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# Gary Hunt: Diving in the heart of Budapest is going to be fantastic

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*Gary Hunt is the king of high diving. He is the reigning champion in that event in the FINA World Championships, and has won the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series five times so far. There is no doubt that he will be the top favourite in the 2017 FINA WCH in Budapest as well.*

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„Diving in the heart of Budapest is going to be fantastic, I can't wait. To defend your title is always harder than to take it in the first place. I know that there are a lot of divers who want that gold medal, my job is to make sure that I'm more determined and working harder than everyone else” - Hunt said to Bp2017 Media.



(Image: Romina Amato)

A lot of 'normal' divers (1, 3 and 10 meters) say they would be afraid of high diving and cliff diving, and this is a completely different sport.

„If you take away the word 'cliff' or 'high' you're left with the word diving. The basics are exactly the same it's just the height and the entry position that changes. It's normal for divers who specialise in 10m to be scared of 27m. It takes years and years to become comfortable on the 10m platform, the same goes for high diving, it just takes time.”

„When I was a young diver I wanted to be able to do every dive in the book. This meant learning lots of 'feet first' dives which I liked in particular. As soon as I started high diving it seemed as though the possibilities were endless. I had opened the door to a whole new world of dives to learn and I've never looked back since.”

„Being afraid is just part of being a high diver, dealing with this fear is what separates the men from the boys. I don't think I've met a high diver that doesn't have a 'crash' story to

tell. If you're pushing your limits and learning new dives, you're bound to take a hit once in a while.”



(Image: Predrag Vuckovic)

Hunt has really won almost everything he could in recent years. One would wonder if he was still high motivated, but he seems as enthusiastic as he was at the beginning of his career.

„As long as I feel that I am improving I will want to push myself and keep learning. It's not the medals that motivate me, it's the possibility of learning something bigger and better. There are still dives that I want to learn and I am going to spend the next couple of years building up strength and confidence to be able to perform these dives.”

„There are many locations with something special about them. Diving in the cenote in Yucatan sticks out because the location is so original. We've been to many continents thanks to high diving but so far we haven't competed in Africa...”



The Red Bull Cliff Diving Series is a real success story. The question is: why? What can be the secret?

„I think the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series is so exciting because most people have tried at least once in their life to jump from a cliff. It may have been just a few meters high or somewhere close to 20m. When they see what we do from the 27m platform most people simply can't believe what they are seeing.”

High diving is not part of the Olympic programme yet, but Hunt thinks it's just a matter of time.

„It's a real spectator sport and we are seeing more and more extreme sports entering the programme.”

„ I love performing so I hope to go into show business. I have been juggling for 6 years now and I am very interested in physical comedy, some of my idols are Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. Some day I would love to create some sort of show with the skills that I have acquired over the years.”