

NEWS RELEASE

Russians deny Vezzali final glory in team Fencing World Championships

RIO DE JANEIRO (April 26) – Russia defeated Italy to claim the gold medal in women's foil at the team World Championships in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, denying fencing legend Valentina Vezzali a 17th world title on her final appearance in the sport.

Having failed to qualify for the Olympics, Vezzali, arguably history's greatest fencer, announced the world championships – which double as the Olympic test event - would be her last competition.

But the Russians, anchored by world No. 2 Inna Deriglazova, spoiled the party, taking an early lead they never relinquished to win 45-39 at the Carioca Arena 3.

"Fencing has been my life," said Vezzali, a six-time Olympic champion, before the final.

"My foil has been with me since I was a little more than six years old, and together we've shared emotions, disappointments, medals, misfortunes, and tears of both joy and anger," she added.

"In life, after every end there is always a new beginning. Today, I don't see a sunset, but rather a sunrise of new matches to be faced ... and won."

The Italians found themselves eight points adrift going into a dramatic final bout. World No. 1 Arianna Errigo nearly carved out a miracle comeback by winning six-straight points against Deriglazova.

But the Russian mounted a mini-comeback of her own and swept to victory, gaining revenge after last year's final defeat to the same Italian quartet.

"I'm delighted that we've managed to win the World Championships," said Deriglazova, who got the final touch. "It's great to beat the Italians. It was a tough final, especially my last fight. [Errigo] did well to cut the points gap to a minimum, so I took decisive action."

"I hope today's win will give us more confidence and strength going into the Olympic Games," Deriglazova added.

The bronze medal went to France after a 45-18 demolition of South Korea.

The first part of the Olympic test event was the Rio Grand Prix in epee last week.

In the women's event on Saturday, Russia's Tatiana Logunova [upset](#) world No. 1 Xu Anqi 5-3 for her first title of the season.

In the men's final, Ukraine's Bogdan Nikishin defeated Switzerland's Benjamin Steffen 15-13 in a [pulsating final](#).

The Rio Grand Prix is the first competition to adopt a new cross formation for the pistes, an innovation in the sport designed to provide an improved view of the action for the spectators.

The championships wrap up Wednesday with men's team sabre.

Results:

1. RUSSIA
2. ITALY
3. FRANCE
4. SOUTH KOREA
5. USA
6. HUNGARY
7. CHINA
8. GERMANY

For complete results, click [here](#).

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