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Kristóf Rasovszky would make Hungarian fans happy in Balatonfüred

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One of the greatest venues of the 17th FINA World Championships will be Balatonfüred, open water swimming events will take place here from 15 to 21 July. It would be a big sensation if a Hungarian male swimmer won a medal, but big talent Kristóf Rasovszky, who achieved some notable results last year, could be able to surprise the world.

Open water swimming debuted at the FINA World Championships in 1991, however, Hungarian male athletes have won only one single medal since then: Csaba Gercsák finished third in the 25k event in 2011. Apparently Hungary is not among the most successful nations in this discipline, still there are some arguments convincing us to hope for some good results at the locally held 2017 FINA WCH.

One of them is the fact that the World Championships will be held in Balatonfüred, Hungary, so thousands of Hungarian fans will support our national swimmers. For another thing, there are some very talented Hungarian open water swimmers who have the potential to achieve great results.

Kristóf Rasovszky regularly enters both open water and pool events. He achieved his first notable international results in 2015 when he was only 18. He won the silver medal at the European Junior Championships in Tenero in the team event with Nikoletta Kiss and Tamás Novoszáth, and finished in the top ten in 5k and 10k, as well in the European Cup in Eilat.

Also, in 2015 he took part in the European Games in Baku, where he finished fourth in the 800m event and fifth in 1500m.

2016 proved to be an even more successful year for him. He won the gold medal by a large margin both at the World Junior Championships in Hoorn and the European Junior Championships in Piombino in 10k. Hungarian website utanpotlassport.hu referred to him as a "future world class open water swimmer" in those days.

Rasovszky finished fifth in two legs of the 2016 FINA/HOSA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup. Moreover, one of the venues was Balatonfüred, so he attaches quite good memories of the venue of the 2017 FINA World Championships. The other race was held in Chun'an, China.

"It was a great season for me, I managed to accomplish almost everything we had planned. I didn't have to struggle with illnesses or injuries, thanks to the series of good results my self-confidence boosted, also" - he said to BpMedia 2017. However, Rasovszky was not that satisfied with his performance at the 2016 Olympic Games.

" Olympics came just a couple of weeks after the Junior World Champs, and I must admit the transition from 10k to 1500m was rather tough for me. As a matter of fact, I didn't have much time between the Olympics and the European Junior Champs either, but it was much easier to switch back to 10 km, as it is demonstrated by the gold I claimed in Piombino."

Rasovszky had a slow start in 2017, he finished only 48th in the World Cup race in Abu Dhabi, but won the gold medal just a couple of weeks later in the European Cup race in Eilat. The fans are eager to know which events he will enter at the World Championships.

"My main event of course is the 10k, so my point is to do well in this distance, but I may qualify in other events as well. I will be in good shape during the World Championships, so I won't have any difficulty competing in three or four events" - Rasovszky said.

Open water events of the 17th FINA World Championships will be held from 15 to 21 July in Balatonfüred.

KRISTÓF RASOVSZKY

Born: Veszprém (Hungary), 27 March 1997

Medal record:

World junior champion (2016 Hoorn, 10km)

European junior champion (2016 Piombino, 10km); silver medalist (2015 Tenero, team)

European Cup: gold medalist (2017 Eilat, 10km)