## TWO GOLDS FOR AUSTRALIA AND USA TWO MORE WORLD RECORDS

The USA move into the medal lead after winning two golds, a silver, and a bronze. Australia added two gold and two world record.

## Men's 100 freestyle

American sprinter Anthony Ervin was off with a fast start reaching the turn with a half-body lead in 22.60. On the second leg he continued to lead until final 10 metres when Pieter van den Hoogenband (NED) surged to the wall.

A malfunction of the touchpad gave van den Hoogenband a momentary victory with 48.43 only to have Anthony Ervin moved to first as the back-up system gave him a 48.33. The 19-yearold Ervin erased the old American record of 48.42 from 13 years ago as well as the championship record.

Lars Frolander (SWE) was third in 48.79, ending his career with a personal best.
"It was a great race," Ervin said. "Waiting for the results was hard. I'm glad they figured out what went wrong."
"I am not in the best shape now," van den Hoogenband admitted. "I was not happy with my time yesterday (48.57). When I finished the race I thought I got the gold but I knew my time was not satisfactory. When minutes later I realized I got the silver instead of the gold I was really disappointed."
"I was hpoing for a medal," Frolander said. "Second or third it didn't matter. I knew VDH would be faster, so I wasn't worried about him. I did my own race."

Ian Thorpe (AUS) in fourth 48.81 his first sub 49sec swims. "It was a difficult swim. I didn't expect to win, but l'm more than happy with the result."

## Men's 200 backstroke

18-year-old Aaron Peirsol (USA) had little difficulty leading throughout with splits of $27.48,56.93,1: 26.91$ and 1:57.13, a personal best and championship record.

Markus Rogan (AUT) was second with 1:58.07 and Orn Arnarson (ISL) third with 1:58.37 for his second backstroke medal.
"I feel so good that I am going to celebrate by visiting about 20 bars tonight. Just kidding . . . Peirsol added. "I need to rest because I have a hard day tomorrow. I dedicate this medal to my
fans including the charming Japanese lady standing near by."

Winning his first international medal Markus Rogan said, "I had just one goal and it just become real. I am satified with the silver. I wanted to swim as fast as possible."

## Women's 50 breaststroke

Xuejuan Luo (CHN) winner of the 100 breaststroke earlier had little difficulty with the shorter distance. Her time of 30.84 missed the world record by $1 /$ 100th. "I didn't have any pressure," Luo said. "I had confidence that I could win. l'd like to thank my coach for the two golds here. I was happy to compete here in Japan and would like to come back."
"Thank god," Kristy Kowal (USA) said after winning the silver with 31.37. "I had years of training for the 200 breaststroke so I didn't expect this to happen. I am so happy I feel like crying."

Zoe Baker (GBR) in third 31.40 was faster in the semis, "I am quite disappointed. I expected to win. A bronze medal is disappointing."

## Women's 200 freestyle

After she anchored the $4 \times 200$ free relay for Australia, subsequently disqualified, Giaan Rooney (AUS) made-up for that disappointment with a win in the 200 freestyle with 1:58.57 in an incredible close race as four swimmers battled throughout the distance and were separated by $3 / 10$ th at the finish.

Yan Yu (CHN) in second with 1:58.78 and Camelia Potec (ROM) third with 1:58.85. Claudia Poll (CRC) in fourth with

## SWIIMMING MEDAL TOTALS July 27

|  | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE | TOTAL |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| USA | 8 | 7 | 6 | 21 |
| AUS | 8 | 3 | 3 | 14 |
| GER | 2 | 5 | 3 | 10 |
| NED | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| CHN | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| ITA | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| GBR | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| SWE | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| RUS | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| UKR | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| ROM | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| HUN | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| AUT | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| ISL | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| JPN | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| RSA | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 29 | 30 | 29 | 88 |

1:58.92, only $2 / 100$ ths slower than her winning time in 1998.
"It just went exactly as I wanted it to," Roomney said. "I deserved it and I needed it more than anything, I knew tonight was my night."

16 -year-old Yu Yang (CHN) did her best time, "I aimed at a medal and I had a good feeling that I would get one. I was inspired by Luo's win earlier.

Improving with every swim Camelia Potec (ROM) was 8th in the prelims 5th in the semis and now third. "This is my first world championship medal."

## Women's 200 individual medley

Improving four seconds from a year ago Maggie Bowen (USA) won with a 2:11.93 (missing the American record by $2 /$ 100ths). She beat Yana Klochkova (UKR) whose 2:12.30 was almost two seconds off her best.

Hui Qi (CHN) was third after leading at the 150 . Her final time of 2:12.46 was her best. "I felt really good. My breaststroke is my best stroke and that's why I had the lead then."

## Men's $4 \times 200$ freestyle relay

It was a question of by what margin will the record fall as the mighty Australians thrashed the old record by three seconds finishing with a 7:04.66, their old record was 7:07.05 from just a year ago.

Italy second with 7:10.86 a European record and the USA third with 7:13.69.
"Arigato! (Thank you in Japanese) I am excited for this team," anchor lan Thorpe explained. "To maintain this position is a challenge. Australia now has the fastest men's and women's $4 \times 200$ free relay. We dedicate this gold to the women's team. It's important to maintain the strength of Australian swimming. Everyone has done a fantastic job."

The Australian record setters were Grant Hackett lead-off in 1:46.11, Michael Klim 1:46.49, William Kirby 1:47.92 and Ian Thorpe 1:44.14.

In semi final action Geoff Huegill (AUS) bettered his own 50 fly world record of 23.60 to s 23.44 .

FINA held a press conference regarding the timing system, while it admitted that on occasion the system did fail. However FINA officials have made appropriate adjustements on these occasions. The FINA Jury of Appeal reviewed all appeals, examined all the facts and decided on the validity of the results.

## WOMEN'S WATER POLO July 27

## ITALY WINS GOLD

## MATCH 43, 10:00, JPN 6 NZL 5

2-2, 1-0, 1-1, 2-2
JPN 6 (A Kakoshi 2. K Ajichi, Y Mizuta, A Hagiwara, A Yamazaki) NZL 5 (M Thomson 2, F Hillhouse, A Luxton, R Stewart).

Japan deservedly won its first game at this tournament and the bouquets and, in doing so, clinched 11th place, beating New Zealand 6-5.

The game started with a flurry of goals but in the second quarter it slowed down with Japan scoring the only goal. The next period was locked at 1-1 and then, early in the fourth, Japan gained the edge with a spectacular goal from Yuriko Mizuto which came from a cross pass along the two-metre line. Roberta Stewart scored an identical goal, but not as sharp, within the minute to narrow the game to 5-4. Aya Kakoshi took Japan further out when, at 1:51, she sent in a screamer from seven metres for a 6-4 margin. Megan Thomson responded on the next attack with a lob. New Zealand had three more attempts at goal but all were thwarted by the strong Japanese defence. Ako Hagiwara finished as her country's highest scorer, slotting one today for a 12goal total. Megan Thomson scored twice for the Kiwis, topping her country's effort with nine. Both teams scored two from seven on extra.

MATCH 44, 11:15, NED 5 BRA 4
2-1, 1-1, 0-1, 2-1
NED 5 (W Verburg, J Oostendorp, H Kappen, G van den Berg, D De Bruijn) BRA 4 (C Pedrosa 2, M Fleury, C Beer).

The Netherlands, rebuilding after a generation of high achievement, finished ninth with a heartstopping 5-4 victory over Brazil. The Dutch needed Haneeke Kappen to win the match at 1:59 of the last quarter. Camila Pedrosa, as she has done so often this tournament, opened the scoring but the Dutch led the quarter and at halftime. Pedrosa struck again with an excellent counter down the middle, the ball arriving over her head with precision and she fired the ball over Dutch goalkeeper Mascha Geurts' head to level the game at 3-3. It took Pedrosa' goal count to 18 for the tournament. Danielle De Bruijn pushed the Dutch ahead in the fourth but Brazil's Marian Fleury levelled at 3:29. Then it was left to Kappen Brazil's goalkeeper, Claudia Graner, made seven saves to help keep her team in the match.

## MATCH 45, 11:30, GRE 7 KAZ 2

1-0, 1-0, 3-1, 2-1
GRE 7 (S Kozomboli 2, EMoraitidou, S Maneta, D Asilian, A Moraiti, S Petsali) KAZ2 (Y Shishova, N Ignatyeva).

Greece shrugged off Kazakhstan in the play-off for seventh place but the going was hard in the first half with two 1-0 quarters. Greece settled into a pattern in the third with three goals and finished off with a pair in the last. Stavroula Kozomboli continued her scoring run with two goals to finish with 15 for the tournament, three behind Brazil's Camila Pedrosa. The young Greek team, building for the next Olympics, put together some excellent combinations and scored twice on extra. For Kazakhstan, leading scorer Svetlana Koroleva was kept scoreless but Yekaterina Shishova added one goal for an eight-goal finish, equal with Koroleva. Greece scored two from seven on extra and Kazakhstan one from three. Greek goalie Georgia Ellinaki made seven saves.

## MATCH 46, 13:45, AUS 8 RUS 6 (ET)

## 1-1, 1-1, 2-4, 2-0, 0-0, 2-0.

AUS 8 (N Castle 4, Y Higgins, L Mandell, J Fox, M Mills) RUS 6 (E Vassilieva 2, S Kusina, N ShepEina, E Smurova, E Salimova).

It took extra time and a captain's herculean effort for Australia to beat Russia 8-6 in the play-off for fifth and sixth. Naomi Castle scored four goals, two from penalties, as her Olympic champion team battled back from 6-4 down in the third to level the game inside the final minute of the match, forcing extra time. Both sides found penetrating the goalline too hard in the first period of extra, especially with Australia's No 2 goalie, Emma Knox, checking into the game late in the third period. In the first period of extra she blocked four successive one-onones. In the second period, Melissa Mills put Australia ahead on extra and a double major on Sofia Konoukh in the final two seconds gave Castle a second, and her team's third, penalty goal. Olympic bronze medallist Russia played a confident game and made some excellent shots to get to 6-4, seemingly banishing the Olympic champion to sixth, with Ekaterina Vassilieva scoring twice.

## BRONZE MEDAL MATCH

## MATCH 47, 15:00, CAN 6 USA 5

1-2, 2-1, 2-1, 1-1 CAN 6 (A Dow 3, S Gardiner, J Begin, V Dionne) USA 5 (H Moody 3, B Villa, C Simmons)

The battle for North American supremacy was contested today with a familiar result. Once again, "David" slew "Goliath" as Canada defeated the Olympic silver medalilst USA 6-5. Ann Dow (CAN), a 10 -year veteran on the national team, scored three goals and earned her first international medal.

The Americans started quickly with two goals by Heather Moody (USA) and Brenda Villa (USA). Moody had three goals to her credit including the last American goal. Her come-from-behind goals in the third and again in the fourth periods brought the American team even with their northern neighbours. Villa (USA) and Moody (USA) ended the tournament with 13 goals each, Ericka Lorenz (USA) had 14 to her credit but did not score in the match.

Dow (CAN) scored at 2:03 in the second period to tied the game at 3-3. She hit the nets again at 6:03 in the third period to give Canada a one-goal advantage, 4-3. At 2:44 in the third period she connected for the third time, again a go-ahead goal to make the score 5-4. Valerie Dionne (CAN) clinched it for the Canadians with her goal at 4:26 in the fourth quarter.

## GOLD MEDAL MATCH

## MATCH 48, 16:15, ITA 7 HUN 3

3-0, 1-2, 2-0, 1-1
ITA 7 (M Miceli 4, C Allucci, T Di Mario, G Malato) HUN 3 (M Stieber, E Valkay, K Szremko).

Italy retained its world championship crown with a stunning 7-3 victory over European champion Hungary before a packed Nishi Civic Pool. In just over four minutes the Italians made a statement that their world crown was not up for grabs. Three goals in this period appeared to stun the Hungarians. It wasn't until 12 minutes into the game that Tamas Farago's team registered on the scoreboard. The feeling was infective as Mercedes Stieber scored the second a minute later but Martina Miceli rounded out the half 4-2 ahead. That became 5-2 and 6-2 in the third, courtesy of Miceli, as Italy found the target while Hungary's many shots hit the wood or were steered away from the goal by excellent defence. Miceli made it 7-2 in the fourth for a tournament high of 20 goals. Krisztina Szremko did what her team-mates couldn't do for some time and scored four minutes from full time. Italian coach Pierluigi Formiconi urged his team to repulse the Hungarian attack and he only relaxed in the final half minute to savour the moment.

The highest 20 goal scorers in the women's water polo competition:

| M Miceli | ITA | 20 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| C Pedrosa | BRA | 18 |
| S Kozomboli | GRE | 15 |
| E Lorenz | USA | 14 |
| D De Bruijn | NED | 14 |
| T Di Mario | ITA | 14 |
| H Moody | USA | 13 |
| B Villa | USA | 13 |
| A Hagiwara JPN | 12 |  |
| Y Higgins | AUS | 12 |
| E Salimova | RUS | 11 |
| G Malato | ITA | 11 |
| S Konoukh | RUS | 10 |
| A Pelle | HUN | 10 |
| A Dow | CAN | 10 |
| E Vassilieva | RUS | 10 |
| A Valkay | HUN | 10 |
| T Petrova | RUS | 9 |
| M Thomson | NZL | 9 |
| M Stieber | HUN | 9 |

Tania Di Mario (ITA) and Naomi Castle (AUS) were the highest penalty shooters with three each.

## MEN'S WATER POLO

It's cross-over day today at the men's water polo at Hakata-no-Mori Center Court today.

Twelve teams are dicing in their groups of four to find who will play whom in the classification games tomorrow.

The first two games are playing in the 9-12 group, the next two in the 5-8 group and then the top four in the medal semifinals.
Men's draw:

| 09:00 SVK | $\mathbf{v}$ | AUS |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 10:30 KAZ | v | NED |
| 12:00 GRE | v | CRO |
| 13:30 HUN | v | USA |
| 15:00 ITA | $v$ | ESP |
| 16:30 YUG | $v$ | RUS |

## FINA DRAW

The draw for the IV FINA Junior Women's World Water Polo Championships to be staged in Perth, Australia, on December 7-15, was made yesterday. In attendance at the Nishi Civic Pool was Guillermo Martinez, FINA Bureau Liaison Water Polo.

The draw was conducted by TWPC Chairman Gianni Lonzi and TWPC Secretary John Whitehouse. Group A:
1 USA. 2 AUS. 3 ITA. 4 RSA. 5 VEN. 6 NZL. 7 GRE.
Group B:
1 GER. 2 KAZ. 3 HUN. 4 CAN. 5 BRA. 6 RUS.

PRESS INFORMATION

## Bar celona 2003 J UST UNBELIEVABLE!

Fukuoka, July 27, 2001 - The Organising Committee (OC) of the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships, to be held in Barcelona (ESP) in 2003, held on Friday (July 26) the presentation of this major event to the accredited media in Fukuoka. The journalists were informed about the structure of the OC, the venues that will host the competition, some organisational details, and most of all they had two special "bonus": they assisted to the official launch of the Championships website - www.bcn03.org - and to the promotional video concerning the "water show" that Barcelona is ready to offer to the world.

This new philosophy was emphasised by Bartolo Consolo, FINA Honorary Secretary. "We have a new concept to implement: first, we want the venues to be concentrated in order that all sports can live together, secondly we try to get all the conditions for creating a real aquatic festival. As the investment of the organizing city is so high, we understand that this effort should also be used in the promotion of our sport."

Rafael Blanco, President of the Spanish Swimming Federation, is also looking forward to host the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships. "It is a very ambitious project. Fortunately, we can count with the excellent co-operation of all Spanish authorities and FINA support. The experience and the help from the Fukuoka Organising Committee is also a valuable tool for our work", considered Rafael Blanco.
"Just unbelievable" is the slogan of the Championships. Everyone expects it to be a reality in 2003. In terms of infrastructures, Barcelona is carefully preparing the best conditions for the athletes and all aquatic family. The venues for each discipline are as follows:

- Swimming - Palau Sant Jordi temporary pool (12000 seats)
- Synchronised swimming - Bernat

Picornell pools (3500 seats)

- Diving - Montjuic swimming pools (4100 seats)
- Men's Water Polo - Club Natacio

Barcelona (preliminaries) - 3500 seats

Palau Sant Jordi (semi-finals and finals)

- Women's Water Polo - Club Natacio Barcelona
- Open water swimming - Port Vell (sea front of Barcelona) - 80000 to 100000 spectators

As the Vice-Mayor of Barcelona Xavier Casas added "Barcelona will be again the aquatic center of the world, like it was in 1992 for the Olympic Games". Or, as expressed in the promotional video of the Championships, "if water is life, Barcelona will be the most alive city in the world".

At this Press Conference, the following responsible were present:

- Mr. Xavier Casas, Vice Mayor of Barcelona;
- Mr. Jesus Canga, Vice-Deputy of Deputacion de Barcelona;
- Mr. Albert Battle, President of the Organising Committee of Barcelona 2003;
- Mr. Rafael Blanco, President of the Spanish Swimming Federation;
- Mr. Luis Bestit, President of the Catalonian Swimming Federation;
- Mr. Adolf Cabruja,

General Manager of the OC Barcelona 2003;

- Mr. Bartolo Consolo, FINA Honorary Secretary.

All further information about the Championships can be found on the Organising website:
www.ben03.org
or in the FINA Official website www.fina. org


## SWIMMING FINALS July 27

## MEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE

1) 48.33 Anthony Ervin,81,USA
2) 48.43 Pieter volHoogenband, 78, NED
3) 48.79 Lars Frolander,74,SWE
4) 48.81 lan Thorpe,82,AUS
5) 49.13 Attila Zubor, $75, \mathrm{HUN}$
6) 49.35 Torsten Spanneberg,75,GER
7) 49.39 Ashley Callus,79,AUS
8) 49.51 Jason Lezak,75,USA

200 METRES BACKSTROKE

1) $1: 57.13$ Aaron Peirsol, 83, USA
2) $1: 58.07$ Markus Rogan, 81, AUT
3) $1: 58.37$ Orn Arnarson, 81, ISL
4) $1: 58.80$ Matt Welsh,76,AUS
5) 1:59.23 Gordan Kozulj,76,CRO
6) $1: 59.74$ Viktor Bodrogi,83,HUN
7) $1: 59.83$ Emanuele Merisi,72,ITA
8) $2: 00.09$ Yoav Gath, 80, ISR

4X200 FREE RELAY

1) $7: 04.66$ Australia,AUS
2) $7: 10.86$ Italy,ITA
3) $7: 13.69$ United States, USA
4) $7: 15.60$ Great Britain,GBR
5) $7: 17.29$ Germany,GER
6) $7: 17.80$ Canada,CAN
7) 7:20.60 Japan,JPN
8) $7: 22.44$ Russia,RUS

## WOMEN

200 METRES FREESTYLE

1) $1: 58.57$ Giaan Rooney, 82, AUS
2) $1: 58.78$ Yu Yang,86,CHN
3) $1: 58.85$ Camelia Potec,82,ROM
4) $1: 58.92$ Claudia Poll,72,CRC
5) $1: 59.29$ Martina Moravcova,76,SVK
6) $1: 59.44$ Nicola Jackson, 84, GBR
7) $1: 59.63$ Eka Graham,81,AUS
8) $1: 59.64$ Mette Jacobsen, 73, DEN

50 METRES BREASTSTROKE

1) 30.84 Xuejuan Luo,84,CHN
2) 31.37 Kristy Kowal, 78, USA
3) 31.40 Zoe Baker,76,GBR
4) 31.55 Megan Quann,84,USA
5) 31.87 Brooke Hanson,78,AUS
6) 31.96 Roberta Crescentini, 75, ITA
7) 32.03 Sarah Poewe, 83, RSA
8) 32.05 Agnes Kovacs, $81, \mathrm{HUN}$

200 METRES IND. MEDLEY

1) $2: 11.93$ Maggie Bowen,80,USA
2) $2: 12.30$ Yana Klochkova,82,UKR
3) $2: 12.46$ Hui Qi, $85, \mathrm{CHN}$
4) $2: 13.62$ Oxana Verevka, 77, RUS
5) $2: 13.78$ Beatrice Caslaru, $75, \mathrm{ROM}$
6) $2: 14.82$ Cristina Teuscher,78,USA
7) $2: 14.93$ Tomoko Hagiwara,80,JPN
8) $2: 15.15$ Annika Mehlhorn,83,GER

## DIVING

## GOLD RUSH CONTINUES FOR CHINA

Feng Wang (CHN) and Tianling Wang (CHN) easily won the final of the men's 1 m springboard. More than 30 competitors took part and the Chinese were in the lead from the prelims.

In semi final A Tianling Wang had 434.70 which was 30 points ahead of Troy Dumais (USA).

In semi final B Feng Wang scored highest with 414.99 a 40 point lead over Alxander Dobrosok (RUS).

Although Chinese superiority was undeniable there was always the possibility of somebody blowing a dive in the final round. Feng Wand had the lead after the first round with a 76.50 over Shannon Roy (AUS) in second 73.47 .

In the second round Alexander Dobrosok moved in the second and held that position after the third round. Tianling Wang was only
one point behind.
On the fourth round the two Chinese were one-two and in the final round Feng Wang got the highest marks with 82.62 for his $21 / 2$ invard somersault with 3.4 degree of difficulty.
"I would say that I have reached a very high level with today's performance," feng Wang said. "My overall performance has improved technically and individual dives have become better as well."

Alexander Dobroskok: "l'm happy to get this medal since this is my second bronze in this Championship. This 1 m springboard was a tough competition. The Chinese divers are excellent so l'm glad that I finished third. My long term goal is two medals at the next Olympics. The colour of the medals doesn't matter, any medal is OK."

SPRINGBOARD 1m MEN FINAL RESULTS

|  | Name | YB | Nation | Prelims | Semis | Final |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | WANG Feng | 79 | CHN | 405.93 | 414.99 | 444.03 |
| 2 | WANG Tianling | 77 | CHN | 390.69 | 434.70 | 433.14 |
| 3 | DOBROSKOK Alexander | 82 | RUS | 390.03 | 372.81 | 414.21 |
| 4 | DAVIDSON Thomas | 77 | USA | 360.72 | 363.63 | 369.60 |
| 5 | DUMAIS Troy | 80 | USA | 343.59 | 364.95 | 365.76 |
| 6 | ROY Shannon | 76 | AUS | 337.35 | 356.43 | 354.81 |

## WOMEN'S WATERPOLO REFLECTIONS

It was just 14 months ago that two European women's water polo teams were in the depth of despair.

That those two countries vowed to bounce back was credit to their nations.

The scene was Palermo, Italy and the event was the Olympic Games Qualification Tournament. The night was a Saturday in early summer and the heat of action was about to implode for Italy and Hungary. They left the pool in tears that night, losing to the United States and Russia. It was only the semifinals but the real prize was Olympic qualification.

Anyone who was there will remember it like a cloud of death hanging over the pool or even the smoke from Mt Etna come to devour the vanquished. The following night these two proud nations clashed in the play-off for third but in reality, it was like playing for last. The prize had slipped away. The carrot that had spurred the team on an hour earlier had been snatched away. Only first and second earned the trip to Sydney.

The realisation that they would not contest the historic inaugural women's Olympic tournament in far-flung Australia had soaked in. tears rolled down the face as they were presented to a near-deserted crowd. How fickle those followers were.

Where are they now?
The shame of Palermo is but a distant memory as Hungary and Italy rose from the
ashes and clashed in the final of the European Championships last month. Hungary was the victor, Italy a proud second.

At the Nishi Civic Pool yesterday, two proud teams strode the stage but this time Italy is the champion, retaining the title it so rightfully won in Perth back in January 1998.

To the Hungarians this time, the lack of the major prize was not the end of the world. They are proud of their progress since Palermo and believe this heralds a new age.

What of those Olympians?
Australia, so proud in front of 17,000 screaming home fans last September were fifth yesterday. The United States, a valiant second to Australia in Sydney, lost the bronze-medal game. Russia, the bronze medallist in Sydney, lost out to Australia in extra time yesterday and finished sixth. Canada was fourth in Sydney but grabbed the bronze yesterday. The Netherlands and Kazakhstan slipped in their rankings from Sydney.

These championships have shown a healthy respect for the game, lively competition, close matches and has produced new stars.

Let's not forget that women's water polo has been in these championships just five times since 1986 and let us celebrate the first dual champion - Italy.

## RECORD SETTERS July 27

## WORLD

- Men's 50 butterfly:
23.44 Geoff Huegill,AUS (semis)
- Men's $4 \times 200$ free

7:04.66 Australia,AUS (final)

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Men's 100 freestyle:
48.33 Anthony Ervin,USA (final)
- Men's 200 backstroke:

1:57.13 Aaaron Piersol,USA (final)

- Men's 50 butterfly:
23.71 Geoff Huegill,AUS (prelims)
23.44 Geoff Huegill,AUS (semis)
- Men's $4 \times 200$ free:

7:04.66 Australia,AUS (final)

- Women's 1500 freestyle:

16:14.51 Hannah Stockbauer, GER (prelims)

- Womens 50 breaststroke:
30.84 Xuejuan Luo,CHN (final)

AFRICA

- Men's 50 butterfly:
23.68 Roland Schoeman, RSA (semis)


## AMERICAS

- Men's 100 freestyle:
48.33 Anthony Ervin,USA (final)

ASIA

- Men's $4 \times 200$ free:

7:22.03 Japan,JPN (prelims)
7:20.60 Japan, JPN (finals)

- Women's 1500 freestyle:

16:31.60 Sachiko Yamada,JPN (finals)

## - Womens 50 breaststroke:

30.84 Xuejuan Luo,CHN (final)

EUROPE

- Men's 50 butterfly:
23.66 Mark Foster,GBR (semis)
- Men's $4 \times 200$ free:

7:10.86 Italy,ITA (final)
OCEANIA

- Men's 50 butterfly:
23.44 Geoff Huegill,AUS (semis)
- Men's $4 \times 200$ free:

7:04.66 Australia,AUS (final)

## COMBINED MEDAL STANDINGS

All disciplines after July 27

|  | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| USA | 8 | 7 | 6 | 21 |
| CHN | 8 | 6 | 3 | 17 |
| AUS | 8 | 3 | 5 | 16 |
| RUS | 6 | 7 | 3 | 16 |
| ITA | 5 | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| GER | 3 | 6 | 5 | 14 |
| NED | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| JPN | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| GBR | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| SWE | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| HUN | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| UKR | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| CAN | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| ROM | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| FRA | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| MEX | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| AUT | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| ISL | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| RSA | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
|  | 47 | 48 | $\mathbf{4 7}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 2}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |

