



Fina
WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**WATER. WONDER.
WELCOME.**



Olympic champion Branislav Mitrovic: Hungary will be a great host of the 2017 World Champs!

2016.09.30. 12:07 CET

Branislav Mitrovic is hungry for more...The Serbian water polo player has won everything with the national team in the last 3 years, most recently the Olympic gold medal in Rio.

Branislav Mitrovic is hungry for more...The Serbian water polo player has won everything with the national team in the last 3 years, most recently the Olympic gold medal in Rio.

„We had felt the pressure before that because everybody expected the gold from us. We won the World Championships, the European Championship and the World League as well, but not the Olympics. The other reason was that this was the last chance for this generation to win really everything” - the goalkeeper of three-time Hungarian champion Eger said.

„I don't want to talk about the results of the previous generations, our first chance to perform well was the 2012 Olympics in London. We couldn't reach the final, and the media of course exaggerated the story, they said: these Serbs can't win the Olympic tournament, that's their fate. We ignored these theories but I have to admit that we didn't play well at the beginning of the tournament.”

„To tell you the truth the last game in the group phase against Australia was the most difficult one in my life. We didn't feel well in the water, the pressure was high on us. We just managed to win the match in the last 4 minutes, but the most important thing was we qualified for the quarter-final. From then on, however, we began to enjoy the game, we were playing much better, and we won the gold medal.”



Everyone would like to know what the secret of this great Serbian team is, but Mitrovic states there is no secret.

„First of all we have 13 very good players, including 5-6 world class athletes. We have grown up together, most of us have been playing together since the beginning of our career, and this is a good community. Furthermore, we have a great coach, Dejan Savic, he's had a key role in our successes.”

„Of course we are still hungry for more. I want some more gold medals, too, for example in next year’s FINA World Championships. The Hungarian team definitely wants to react after the fifth place in Rio, and a fantastic crowd will help them, so I think they will be the favourites for gold, but we will try to defeat them. We managed to do it in 2014 in the European Championship in Budapest. I remember to the fabulous crowd of the Margitsziget, I can say that the fans can create such a beautiful atmosphere in no other places of the world. I know that Hungary has very good swimmers as well who performed well in Rio, so I think the country will be a great host of the World Championships.”