Fencing Top 16 and still win a Pentathlon by double digits.

- UIPM 2026 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo: All you need to know

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