TEAM USA DOMINATES AT IFSC PANAMERICAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

MONTREAL, CANADA

Over two hundred youth athletes from North America, Central America and South America traveled to Montreal, Canada for the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) PanAmerican Youth Championship on October 30 - November 5, 2017. Medals were awarded to the top three athletes in each category and gender of each discipline – Bouldering, Lead, and Speed and to the top three athletes of the Combined Overall event, in each category and gender. A special award was also granted to the top three finalists of the Male and Female Youth A Olympic Combined event.

56 MEDALS

Team USA controlled the podium throughout the competition, finishing with fifty-six medals in total. Team USA swept the podium on eight separate occasions throughout the course of the week-long event and nearly swept the entire Speed discipline in each category and gender. Twelve US Team athletes graced the podium more than once.

USA JUNIORS SWEEP THE PODIUM

Team USA’s Female Junior athletes outperformed their competition in every discipline – dominating the podium in the Bouldering, Speed, Lead and Combined Overall events. Claire Buhrfeind, Margo Hayes, and Bimini Horstmann shared the podium three times throughout the week-long competition. Buhrfeind finished with four medals and Hayes and Horstmann secured three medals each. This was the last PanAmerican Youth Championship for Buhrfeind and Hayes and they couldn’t have ended on a higher note. In the Speed competition, Piper Kelly secured her first gold medal after finishing 0.12 seconds ahead of Buhrfeind. Emerson Nairson rounded out the podium with another bronze medal for Team USA.

In the Male Junior category, Kai Lightner's impressive performance earned him four medals. Team USA’s success continued with Timothy Kang earning bronze in Bouldering, Max Hammer earning silver in Speed, and Brett Walker earning silver in the Overall Combined category.
EXCELLENCE ABOVE EXTRAORDINARY LIMITS

In the Youth A category, Brooke Raboutou excelled above ordinary limits as she claimed four gold medals. She was the sole climber to top all four boulder problems and reach the top of the lead wall during finals. Arabella Jariel and Ross Fulkerson were two other Youth A athletes who put on notable performances, earning three medals apiece.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

The future of USA Climbing is looking extremely bright. Four Youth B athletes - Allie Nishi, Sienna Kopf, Colin Duffy, and Zander Waller all secured two or more medals. Seven other Youth B athletes earned individual medals of their own.

"MORE SUCCESS THAN EVER"

Meg Coyne, USA Climbing’s High Performance Manager, reflects on Team USA’s performance at the events: “The past year has shown us a dramatic change in the behavior and performance of our youth national team. At one end of the spectrum, those competitors who are closing out their youth careers saw more success than ever. At the other end, our youngest athletes are delivering performance without the benefit of past international experience.”
TEAM USA MEDALS

56

US TEAM MEDALS
LEAD | BOULDERING | SPEED
COMBINED | OLYMPIC COMBINED

FULL RESULTS

#TEAMUSAHIGHLIGHTS

LEAD PHOTO ALBUM
BOULDERING PHOTO ALBUM
SPEED PHOTO ALBUM

Female Junior Bouldering Podium: Bimini Horstmann - 2nd (left); Margo Hayes - 1st (middle); Claire Buhrfeind - 3rd (right)

Male Youth A Bouldering Podium: Sam Struthers - 2nd (left); Collin Wills - 1st (middle); Ross Fulkerson - 3rd (right)

Team USA poses at 2017 IFSC PanAmerican Youth Championship

Male Junior Overall Podium: Brett Walker - 2nd (left); Kai Lightner - 1st (middle); Carlos Granja (CEU) - 3rd (right)

To read more, visit the 2017 IFSC PanAmerican Youth Championship event page below:

IFSC EVENT PAGE

About USA Climbing: USA Climbing is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport of sport 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 Katie Henry | Communications Manager | katie@usaclimbing.org | 303.499.0715