



Diving: Women's 3m springboard synchro

Guo makes it for the 10th consecutive time!

Jingjing Guo and Minxia Wu (CHN) have given China its sixth diving gold of these World Championships today. Tania Cagnotto and Francesca Dallape (ITA) came second almost 19 points ahead of Yulia Pakhalina and Anastasia Pozdnyakova (RUS). It was Guo's 10th consecutive gold medal at the World Championships in 3m springboard (both individual and synchro).

Before Guo's "era" (which started in 2001), this event was won in 1998 (Perth) by Pakhalina and her famous partner Vera Ilyina. After the 2004 Games Ilyina retired and Pakhalina started to practice with Pozdnyakova. These two also got silver in Beijing and were expected to fight for silver in Rome.

The preliminary result of the Russian team was good enough. There was one mistake in the fourth round and that was a reason why Pakhalina and Pozdnyakova got lower points than Cagnotto and Dallape. Both Italian girls have greatly progressed in the last few years and have become a main medal hope for their country in diving. The Russian team however, just seemed more experienced, and also more dangerous than the teams of Canada, Australia and USA.

During the first three rounds, Pakhalina and Pozdnyakova were maintaining their second position with confidence, but all of a sudden they made a terrible mistake: Pozdnyakova lost her balance on the board in their Reverse 1.5 Somersault with 2.5 Twists, and the pair lost its synchronisation and was immediately punished in the marks and rankings. It was the same story with the Russians at the Athens Games: Vera Ilyina made the same mistake in the same combination.

This accident greatly altered the positions of the finalists. Cagnotto and Dallape proceeded to find themselves in second place - 13.68 ahead of Russia, while Jennifer Abel and Melanie Rinaldi (CAN) moved to the third position, and Kelci Bryant and Ariel Rittenhouse (USA) and Briony Cole and Sharleen Stratton (AUS) took the fifth and sixth spots (both behind the

Russian team) but the points of all three were almost equal.

In other words, the last round would show which team would be lucky enough to take the bronze. As for silver, it looked like it would already be an "Italian" award.

In the final round Cagnotto and Dallape gave their rivals no chance to reach them.

The experience of the Olympic vice-champions helped them concentrate when the pressure was on and take the medal. The points' difference between third and fifth place was heart-breaking: 310.80 for Russia, 309.90 for Canada, 309.18 for Australia.

SYNCHRO

Russia takes gold in Duet Free

Russian synchronised swimmers have now earned five gold medals at these 13th FINA World Championships after the pair of Natalia Ishchenko and Svetlana Romashina conquered the Duet Free today. The pair earned victory with a score of 98.833, once again finishing just ahead of the Spanish pair of Andrea Fuentes and Gemma Mengual, which was given a score of 98.333. In third were the Chinese twins Tingting and Wenwen Jiang with a score of 97.000.

Speaking after her win, Romashina said: "We are very happy to have secured the gold medal. We wanted to distinguish ourselves from the other swimmers. Our performance was perfect; our choreography was easy and full of details. We have been training for eight months," the champion confirmed, saying they wanted to "add a new style" to their performance. Their coach Tatiana Danchenko said the Russian medal today was the result of ten years of hard work.

The Russian routine was indeed unique and exciting, and carried out to an eclectic and

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
CHN	6	5	6	17
RUS	6	2	1	9
GBR	2	0	0	2
GER	2	0	0	2
ESP	1	5	0	6
AUS	1	0	1	2
MEX	1	0	0	1
USA	0	4	1	5
CAN	0	1	4	5
ITA	0	1	3	4
GRE	0	1	0	1
BRA	0	0	1	1
MAS	0	0	1	1
RSA	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	19	19	19	57

contemporary piece of music. The performance was edgy yet graceful, and executed with stunning athleticism that showed why the Russians are still Masters of this discipline. Their movements were intricate, but nevertheless performed flawlessly.

Like the rest of the synchro events here in Rome, Russia's biggest challenger was Spain, and the duet of Gemma Mengual and Andrea Fuentes. Regarding their silver medal performance, Mengual said: "Compared to yesterday's performance we corrected a few things and this was appreciated. I believe this time we have been evaluated correctly and the final score reflects the level of our performance."

The famous Spanish pair – the crowd's favourite aside from the Italian pair who would swim last – performed with the most feeling. They seemed to be dancing in the water; dancing both with each other and for the crowd. If their routine was perhaps not the most



complicated or precise, it was certainly exceptionally creative and presented with great emotion.

The Chinese representation also shined when they took to the pool, following a solid appearance from Japan's Inui Yukiko and Sakai Mariko. China secured the bronze by using a style of swimming that was a combination of grace and power. Their routine was also engaging, abruptly shifting their tempo to a slow, languid pace before speeding up again for the conclusion. This diversity, as well as their strong finish, pleased the judges and audience alike.

As twins, the synchronicity of this pair was impressive and they acknowledge that they use their relation as an advantage: "There are figures that only we, as twins, are able to perform. This is because our legs are equally long."

WATER POLO

Hungary heads quarter-final qualifiers in men's water polo

Olympic champion Hungary, world champion Croatia, Olympic silver medallist United States of America and Spain have qualified for the quarter-finals of the men's water polo competition.

Canada caused the biggest upset of the day with a 5-4 margin over Germany, the team that drew with Hungary earlier in the week. Canada took second spot in Group A while Hungary romped through South Africa 15-5 to secure its quarter-final berth.

Spain was the first to qualify for the quarter-finals with an 11-5 victory over Kazakhstan in Group C. Serbia and Australia played to an enthralling 8-8 draw with the former finishing second on the tiebreak, which was the result against Spain. Serbia lost by two and Australia by three.

The United States of America wrapped up Group D by defeating second-ranked Romania 7-5 for three straight victories. Italy finished third with a first-win 12-5 scoreline against Macedonia. The host will now need to overtake Serbia in the second round to retain hopes of a medal finish.

Croatia took a big step to retaining its title with a 15-5 success over China to head Group B with

European champion Montenegro left to battle through the second round despite defeating Brazil 19-5.

The women's competition reaches the critical second-round stage on Saturday with the main match-ups New Zealand-Netherlands (11:40), China-USA (15:30), Canada-Germany (16:50) and Italy-Greece (21:30).

Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan (09:00) and South Africa-Brazil (10:20) are the encounters in the 13-16 play-off semifinals.

Game 41, 09.30, men, KAZ 5 ESP 11

Referees: Mark KOGANOV (AZE), Ni Shi Wei (CHN)

Quarters: 1-4, 0-2, 1-2, 3-3

Extra man: KAZ 1/3; ESP 4/6

Spain conquered Kazakhstan and Group C with three victories and direct entry to the quarter-finals. Spain controlled the game from the first quarter and led 7-1 early in the third before Kazakhstan's RUDAY scored a spectacular centre-forward goal, working his way slowly around before making it 7-2.

Kazakhstan came up strong in the final quarter, matching goals with Spain, who were coasting to victory and thinking more of the quarter-finals.

Game 42, 10.50, men, SRB 8 AUS 8

Referees: Gaetan TURCOTTE (CAN), Filippo GOMEZ (ITA)

Quarters: 2-1, 1-2, 3-4, 2-1

Extra man: SRB 2/6; AUS 0/6

Serbia and Australia struggled to an 8-8 draw with Serbia finishing second in the group because of a smaller deficit to group winner Spain. Serbia lost by two goals and Australia by three. Australia took its first lead two minutes from halftime and maintain the advantage early in the fourth when PRLAINOVIC levelled and NIKIC took the Serbs 8-7 ahead. Aussie Sharks captain WHALAN converted a penalty draw by MAITLAND at 2:37 and both teams missed opportunities to shoot after timeout plays inside the last nine seconds.

Game 43, 12.10, men, USA 7 ROU 5

Referees: Gabor KISZELLY (HUN), Nikolas STAVROPOULOS (GRE).

Quarters: 1-2, 2-0, 2-2, 2-1

Extra man: USA 2/9; ROU 0/8

The USA made it straight to the quarter-finals with a third straight win.

The Olympic silver medallists worked hard to shrug off Romania who held the lead at 2-1 for eight minutes and kept the USA scoreless for 11 minutes.

BAILEY missed a penalty shot during this time.

The USA scored twice before halftime and once

soon after the break for a 4-2 turnaround. Two quick goals by Romania had the game at 4-4 but USA scored either side of the final break with BEAUBIEN netting his third. RADU scored from deep at 5:08 but it wasn't until 1:16 that the USA sealed the quarter-final spot with an AZEVEDO goal off a 5m free throw.

Game 44, 13.30, men, RSA 5 HUN 15

Referees: Irfan SADEKOV (RUS), Ursula WENGEROTH

Quarters: 1-6, 1-3, 1-4, 2-2

Extra man: RSA 2/6; HUN 2/3

Hungary cruised through the match and had to await the Germany-Canada match to see whether it advanced to the quarter-finals following the shock draw with Germany earlier in the week. The shocks continued as Canada won and Hungary won the group. The first quarter was sound at 6-1 but South Africa managed to trip Hungary up at times and slowed the progress. The final period was probably a triumph for South Africa before taking on the 13-16 group. Denes VARGA was the class act for Hungary.

Game 45, 17.00, men, CAN 5 GER 4

Referees: Mario BRGULJAN (MNE), Alan BALFANBAYEV (KAZ).

Quarters: 1-1, 1-0, 1-0, 2-3

Extra man: CAN 2/6; GER 3/10

Canada created an upset by defeating Germany for second spot in Group A behind Hungary. Germany had drawn with Hungary and nearly pulled off another in the dying moments but Canada had done enough through dynamic defence and expert goalkeeping from RANDELL. The stunning shot of the game came in the last 25 seconds when GRAHAM was left to take a shot at the end of possession time from well outside and he secured the match with a bouncer than smashed into the top of the net after nearly grazing TCHIGIR'S face. Germany was constantly peppering the Canadian defence but many of the shots were channelled or lacked purpose.

Game 46 18.20, men, MNE 19 BRA 5

Referees: Steven ROTSART (USA), Risto DAMCEVSKI (MKD).

Quarters: 4-1, 6-0, 6-3, 3-1

Extra man: MNE 5/9; BRA 2/4

Montenegro collected second place in Group B with a comfortable victory built on speed, agility, counter-attack and superior firepower. Brazil scored consecutive goals early in the third period and Ruda FRANCO scored either side of the final break but it was a JANOVIC scoring fest, Mladjan and Nikola scoring four each for Montenegro, the European champion. The

FRANCOS were not to be outdone as Marcelo FRANCO and Felipe FRANCO also made the scoresheet. ZLOKOVIC, who injured an eye two days ago, played without any problems.

Game 47, 19:40, men, CRO 15 CHN 5

Referees: Gideo REEMNET (NED), Igor MERNENKO (UZB).

Quarters: 3-2, 4-1, 5-0, 3-2

Extra man: CRO 3/7; CHN 3/8

Croatia became the fourth team to make the quarter-finals, finishing atop Group B with a handsome victory. RUDIC said he would give the team a half-day off in celebration. It took time for Croatia to settle but at the top of the second quarter the Croatian counter machine took hold and China was shut out from scoring with the exception of a goal to veteran HAN late in the second quarter and one to YU 10 seconds from full time. BOSKOVIC gained two of his five goals from the penalty line in the first quarter.

Game 48, 21:00, men, MKD 5 ITA 12

Referees: Nenad PERIS (CRO), Erhan TULGA (TUR).

Quarters: 2-3, 0-3, 3-3, 0-3

Italy took time to get its act together and finally please an adoring home crowd with a first win of the championship. It means Italy heads to the second round and a clash with Serbia for advancement to the top eight. The biggest crowd of the week saw Italy take just a one-goal lead at quarter time and then kept Macedonia scoreless in the second quarter. If Italy didn't have a penchant with shooting wide or an addiction with the wood, he score could have been much higher. The third quarter was high quality water polo from both teams while the fourth saw Italy pleasing the crowd with counters but fewer goals.

FINA GENERAL CONGRESS

FINA held on July 24, 2009 its General Congress in Rome (ITA) with the occasion of the 13th FINA World Championships, and elected a new Bureau for the period 2009-2013.

The composition of the Bureau is as follows:

President

Dr Julio Maglione (URU)

Honorary Secretary

Paolo Barelli (ITA)

Honorary Treasurer

Pipat Paniangvait (THA)

Vice-Presidents

Sam Ramsamy (RSA)
Dale Neuburger (USA)
Hironoshin Furuhashi (JPN)
Nory Kruchten (LUX)
Bill Matson (NZL)

Members

Chief Olatokunbo Thomas (NGR)
Farid El Allam (MAR)
Abd El Rahman Amin (EGY)
Dr Margo Mountjoy (CAN)
Coaracy Nunes Filho (BRA)
Orban Mendoza (PUR)
Eugenio Martinez (CUB)
Hussain Al Musallam (KUW)
Qiuping Zhang (CHN)
Dimitris Diathessopoulos (GRE)
Paulo Frischknecht (POR)
Tamas Gyarfás (HUN)
Gennady Aleshin (RUS)
Dennis Miller (FIJ)

Moreover, the former FINA President Mustapha Larfaoui will from now on be the FINA Honorary Life President.

In his first speech as FINA President, Dr. Julio Maglione thanked the support of the 201 National Federations worldwide, and expressed his optimism for the future of FINA. "A new era is just beginning. I do not want to let you down. I would never forgive myself. I hope to be able to accomplish all the goals proposed and everything they mean in terms of progress and development for FINA," considered Dr. Maglione, with tears in his eyes.

The new FINA Honorary Life President expressed his satisfaction after being at the helm of FINA for 21 years: "During this period, we have progressed a lot and it was a privilege and an honour to me to participate and witness this development. We are today more important, more respected and more recognised worldwide," said Mr. Larfaoui.

In terms of rules, the General Congress approved the following:

- Candidates for President shall be nominated in writing three months before the Congress, and the Executive Director should notify on the candidates for President at least two months prior to the Congress;
- The President, Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer can be elected only for a maximum of two terms in the same post;
- A new rule concerning the shape and the material (only textile) of the swimsuits was approved;

- At the FINA World Championships (50m and 25m), in swimming, semi-finals and finals may be swum using 10 lanes. In consequence, a new scoring system for this competition was adopted;

- In terms of the Facilities rules, any new competition equipment (such as starting blocks) must be available by January 1 in the year of the Olympic Games and FINA World Championships. Precisions concerning starting blocks and lane ropes were adopted;

- Equipment for diving and synchronised swimming was also added to the rules;

- Concerning the Doping Control Rules, the Congress unanimously approved some minor changes concerning the update of the rules in accordance with the WADA Code.

Finally, the General Congress also approved the new Doping Panel and Disciplinary Panel for the period 2009-2013:

Doping Panel

Chairman: Erik Van Heijningen (NED)

Members: Farid Ben Belkacem (ALG), William Bock (USA), Toshiro Ueyanagi (JPN), Robert Fox (SUI), Peter Kerr (AUS)

Disciplinary Panel

Chairman: Dr. Christa Thiel (GER)

Members: Onyango Njeri (KEN), Gordon Peterson (CAN), Li Hua (CHN), David Sparkes (GBR), Chris Fydler (AUS)

RESULTS

Synchro

DUET FREE

1. ISHCHENKO N./ROMASHINA S. RUS
98.833
2. FUENTES A./MENGUAL G. ESP 98.333
3. JIANG T./JIANG W. CHN 97.000
4. BOUDREAU G./ISAAC C. CAN M.P. 95.833
5. ADELIZZI B./LAPI G. ITA 95.334 3.499
6. INUI Y./SAKAI M. JPN 94.000
7. IUSHKO D./SYDORENKO K. UKR 93.000
8. DREYFUSS A./MEESSEMAN B. L. FRA
92.000
9. ANTHOPOULOU N./SOLOMOU D. GRE
91.333
10. ALLISON O./RANDALL J. GBR 90.667
11. FIGUEIRA N./TEIXEIRA L. BRA 89.500
12. KIM Y. M./WANG O. G. PRK 88.500
13. BERNARDOVA S./DUFKOVA A. CZE
86.834

Diving

WOMEN – 3M SYNCHRO SPRINGBOARD

1. GUO J./WU M. CHN 348.00
2. CAGNOTTO T./DALLAPÉ F. ITA 329.70
3. PAKHALINA J./POZDNIAKOVA A. RUS
310.80
4. ABEL J./RINALDI M. CAN 309.90
5. COLE B./STRATTON S. AUS 309.18
6. BRYANT K./RITTENHOUSE A. USA 305.10
7. ESPINOSA P./SANCHEZ L. MEX 304.50
8. NAKAGAWA M./SHIBUSAWA S. JPN
291.45
9. DIECKOW K./SUBSCHINSKI N. GER 282.30
10. FEDOROVA O./KOROLYOVA A. UKR
263.67
11. GEURTSSEN R./JANSSEN I. NED 262.44
12. GONDOS ./REISINGER Z. HUN 245.19