

Beat: Sports

First ever Olympic gold medal for Vietnam

Olympic Rio 2016

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USPA NEWS - With 202.5 points through 20 turns of shooting, the 42-year-old veteran Hoang Xuan Vinh won the first-ever Olympic gold medal for Vietnam after claiming the men's 10m air pistol title in the 2016 Rio Games on August 6th (Brazilian time).

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He gained 10.7 points in the final shot, adding up to the total score of 202.5 in 20 shots, breaking the previous Olympic record.

Felipe Almeida Wu of host Brazil won the silver medal, scoring 202.1 points, and China's Pang Wei got the bronze, with 180.4 points.

Wu was the leading contender for the gold in the event, having won two gold medals in the ISSF World Cup held in Bangkok and Baku. Wei bagged a gold in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"This gold medal is a big achievement not only for me but for the whole country and the Vietnamese people. I hope my victory will encourage young Vietnamese to love this sport," said Vinh.

"I am proud of being a soldier. I thank my fans, coaches and family who are always side by side with me," Vinh added.

Vinh contemplated his last bullet longer than usual, earning an additional 10.7 points to surpass Wu's result and gain the medal.

"The last shots are very thorny. I always think that I must be strong when facing difficulties. I gathered my wits, took a deep breath to regain my composure to compete better," said Vinh.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc sent a letter to congratulate the Vietnam delegation after hearing the news.

"I am very glad to receive the good news. He became the first Vietnamese athlete to step up to the highest peak of world sports. Vinh's result brings honour to the country, and pride for officials, coaches, athletes and Vietnamese fans," Phuc said.

"On the occasion of this event, I send my congratulations to the whole staff, experts and coaches of the Vietnam team, and especially to Vinh, and the trainers and athletes of the shooting team. I hope the Vietnam delegation will promote their achievement, raise solidarity and strive for more results in Brazil," he said.

Vinh's gold medal was also an emotional achievement for many in Vietnam.

"I am crying when hearing that Vinh won a gold medal. Vinh brought Vietnam pride in the world's biggest sports event. I thank him very much and wish him health and success," Nguyen Minh Tuan said on Facebook.

"Vinh did an extraordinary thing," said Nguyen Hong Minh, former head of the Elite Sport Department of the National Sports Administration.

According to coach Nguyen Thi Nhung, Vinh's medal is a result of an arduous training process.

Vinh won many medals in tournaments in the country, SEA Games as well as Asian and world events. "But Vinh lost in the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014, London Olympics in 2012 and now he overcame himself and leading rivals in the world. It is a honeyed achievement," said Nhung.

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

United Press Association, Inc.
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA
(702) 943.0321 Local
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile
info@unitedpressassociation.org
info@gna24.com
www.gna24.com