TEAM USA BRINGS HOME UNPRECEDENTED 14 MEDALS FROM IFSC’S YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

The top youth climbers from around the world gathered in Innsbruck, Austria to compete in the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), Youth World Championships. The twelve-day competition took place from August 30th to September 10th, 2017. It was a historic competition for Team USA, finishing with an overall count of fourteen medals – second to Japan. New this year, the IFSC introduced the Combined category in which a competitor’s score from back-to-back Bouldering, Lead, and Speed events were multiplied together to produce a single combined score. The Combined category scoring methodology will be used by the International Olympic Committee when competition climbing is introduced in the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

YOUTH A STARS

Ashima Shiraishi and Brooke Raboutou were the stars of the female Youth A category, netting three medals a piece. Shiraishi’s strong performance earned her gold medals in Bouldering and Lead and extended her winning streak at the Youth World Championships to a combined six victories since 2015. Shiraishi was also crowned with a silver medal in the Combined category. Not far behind, Raboutou placed second in Lead and third in both the Bouldering and Combined categories – adding one silver and two bronze medals to the pot for the US.
When all was said and done, Team USA finished with five gold, three silver and six bronze medals. USA Climbing CEO, Kynan Waggoner is at a loss for words over the team’s performance in Innsbruck: “I can’t adequately express how proud I am of our athletes - they showed up to the event with their "A" game and proceeded to show the rest of the world’s climbing teams what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication. Thank you to all of the athletes, coaches, facilities, and parents that have supported these athletes through their competition careers - this is just the beginning!”

TEAM USA GRACES THE PODIUM

Securing valuable real estate on the podium, Claire Buhrfeind and Maya Madere finished first and second in female Junior Bouldering, respectively. Buhrfeind secured her second gold medal after placing first in Lead. After nearly missing the Lead podium, female Junior, Margo Hayes bounced back to snag the bronze in the Combined category. US Team Male Juniors also graced the podiums: Kai Lightner finished third in both the Combined and Lead categories and Michael Finn-Henry fought hard to secure the bronze in Speed finals. Topping off the US Team medal count, male Youth B superstar, Colin Duffy, took home the gold in the Lead final.

"JUST THE BEGINNING"

Maya Madere (2nd and left) and Claire Buhrfeind (1st and middle) pose on the female Junior Bouldering podium at the 2017 IFSC Youth World Championships
TEAM USA MEDALISTS

BOULDERING
Claire Buhrfeind - 1st (FJR)  Ashima Shiraishi - 1st (FYA)
Maya Madere - 2nd (FJR)  Brooke Raboutou - 3rd (FYA)

LEAD
Claire Buhrfeind - 1st (FJR)  Ashima Shiraishi - 1st (FYA)
Kai Lightner - 3rd (MJR)  Brooke Raboutou - 2nd (FYA)
Colin Duffy - 1st (MYB)

COMBINED
Margo Hayes - 3rd (FJR)  Ashima Shiraishi - 2nd (FYA)
Kai Lightner - 3rd (MJR)  Brooke Raboutou - 3rd (FYA)

SPEED
Michael Finn-Henry - 3rd (MYA)

FULL RESULTS

#TEAMUSAHIGHLIGHTS

PHOTO ALBUM

Caroline Brody, Female Youth A
Team USA poses in Innsbruck, Austria at the 2017 Youth World Championships
Female Youth Juniors, Maya Madere (left) and Claire Buhrfeind (right) after winning silver and gold in Bouldering
Kai Lightner, Male Youth Junior

For more highlights from the 2017 IFSC Youth World Championships, visit the IFSC event page below:

IFSC EVENT PAGE

About USA Climbing: USA Climbing is the United States National Governing Body for the sport of competition climbing. The organization manages the disciplines of Bouldering, Speed and Sport climbing as well as the Collegiate and Adaptive series. USA Climbing, a member federation of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), also hosts IFSC World Cup events and sends athletes to participate in the IFSC’s World Cup circuit and the World Climbing and Adaptive Climbing Championships. For more information contact:

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