BARASHCHUK AND BOLDYREV TAKE EUROPEAN SPEED TITLES, KAPLINA SETS A NEW WORLD RECORD

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The 2020 IFSC European Championships took off tonight at the Irina Viner-Usmanova Gymnastics Palace in Moscow (RUS), where 21-year-old Ekaterina Barashchuk of Russia and 28-year-old Danyil Boldyrev of Ukraine won two extremely tight battles, climbing atop the Speed podium and winning the 2020 European titles.

It is the first continental championships title for both Barashchuk and Boldyrev, with the former that prevailed over her teammate Elizaveta Ivanova (20) — a three-time World Cup medalist — by a margin of just 0,07 seconds, claiming the first senior gold medal of her career.

An even narrower gap separated the Ukrainian specialist from men's silver medalist Lev Rudatskiy (22) of Russia. Boldyrev, in fact, had to nail a fantastic 5,69-second time in his final run to best his rival by just 5 hundredths of a second, finally taking the gold he chased for many years: between 2013 and 2019, indeed, Boldyrev finished four times on the European Championships podium, winning three silvers and one bronze.

The two bronze medals were awarded to Iuliia Kaplina (27) of Russia and Marcin Dzienski (27) of Poland, who respectively won the small finals against Aleksandra Kalucka of Poland and Vladislav Deulin of Russia.

Earlier today, Kaplina set a new Speed World Record in the qualification round, stopping the clock at 6,96 seconds and besting the 6,99 time set by Indonesian athlete Aries Susanti Rahayu at last year's World Cup in Xiamen (CHN).

It is the fourth women's Speed World Record set Kaplina, who in 2017 set three different records in the span of three months.

The 2020 IFSC European Championships in Moscow will continue tomorrow with women's and men's Boulder qualification.

For the women's Speed full results click here.

For the men's Speed full results click here.

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