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Sondral triumphs as world record falls again at M-Wave

Speed skating 1,500m



Sondral on his way to rewrite world record.

Norway's Aadne Sondral staged a stunning coup over his Dutch speed skating rivals Thursday with a new world record to win the Olympic men's 1,500-meter title.

Sondral, the Olympic silver medalist in this distance six years ago in Albertville, France, stopped the clock at 1 minute, 47.87 seconds to lop more than a full second off Dutchman Rintje Ritsma's record set last December in Heerenveen, Netherlands.

Ids Postma, the reigning Dutch world champion and another former world record holder, skated 1:48.13 to collect the silver

while Ritsma turned in a 1:48.52 for the bronze.

Dutch skaters, heavy pre-race favorites in this distance, demonstrated their vaunted depth by taking four of the top six places.

But the biggest smiles were found on the face of 26-year-old Sondral, who until Thursday stood largely in the shadow of his Norwegian teammates, including Johann Olav Koss, winner of three golds at the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games.

The packed M-Wave indoor oval crowd roared with delight as the Olympic record was rewritten four times before Sondral snatched

the world record in the penultimate pairing.

It was the second world record winning time at the Nagano rink during these Olympics, following Dutchman Gianni Romme's time of 6:22.20 in the men's 5,000 meters last Sunday.

Local native and crowd favorite Hiroyuki Noake, also a former world record holder, finished seventh with a time of 1:50.49 -- 0.19 second ahead of teammate and four-time Olympic team member Toru Aoyanagi. (Kyodo News)

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