

Taron Malkhasyan: is 15 years old, and lives in Hollywood, California. He is a 10th grader at John Marshall Gifted / High Ability Magnet High School. He has been flying F1P and F1A from the age of 11 but from the age of 8 he has flown Hand Launch and Catapult Gliders and has set several USA National Junior Records. This is his second Junior World Champs competition, the first being in Romania in 2010. He is active in basketball, track and field athletics, R/C model aeroplanes, and chess. Taron won the most medals of any Junior Champion (ever), with 1 Gold (F1P Individual), 1 Silver (F1A Team) and 2 Bronze (F1A Individual and F1P Team).

“Our 2012 summer trip to Slovenia was unforgettable. From the moment I set foot on the field I knew that it would be a difficult tournament. The weather wasn’t what it should have been and the field was not a field you would expect to fly F/F. The field was rented for the occasion so there was only some partial area you could fly on, but as a team we dealt with it to overcome the struggles we faced. Besides the difficulty we had, there were also many exciting moments to the trip. The Opening Ceremony was when we got to meet up with all the other Nation’s competitors.

As the flying days rolled around, the true competition began. The first day I competed in F1A Glider and I successfully achieved seven maxes to reach the Fly Off, where I placed 3rd for the Bronze medal. The second day I wasn’t flying but did my part, as did all the others, to help out with retrieving models for my other Team members who were flying that day. The third day I was flying F1P and I believe I haven’t had a more successful day ever. It finally came down to the seventh and last round, where I found myself being the only flyer to have achieved all six maxes up to that point. So I couldn’t afford any mistakes to drop this last flight.

I was fueled up and ready at the flight line for over thirty minutes waiting for lift. All my hard work and efforts paid off after I launched my plane into the air, as a minute into the flight I already knew that I would be the next Junior World Champion. I cannot find words to describe what I felt at that moment. I had set out to win first place this year, because two years ago in Romania I lost the title of World Champion by just a few seconds and got 2nd Place. At the Closing Ceremony, I was very proud that the USA National Anthem was played because of my achievements that day. Saying goodbye to each of the other competitors and getting my trophies

was both the happiest and the saddest day of our trip because I knew I wouldn't be seeing many my new friends until the next Junior World Champs, but I was happy because I accomplished what I had set out to do.” — Taron

Sevak Malkhasyan: is Taron's 14 years old brother, and also lives in Hollywood, California. He is a 9th grader also attending John Marshall Gifted / High Ability Magnet High School. He has been flying F1B for 4 years and F1P for 1 year but has also flown Hand Launch and Catapult Gliders and he too has set new USA Junior Hand Launch Glider Records from the age of nine. Slovenia was his 2nd Junior World Championship after Romania in 2010. Sevak enjoys playing basketball, chess, and designing, building and flying Free Flight model aeroplanes.

“Our trip to Slovenia was tremendous. Being able to compete on the American Team at the Junior World Champs for the second time was incredible. I liked the Nature of Slovenian countryside, and all the forests and historical sites were fascinating. We stayed at the Hotel Snovik, which made our stay even more enjoyable with all of its water slides, pools and other fun activities.

Just a few days after our arrival F1A day started. Our Team Members did very well and I helped as a retriever for the USA Team. The next day was my turn as a member of the USA F1B Wakefield Team. I had the misfortune to drop the first round, four minute flight, by just 22 seconds. During that flight I had already done 3 minutes and in the next 30 seconds I got some down air and the model dropped. But as the day progressed I successfully maxed all the rest of the remaining six rounds, so I was not so disappointed. Together with my fellow F1B Team-mates, Brian and Payton, we managed to place 2nd overall in the Team Championships to be awarded the Silver Medal. The last day I also flew F1P power with my brother and Brian Pacelli. I started off very well, but was under stress and had a bad launch causing my plane to crash during the 4th round. Brian also dropped in the 6th round. However, I am still happy that our Team-work paid off and overall we got 3rd place in F1P team for the Bronze Medal. This trip was just exhilarating and a one-of-a-kind opportunity, that brought joy to everyone there in a friendly environment, where we meet many of our old (Junior) friends and made many new ones for the future.” — Sevak