

DE BRUIJN WINS SECOND GOLD NEWCOMERS ON THE PODIUM

Women's 50m butterfly

Inge de Bruijn (NED) won the 50 fly in 25.90, almost a half a body length ahead of Therese Alshammar (SWE) with 26.18 and Anna-Karin Kammerling (SWE) in 26.45.

It was a demonstration of technical superiority. Inge de Bruijn is at peak form with no challengers. "Not only am I in good shape, but I also had a good start," de Bruijn said. "The start is usually the deciding factor for the medals."

Alshammar: "It's very good. My personal best and a Swedish record. I am really a freestyler and its great to get a fly medal."

"I was disappointed," Kammerling said. "I have a faster time (26.29) from two years ago. My start was bad, and I couldn't make up for it during the swim."

Men's 100 butterfly

With a stellar field including the Olympic medallists, Lars Frolander (SWE) won in 52.10, a championship record. Fast improving Ian Crocker (USA) eight years younger than the winner posted an American record of 52.25. Geoff Huegill (AUS) in third with 52.36. World record holder Michael Klim (AUS) definitely off form was seventh in 52.91.

Frolander indicated this was his last fly swim, "I felt strong throughout the prelims and semis and felt I could break the world record (51.81). I got a little tired on the second 50. It was great to win and it's a relief as I plan to retire after this meet."

My goal was to win a medal," Ian Crocker said. "I saw Huegill beside me in lane seven and I knew I had a pretty good shot at a medal. It was my best time and an American record, I think it was a good swim, but I'm sure there's always something that I can fix."

The podium felt good Huegill explained, "Third is always better than fourth. It was really tough. I knew I would only have a chance if I was fast at the turn. My last 25m was poor. I guess I wasn't as fit as I needed to be."

Men's 200m breaststroke

Unheralded Brendan Hansen (USA) in his

first international competition won with 2:10.69. It was a three second improvement since US Olympic Trials last August. He was in the lead throughout the race 29.66, 1:03.05, 1:36.90.

"I've worked hard all year for this, Hansen said. "I still cannot believe the result. It's my first international medal. It's a big night for the USA."

In second a virtual unknown Maxim Podoprigora (AUT) in 2:11.09. He was 11th in last year's Olympics with a then best of 2:14.20. He did his personal best in each swim (2:12.26 prelims, 2:11.65 semis). He was born in the Ukraine and has represented Austria since 1998.

"My first 50 was too slow (30.31, 1:03.92, 1:37.40)," Podoprigora said. "My finish went well. I know how shocked everyone is with my results."

Kosuke Kitajima (JPN) in third with 2:11.21, an Asian record. "I could see the swimmer on both sides (he was in lane five). I knew I could medal if I stayed with them. I thought the one who does not give up on the last 25 will win the race. I would like to share my joy with all the Japanese people who came to Fukuoka."

Women's 200m backstroke

Olympic champion Diana Mocanu (ROM) had little trouble in winning this event in 2:09.94. "It's not my best (2:08.16 last year) I just haven't trained enough this year."

Stanislava Komarova (RUS) a virtual unknown was the biggest surprise. At her first major championships she steadily

improved with each swim (2:12.11 prelims, 2:11.54 semis) to place second in 2:10.43. Last year her best was 2:16.44. "I never expected to do so well. It doesn't seem real, I haven't even won a Russian championships. I just could never imagine this could ever happen."

Joanna Fargus (GBR) in third with 2:11.05. "I expected to be faster. It's just off my best."

Antje Buschschulte (GER) was in the lead for three lengths but faded to fifth.

Men's 200 individual medley

A fantastic two way race between Massimiliano Rosolino (ITA) the eventual winner in 1:59.71 and Tom's (USA) second with 2:00.73. An arm length behind in third Just Norris (AUS) with 2:00.91 a personal best.

Rosolino had to come from behind after the first 100 and moved into the lead on breaststroke which sealed Wilkens fate, as that's his best stroke. Rosolino a great 200-400 freestyle had no trouble pulling way on the last length.

"I believed in myself, I knew I could do it," Rosolino said. "Sorry to have kept you worried. (He finished out of the medals in the 400 free and scratched from the 200 free). It takes a while to get my rhythm, but gold is gold and I'm always number one. I had bad times before but they are all past now."

"I mainly train for the 400 IM," Wilkens said. "I felt good after the prelims and semis. I did not see Rosolino (he was in lane seven) moving ahead in breaststroke. If I see others during the race my stroke tends to break apart somewhat. It was my best time in a major international meet."

Norris was at his best. "I had an open mind going in and really worked on aspects of the race like the start and turns. It was more satisfying than the Olympics. (He was a finalist in the 400 IM). I set myself out to do something and it worked."

The women's 4x200 free yesterday was marred by disqualification and protests. The FINA Bureau did not accept any of the protests and upheld the decision of the deck officials. The medals went to Great Britain, Germany and Japan. The USA has since filed another protest requesting a review of the back-up system to confirm if there was a pad failure and their second swimmers did not leave early.

SWIMMING MEDAL TOTALS July 26

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
AUS	6	3	3	12
USA	5	6	5	16
GER	2	5	3	10
NED	2	3	0	5
GBR	1	1	2	4
RUS	1	1	1	3
CHN	1	1	1	3
ITA	1	1	1	3
SWE	1	1	1	3
ROM	1	0	1	2
HUN	1	0	1	2
UKR	1	0	0	1
ISL	0	1	0	1
AUT	0	1	0	1
JPN	0	0	3	3
RSA	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	23	24	23	70

WOMEN'S WATER POLO July 26

Match 37, 10:00, BRA 11, NZL 2

2-2, 3-0, 2-0, 4-0

BRA 11 (C Pedrosa 4, M Roriz 2, M Secches 2, M Fleury, F Fernandes)

NZL 2 (A Roberts, F Hillhouse)

Camila Pedrosa (BRA) slammed four goals into the loosely guarded New Zealand nets to lead the Brazilian team in a romp over the team from Oceania.

Mariana Roriz (BRA) and Mariana Secches (BRA) each had two goals. Pedrosa's second goal was a penalty shot in the second quarter to make the score 5-2. She now has 16 goals in the tournament.

Fiona Hillhouse (NZL) scored the first goal of the game at 5:51 in the first period to give the Kiwi's an advantage. A reciprocal goal by Roriz (BRA) evened the score at 1-1 about 90 seconds later. Amanda Roberts (NZL) hit the go-ahead goal at 3:32 in the first quarter and then the New Zealand guns fell silent. They would not score again.

Brazil drew to a 5-5 tie with Japan yesterday and will face the Dutch team on Friday in the last day of competition. The New Zealand team lost yesterday to the team from the Netherlands and will play it's final game against Japan.

Match 38, 11:15, NED 6, JPN 4

1-1, 3-0, 0-2, 2-1

NED 6 (H Kappen 2, D De Bruijn 2, J Oostendorp, H Peerenboom)

JPN 4 (M Mimaki, A Kakoshi, A Hagiwara, S Hirako)

Two goals each by Danielle De Bruijn (NED) and Hanneke Kappen (NED) were enough to push back the persistent host team as the Netherlands defeated the Japanese squad by a score of 6-4. De Bruijn (NED) scored the go-ahead at 5:09 in the second quarter and the Dutch team enjoyed a one goal margin for the next 18 minutes of play. At :59 in the final quarter Heleen Peerenboom (NED) bought insurance with the final goal of the game. The Dutch team will meet Japan on Friday.

Four different Japanese players each scored a single goal in their losing effort. Ako Hagiwara (JPN) scored an extra man goal at 4:05 in the first period. They remain without a victory in the tournament. On Friday the Japanese team will pair off for their final game with New Zealand.

Match 39, 12:30, AUS 9, GRE 2

1-1, 2-0, 3-1, 3-0

AUS 9 (Y Higgins 3, B Mayer 2, M Mills 2, B Brooks, J Fox)

GRE 2 (S Petsali, S Kozomboli)

The Olympic champion flexed its muscles today and in doing so stopped a challenge from the nation that will host the next Olympic Games. The team from Australia defeated Greece by a score of 9-2. Yvette Higgins (AUS) scored three times in the match for a total of 11 goals in the tournament.

Higgins (AUS) and Melissa Mills (AUS) each took advantage of a 6 on 5 situation to score extra man goals. Goalkeeper Elizabeth Weeks (AUS) recorded 10 saves on 12 shots on her goal. Australia has now advanced to the final game against the winner of the Russia vrs. Khazakstan game, Friday's game will settle which team advances to 5th place, the loser will slot at 6th.

The Greek team was never in the lead and the distance between them and the Olympic gold medal winners continued to grow as the game continued. Sofia Petsali (GRE) and Stavroula Kozomboli (GRE) scored a single goal each, in the first and the third periods respectively. Greek goalie Georgia Ellinaki (GRE) allowed 9 goals but was able to save 8 others from hitting their intended target. The Greeks will next meet the loser of the Russia vrs. Khazakstan game on Friday.

Match 40, 13:45, RUS 8, KAZ 5

3-1, 2-1, 2-1, 1-2

RUS 8 (E Smurova 2, E Vassilieva 2, I Tolounova, E Salimova, T Petrova, V Linkova)

KAZ 5 (S Koroleva 2, Y Shishova, N Galkina, N Ignatyeva)

The Russian team survived a challenge from the team from Khazakstan today but was able to post an 8-5 victory and advance to face Australia in Friday's game for 5th place. Elena Smurova (RUS) and Ekaterina Vassilieva (RUS) scored two goals each to power the Russian team. Goalkeeper Marina Akobia (RUS) had 6 saves on 11 shots on goal.

Svetlana Koroleva (KAZ) connected on two goals for her team. The Khazakstan outscored the Russian team 2-1 in the fourth quarter of play. They will meet Greece in the match to decide 7th place in the tournament.

Match 41, 13:45, ITA 8, USA 6

0-1, 4-2, 2-2, 2-1

ITA 8 (M Miceli 3, G Malato 2, T Di Mario, M Musumeci, M Grego)

USA 6 (E Lorenz 2, A Stachowski 2, C Simmons 2)

The first time that Italy faced the USA the score reflected the "tug of war in the water" as the teams played to an 8-8 tie. Today the "war" continued but the Italian won the game in the final minutes of the fourth quarter. The Italians showcased their considerable talents in a 8-6 defeat of the team of the Americans. Martina Miceli (ITA) scored 3 goals today for a total of 16 in the tournament. Miceli's (ITA) third goal at 2:08 in the final quarter made the score 7-6. Guisi Malato (ITA) had two goals in the game, the second was a penalty shot at 9 seconds remaining in the game Italy will play for the gold medal against the winner of the Canada vrs. Hungary game on Friday at 16:15 at Nishi Civic Pool. It is possible that Italy may face Hungary in the gold medal game. Hungary is the team that defeated Italy for the European Championship title held this summer in Budapest.

The most interesting goal was scored when the ball Miceli (ITA) threw was partially blocked by USA captain Heather Moody (USA). It probably wouldn't have gone in were it not for the "tip" by Moody who probably considered sinking to the bottom of the pool after she observed the ball drop gently behind Nicole Payne (USA), the USA goalkeeper. Ericka Lorenz (USA) scored two for the USA, her second was to tie the game at 5's in the third period. Lorenz (USA) now has 14 goals in the tournament. Coralie Simmons (USA) also scored two goals.

The USA will play for the bronze medal at 15:00 on Friday when they face the loser of the Canada vrs. Hungary game.

Match 42, 16:15, CAN 4, HUN 3

1-1, 1-1, 0-1, 2-0

HUN 4 (A Primasz 2, Z Tiba, K Redej)

CAN 3 (S Gardiner, A Dow, V Dionne)

Hungary is once again on the world stage after they narrowly beat Canada, 4-3. They are the reigning European champions and although this team did not qualify for the 2000 Olympics, they will play for the gold medal on Friday. Agnes Primasz (HUN) scored the final two goals for her team and to leave no doubt about the result.

Canada scored first and ended the first quarter all tied at 1-1. A single goal from each side during the second period resulted in a 2-2 tied at the end of the first half. Vallerie Dionne (CAN) gave her team a one goal advantage when she hit the goalpost at 5:51 in the third period.

At 5:31 in the third period Anges Primasz (HUN) scored an extra man goal to even the score at 3-3. Primasz (HUN) struck again at 2:24 in the fourth quarter with the go-ahead goal. It went

unanswered. Hungary will face Italy in the battle for the gold medal at these championships. Italy defeated the USA today 8-6 to earn the right to play for the gold. In the battle for north America supremacy, Canada will wrestle with its southern neighbor to see which nation shall claim the bronze medal.

MEN'S WATER POLO July 26

The men's water polo competition has a rest day today with the finals tomorrow and Sunday.

Russia, Spain, Italy and Yugoslavia will do battle for the medals. The United States of America, Croatia, Hungary and Greece will play for places 5-8 and Australia, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan and Slovakia will play for places 9-12.

Brazil finished 13th, Germany 14th, Canada 15th and Japan 16th and have completed their programmes.

Match 41, 09:00, GER 10 JPN 6

1-3, 3-0, 3-1, 3-2

GER 10 (T Schertwits 3, T Wollthan, T Kaiser 2, D

Polverino, P Weissinger, T Purschke) JPN 6 (K

Tanaka 3, K Aoyagi, D Nakagawa, M Yamamoto).

Germany began with its traditional slow start but bounced back to lead 4-3 at halftime and swim off with the match against Japan. The host team had a cheer team urging it on and got to 3-1 by the end of the first period but then the Germans kicked in and started making goals to finish the Group G competition with a win and two draws

for 14th place behind Brazil and ahead of Canada. It was a disappointing tournament for the Germans who promised so much with the first-day upset of Greece, a team which is destined for the top six. For Japan, the sixth consecutive loss sends it to 16th place but many admirers have been collected on the way.

Match 42, 10:30, BRA 10 CAN 3

3-1, 2-0, 2-0, 3-2

BRA 10 (D Mameri 3, Y Galindo, M Vieira 2, G

Chaia, R Seabra, L Machado) CAN 3 (M Sabo 2, Nathaniel Miller)

Canada may have blocked goal-scoring sensation Ricardo Perrone (BRA) out of the game but he was still a magical player, snapping up loose ball, making breaks and generally inspiring his team.

That inspiration led Brazil to a big win over Canada, a team it beat just 4-2 in the continental qualification tournament. Perrone has been the leading scorer for a number of days but he will be overtaken by several players by the end of the tournament. Brazil began on fire and won every quarter, a rare occurrence at these championships. Both teams registered 33 per cent on extra man. Mikael Sabo scored twice for 11 goals, currently in a tie for second place.

Match 43, 12:00, GRE 4 SVK 2

1-1, 1-0, 1-0, 1-1

GRE 4 (G Afroudakis 2, A Schizas, D Mazis) SVK 2

(R Polacik, M Cipov).

Greece battled through to a 4-2 victory over Slovakia but the win was not assured until the very end. Even when Greece had three on two on counter in the last minute, the result was not certain. In fact, the ball was passed straight to a Slovakian and a timeout gave Slovakia faint hope of a draw. However, the powerful, defensive forest of arms did not allow the ball to penetrate, something that Slovakia found hard to do all game. Greece controlled the game once it overcame Slovakia's 1-0 start. Greece finished Group E with six points and fourth and well placed for the weekend, in the quest for their desired top-six finish. Georgios Afroudakis took his tournament scoring total to seven goals with two

goals from centre forward when he was allowed more space to manoeuvre. Slovakia slips into the 9-12 bracket at the weekend.

Match 44, 13:30, CRO 11 USA 5

5-1, 2-3, 2-0, 2-1
CRO 11 (I Ivanis 4, M Oreb, T Dogas, M Smolaka 2, S Letica) USA 5 (A Azevedo, R Bailey 2, W Wigo). It was all downhill for the USA against Croatia as the Europeans completely dominated the first quarter to set the tone for the match. At 5-1 up after the first quarter, Croatia drew back and allowed the USA to win the second 3-2. The USA was trying not to have too high a loss score as it could allow Australia into the top eight. The defence worked overtime but the losing margin nearly approached critical level. Ivo Ivanis doubled his score for the tournament with four goals and now has eight. The USA's Tony Azevedo scored twice in the rout to take his total to 10 and three shy of the leader. Croatia played without the well-performed Samir Barac, who was suspended for a match after being shown a red card while on the bench in the previous game. Croatia finished third in the group and is off to the 5-8 finals.

Match 45, 15:00, YUG 16 KAZ 6

3-2, 5-1, 1-2, 7-1
YUG 16 (A Sagic 7, D Ikodinovic 3, D Savic, V Jelenic 2, V Vujasinovic, N Vukanic) KAZ 6 (A Sevostyanov, Y Zhilyaev 2, A Gaidukov, I Zaitsev). Yugoslavia strode into the top-four semifinals with a vibrant victory over Kazakhstan. Yugoslavia needed to re-affirm its status as the best team in Europe by collecting the two points and finish with nine for Group E. Kazakhstan, with two points, finishes in the bottom two of the group and go to the 9-12 play-offs. Yugoslavia struggled in some areas of the pool but turned on the power with a stunning 7-1 final quarter. Aleksandar Sagic used his brute strength and accurate arm to send in a tournament-high seven goals to shoot three clear at the top of the individual standings. He was backed up by Danilo Ikodinovic with three. Kazakhstan played strongly in the first but fell away in both the second and fourth quarters as bench players found water time. On extra, Yugoslavia went five from six and Kazakhstan two from four.

Match 46, 16:30, AUS 6 NED 5

0-1, 1-2, 0-1, 5-1
AUS 6 (T Neesham, T Whalan 2, P Tresise, A Kovalenko) NED 5 (H van der Meer, E Uri 2, M De Bruijn). Australia recorded three negative splits before producing one of the finishes of the tournament to outscore the Netherlands 6-5. The Aussie Sharks, as they are known in their home country, lost each of the first three periods by a goal and then produced a flash of brilliance for a 5-1 period to snatch victory from the Dutch and deny them a place in the top eight. Australia had no hope of making the top eight, having a one-goal differential behind the United States of America. But the players were not told of the intricacies of the points system and they went out thinking a three-goal win would put them through. They will play for the 9-12 bracket but have sent their non-European training partners to the top eight and into next year's World Cup in Yugoslavia. Australia scored four goals in three minutes to have the lead at 1:52. The Dutch responded at 1:23 but Thomas Whalan, who sparked the resurgence, netted again from outside at :46 for the victory.

Match 47, 18:00, ITA 3 HUN 2

1-0, 1-0, 0-1, 1-1
ITA 3 (A Angelini 2, F Postiglione) HUN 2 (P Biros, T Varga)
While Alessandro Campagna maintains his dream of taking two Italian teams to two world finals in two

years, the incredible reign of Hungary has been broken. Campagna took the Italian junior men to the world crown in 1999 and tonight he guided Italy to the medal semifinals with a grandstand 3-2 victory over Hungary. The Olympic and World Cup champion will not be in the top four of a major event since before the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. It was Italy's night and it proved a worthy winner in a game to decide the final qualifier for the medal round and join Yugoslavia from Group E. Italy shut Hungary out for just under 19 minutes of the match to make it 2-1 going into the last. with Alberto Angelini scoring both of Italy's goals. Francesco Postiglione cleaned up an Alessandro Calcaterra shot for a 3-1 lead at 5:02 and then, after two timeouts, Hungary scored through Tamas Varga. Hungary had more extra-man chances in the final minutes but could not gatecrash Italy's defence. In fact, Hungary only scored one from nine on extra to Italy's two from seven.

Match 48, 19:30, ESP 9 RUS 8

4-3, 2-1, 1-1, 2-3
ESP 9 (D Ballart, I Perez, J Sanchez Toril 2, G Molina, S Pedrerol, I Moro) RUS 8 (I Zinnourov, R Tchomakhidze, S Garbouzov 2, A Yeryshov, A Panfili). Defending champion Spain went through undefeated to the semifinals with a 9-8 victory over previously unbeaten Russia. Both were already in the top four so it made for an entertaining game, especially after the low-scoring clash an hour before. A large crowd was entertained to some fine shooting and at one stage watched a rarity when Russian goalkeeper Ilia Smirnov advanced more than 10 metres out of his goal to try and stop Sergi Pedrerol scoring on counter. Pedrerol took the foul and lobbed off the free throw to defeat a defender racing back to goal. Seven goals in the first quarter was heart-stopping but there were still plenty of goals to come. The winner for Spain was scored on extra 1:25 from the end. Russia's Revaz Tchomakhidze had an open shot just before the hooter but shot wildly over the top. Spain achieved the result with a poor six on five, finding the net only once from eight attempts. Russia impressed with four from seven.

Final tables

Group E

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
YUG	5	4	1	0	9
ITA	5	3	1	0	7
HUN	5	3	0	2	6
GRE	5	3	0	2	6
KAZ	5	1	0	4	2
SVK	5	0	0	5	0

Group F

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	Diff
ESP	5	5	0	0	10	
RUS	5	4	0	1	8	
CRO	5	3	0	2	6	
USA	5	1	0	4	2	-12
AUS	5	1	0	4	2	-13
NED	5	1	0	4	2	-15

Bottom four

Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
BRA	5	2	1	0	5
GER	3	1	2	0	4
CAN	3	1	1	1	3
JPN	3	0	0	3	0

Top goalscorers

Aleksandar Sagic shot to the top of the goal-scoring table with a magnificent seven-goal haul against Kazakhstan today for a total of 16. He leapfrogged Brazil's Ricardo Perrone (13), who did not score in his team's match with Canada. Spain's Ivan Perez joined Perrone on 13 with two goals last night against Russia.

On 11 are Karol Baco (SVK), Mikael Sabo (CAN). On 10 are Teo Dogas (CRO), Tony Azevedo (USA), Gabor Kiss (HUN), Tamas Kasas (HUN), Alessandro Calcaterra (ITA), Theodoros Chatzitheodorou (GRE) and Harry van der Meer (NED). On nine are Alexandar Yeryshov, Roman Polacik (SVK) and Alberto Angelini (ITA).

SWIMMING FINALS JULY 26

MEN

200 METRES BREASTSTROKE

- 1) 2:10.69 Brendan Hansen,81,USA
- 2) 2:11.09 Max Podoprigora,78,AUT
- 3) 2:11.21 Kosuke Kitajima,82,JPN
- 4) 2:11.31 Domenico Fioravanti,77,ITA
- 5) 2:11.38 Ed Moses,80,USA
- 6) 2:11.51 Regan Harrison,77,AUS
- 7) 2:12.89 Davide Rummolo,77,ITA
- 8) 2:13.19 Daniel Malek,73,CZE

100 METRES BUTTERFLY

- 1) 52.10 Lars Frolander,74,SWE
- 2) 52.25 Ian Crocker,82,USA
- 3) 52.36 Geoff Huegill,79,AUS
- 4) 52.56 Takashi Yamamoto,78,JPN
- 5) 52.69 Vladimir Kulikov,71,RUS
- 6) 52.82 Michael Mintenko,75,CAN
- 7) 52.91 Michael Klim,77,AUS
- 8) 53.33 Franck Esposito,71,FRA

200 METRES IND. MEDLEY

- 1) 1:59.71 Massi Rosolino,78,ITA
- 2) 2:00.73 Tom Wilkens,75,USA
- 3) 2:00.91 Justin Norris,80,AUS
- 4) 2:01.50 George Bovell,83,TRI
- 5) 2:01.54 Takahiro Mori,80,JPN
- 6) 2:01.54 Jiro Miki,83,JPN
- 7) 2:01.76 Alessio Boggiatto,81,ITA
- 8) 2:02.42 Curtis Myden,73,CAN

WOMEN

200 METRES BACKSTROKE

- 1) 2:09.94 Diana Mocanu,84,ROM
- 2) 2:10.43 Stanislava Komarova,86,RUS
- 3) 2:11.05 Joanna Fargus,82,GBR
- 4) 2:11.16 Jennifer Fratesi,84,CAN
- 5) 2:11.47 Antje Buschschulte,78,GER
- 6) 2:11.58 Clementine Stoney,82,AUS
- 7) 2:11.68 Nicole Hetzer,79,GER
- 8) 2:14.12 Aya Terakawa,84,JPN

50 METRES BUTTERFLY

- 1) 25.90 Inge de Bruijn,73,NED
- 2) 26.18 Therese Alshammar,77,SWE
- 3) 26.45 Anna-Karin Kammerling,80,SWE
- 4) 26.70 Natalie Coughlin,82,USA
- 5) 26.91 Petria Thomas,75,AUS
- 6) 27.02 Otylia Jedrzejczak,83,POL
- 7) 27.03 Karen Egdal,78,DEN
- 8) 27.19 Yi Ruan,81,CHN

CHINA ADDS GOLDS IN SYNCHRONIZED DIVING

They have won five of seven event

Women's 3m synchronised springboard

Minxia Wu (CHN and JingJing Guo (CHN) easily won the women's 3m springboard synchronized diving. In the finals they performed without the slightest mistake in their routine, consisting of 5 dives (two – optional and three – free). Their final result was even higher than in preliminaries, where Chinese had the lead with 323.25 over the Russian pair with 317.16, the 2000 Olympic and 1998 world champions Julia Pakhalina and Vera Ilyina.

Comparing the morning and the final round, there was no changes in the positions for the first four pairs of competitors – China, Russia, Germany and Ukraine. But the quality of their dives improved in the final.

The superiority of Minxia Wu and Jingjing Guo was evident. For the last three dives they got 78.30, 80.10 and 80.91, while the points of their main rivals, the Russians, were 74.76, 66.12 and 75.33.

"I was nervous because this was my first synchronised diving in these Championships. But I think I did well. Guo leads me. So it was easy for me to perform," said Minxia Wu.

Guo added: "Both of us are good at performing very difficult dives. Even though it has only been two or three months since we became partners, it was easy for us to practice and to work well together".

Julia Pakhalina: "I couldn't practice enough because I had to stay in Russia due to the problems with my visa to the USA. (She was supposed to train in the US prior to these Championships)

Vera Ilyina: "I think these Championships are well organized, but the schedule is quite tight. There is only three hours between the preliminary and the final".

Bronze medal winners Ditte Kotzian, Conny

Schmalfluss: "We were expecting to finish third, but weren't absolutely sure about it either. So we are very happy. The only thing we were afraid was the performance of the Ukrainian divers."

The Germans finished 10 points ahead of Ukrainian pair of Hanna Sorokina and Olena Zhupina.

Men's synchronised platform final

Liang Tian and Jia Hu continued Chinese domination of these championships. They have won five of the seven events so far.

They received their highest mark in the final round worth 81.00 for the forward 3 1/2 somersault.

"We came to get the gold," Tian and Hu said. "We are satisfied with the scores."

The real battle developed for second as the Mexican pair of Eduardo Rueda and Fernando Platas got 336.63 and the Ukrainian pair of Roman Volodkov and Anton Zakharov scored 336.06.

The Mexicans clinched second place with their fourth dive a reverse 3 1/2 somersault for which they got 89.74 the highest marks of the final round.

Rueda, at his first world championships, "I worked hard, and everything went very well here. I did individual events and synchro." Platas: "It came together really well here. World Championships are really tough."

The Ukrainians tried to move and did their best dive last a back 1 1/2 somersault with 3 1/2 twists with a 3.2 degree of difficulty to score 83.52 points and fall 0.60 short of second place.

Volodkov said: "Today's performance was good. It was the first time for Zakharov and me to pair up. I did compete in the Olympics with others."

SYNCHRONISED 3m WOMEN FINAL RESULTS

	Name	YB	Limit	Free	Total
1	CHN		108.00	239.31	347.31
	A.WU Minxia		85		
	B.GUO Jingjing		81		
2	RUS		104.40	216.21	320.61
	A.PAKHALINA Youlia		77		
	B.ILYINA Vera		74		
3	GER		97.80	205.23	303.03
	A.KOTZIAN Ditte		79		
	B.SCHMALFUSS Conny		75		
4	UKR		104.40	189.00	293.40
	A.SOROKINA Hanna		76		
	B.ZHUPINA Olena		73		
5	AUS		94.80	186.54	281.34
	A.MICHELL Chantelle		77		
	B.TOURKY Loudy		79		
6	MEX		91.80	188.94	280.74
	A.ESPINOSA Paola		86		
	B.SANCHEZ SOTO Laura		85		
7	USA		94.80	180.90	275.70
	A.HIRAI-SOLDATI Kimiko		74		
	B.KUNKEL Rachelle		78		
8	BLR		98.40	176.55	274.95
	A.SALIVONCHYK Nastassia		85		
	B.ALEXEEVA Svetlana		70		

SYNCHRONISED PLATFORM MEN FINAL RESULTS

	Name	YB	Limit	Free	Total
1	CHN		112.80	248.61	361.41
	A.TIAN Liang		79		
	B.HU Jia		83		
2	MEX		100.80	235.83	336.63
	A.RUEDA Eduardo		72		
	B.PLATAS Fernando		73		
3	UKR		103.20	232.86	336.06
	A.VOLODKOV Roman		73		
	B.ZAKHAROV Anton		86		
4	AUS		103.80	220.05	323.85
	A.HELLM Mathew		80		
	B.NEWBERY Robert		79		
5	GER		104.40	218.40	322.80
	A.HEMPEL Jan		71		
	B.MEYER Heiko		76		
6	RUS		102.00	216.90	318.90
	A.KORMYLITSIN Roman		82		
	B.LOUKASHIN Igor		79		
7	USA		96.00	211.56	307.56
	A.RUIZ Mark		79		
	B.PRANDI Kyle		79		
8	CUB		92.40	191.70	284.10
	A.FORNARIS Erick		79		
	B.GUERRA OLIVA Jose		79		

RECORD SETTERS July 26

CHAMPIONSHIPS

• Men's 100 freestyle:

48.57 Pieter vdHoogenband,NED (semis)

• Men's 200 breaststroke:

2:10.69 Brendan Hansen,USA (final)

• Men's 100 butterfly:

52.10 Lars Frolander,SWE (final)

• Women's 50 breaststroke:

31.23 Zoe Baker,GBR (prelims)

31 10 Xuejuan Luo,CHN (semis)

• Women's 50 butterfly:

25.90 Inge de Bruijn,NED (final)

AMERICAS

• Men's 100 butterfly:

52.25 Ian Crocker,USA (final)

ASIA

• Men's 200 breaststroke:

2:11.21 Kosuke Kitajima,JPN (final)

• Women's 50 breaststroke:

31 10 Xuejuan Luo,CHN (semis)

EUROPE

• Women's 50 breaststroke:

31.23 Zoe Baker,GBR (prelims)

OCEANIA

• Men's 200 breaststroke

2:11.51 Regan Harrison,AUS (final)



COMBINED MEDAL STANDINGS

All disciplines after July 26

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
RUS	6	7	2	15
CHN	6	4	2	12
AUS	6	3	5	14
USA	5	6	5	16
GER	3	6	5	14
ITA	4	1	3	8
NED	2	4	1	7
JPN	1	1	6	8
GBR	1	1	2	4
SWE	1	1	1	3
CAN	1	0	2	3
HUN	1	0	1	2
UKR	1	0	1	2
ROM	1	0	1	2
FRA	0	2	1	3
MEX	0	2	0	2
ISL	0	1	0	1
AUT	0	1	0	1
RSA	0	0	1	1
	39	40	39	118