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# Panorama 18 days before the World Championships: records in Rome, Dutch delight in water polo

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*International panorama of future protagonists in 6 disciplines at the 17th FINA World Championships hosted by Budapest and Balatonfüred.*

## **Swimming: 12 athletes coming from Mexico**

The Mexican Federation has announced the list of swimmers attending the World Championships in Budapest. Led by Liliana Ibáñez the team consists of 12 athletes including such Olympians as Ricardo Vargas and Long Gutiérrez. Ibáñez will represent Mexico in women's 50 and 100m freestyle.

**Women:** Liliana Ibáñez, Ayumi Macías, Melissa Rodríguez, Esther González Medina, María José Mata, Fernanda González, Monika González Hermosillo

**Men:** Ricardo Vargas, Long Gutiérrez, Miguel de Lara Ojeda, Daniel Ramírez, José Ángel Martínez

## **Swimming: Belmonte chose Budapest instead of Balatonfüred**

Olympic champion Mireia Belmonte has decided not to enter any open water events in July. In Balatonfüred Spain will be represented by Paula Ruiz Bravo and María de Valdés in the ladies' field, and Antonio Arroyo in the men's field. He will enter the 5k event, in addition, he will race in the pool as well, since he managed to qualify for 1500m, too. Arroyo is the only experienced member of the trio, he competed 2 years ago in Kazan, as well, in the 5k and 10k events. Bravo and Valdés are newcomers, what is more, concerning their age they are juniors.

## **Diving: 4-member Dutch team**

After the European Diving Championships in Kiev the Dutch have officially announced the roster for the World Championships. The team will feature four athletes.

**Women:** Daphne Wils (1m, 3m, synchro 3m), Inge Jansen (1m, 3m, synchro 10m, team),

Celine van Duijn (10m, synchro 10m, team).

**Men:** Joey van Etten (1m, 3m, team)

*„We did a great job at the continental tournament. We are really proud of the bronze by Daphne and Inge in 3m synchro. This is a historic achievement for Dutch diving. We managed to demonstrate that we have young, talented athletes who can keep up with top European and international athletes” – said Balázs Ligárt, head coach of the team regarding the roster.*

### **Swimming: Ledecky will miss only the 50m at the prelims**

Top American swimmers will race in Indianapolis between 27 June and 1 July to qualify for the World Championships. According to the entry list world and Olympic champion Katie Ledecky will enter all freestyle events except for the 50m and aims at qualifying for the World Championships.

### **Synchronised swimming: Ona Carbonell excelled in the US**

The 6th leg of the FINA Synchro World Series was hosted by New York last week. FINA Synchro America Open was the last international race prior to the World Championships in Budapest, more than 130 athletes of over 13 countries attended the tournament.

The most successful protagonist of the three-day-tournament was Ona Carbonell from Spain, who was unbeatable by rivals in all the events she entered. In solo first she performed a brilliant technical routine, then in the free routine she performed an Edith Piaf cover programme with her classic elegance and energy as usual. The snake theme of the compulsory programme was the idea of her French coach, Virginie Dedieu based specifically on the flexibility of the Spanish champion.

The Spanish Olympic gold medallist is preparing for the World Championships with a new duet partner, 21-year-old Paula Ramirez, with whom they claimed 2 gold medals.

As for solos, Canadian synchro swimmer Jacqueline Simoneau clinched silver medals, in duet she finished second in two events with Simoneau Caludia Holzner. Bronze medals went to American duet Woroniecki-Alvarez.

Regarding mixed duets, Bill May, Kanako Spendlove (US) won both the technical as well as the free routine ahead of a Canadian and a German duet. Americans swept the teams' technical and free routines alike with a brand new team, beating a Canadian and an Argentinian duet.

### **Open water swimming: four German swimmers will definitely attend the 10k event**

On the day of the Open Water World Cup staged in Setubal, Portugal, the German Federation determined the list of contenders in 10k at the World Championships. Accordingly, Finnia Wunram and Angela Maurer will attend women's events, while Rob Muffels and Christian Reichert will race in men's field.

In spite of the heavy weather Rob Muffels did an excellent job and finished second behind Hungarian swimmer Kristóf Rasovszky.

German swimmers will have the chance to qualify for the 5k event at the German Open Water Tournament in Magdeburg this weekend.

### **Swimming: Peaty and several Hungarian swimmers in top form in Rome**

Most swimmers preparing for the World Championships attended Italy's most prestigious international swimming competition, Sette Colli held last week. Some of those participating in the Mare Nostrum Tour (series of three meets) decided to miss Sette Colli this time, thus Sarah Sjöström, the Campbell sister, Emily Seebohm, Yulia Efimova, Mireia Belmonte and Katinka Hosszú did not race in Rome. Concerning men, beside several top French swimmers László Cseh, Mitch Larkin and Anton Chupkov were not present, either.

The swimmer who could conclude the tour with satisfaction was most definitely British swimmer Adam Peaty. World champion and record holder 50m and 100m breaststroker set a new Sette Colli 50m breaststroke record as early as the „warm up stage”, that is the prelims, by touching in 26.83, What is more, in the final he could further improve his performance and finished in 26.61. The silver went to Brazilian swimmer Joao Gomes Junior touching in 26.95, who achieved the second best time (26.83) of the year (after Peaty-26.48). In 100m Peaty set a new local record (58.72) and touched in first, ahead of Italian Nicolo Martinenghi, whose result shall also be highlighted since he could improve the Italian record by Fabio Scozzoli by 0.9 seconds.

In an extremely exciting race Dávid Verrasztó (4:07.47) swept men's 400m medley beating the two-time world champion (2013, 2015) Japanese Daiya Seto (4:07.99). Furthermore, their results are the best two results of the year in the international field, beating the American top result by Chase Kalisz (4:09.43) significantly. Verrasztó improved his personal best by more than 2 seconds, achieving the third best of all times in this course by Hungarians. The number one is still the European record (4:06.16) by László Cseh from 2008. „Right now I don't have the World Championships in my mind, since I did not expect to do so well here, I have to enjoy the pleasure it means at the moment” -Verrasztó told after his victory.

The next day saw the repeat of the battle by the Japanese and the Hungarian swimmer in 200m. In this course Seto accomplished a start-finish victory by a new Sette Colli record (1:57.54), while Verrasztó had to fight hard for silver (1:59.25) against Brazilian Simon Thiago (1:59.99).

Also, local records were achieved by gold medallists Ukrainian Andrij Govorov (23.01) in 50m, South-African Chad Le Clos (51.65) in 100m and Tamás Kenderesi (1:54.33) in 200m butterfly.

In 200m breaststroke title defender German Marco Koch won the race ahead of the two Italians, Pizzini and Loschi, still his time of 2:09.63 was worse than his result a week earlier at the German Nationals (2:08.69). However, that result was not enough for qualification, either, so he is going to attend the World Championships in Budapest due to the decision by

the German Federation.

Concerning men's field, several talented Hungarian swimmers proved to be successful at the Tour, so Péter Bernek clinched gold after a really close race in 200m backstroke, Dominik Kozma finished first in 100m freestyle and Richárd Bohus claimed gold in 50m backstroke ahead of another Hungarian swimmer, Gábor Balog. In 800m freestyle the silver went to Gergely Gyurta, runner-up to Czech Jan Micka.

As for women, three local records were set. The 200m medley event was claimed by British Siobhan-Marie O'Connor (2:10.01) ahead of Swiss Ugolkova and Australian Ngawati, in addition, her time was the best of the season in this event. It was her second gold, she finished first (1:07.35) in 100m breaststroke, as well, after a rather demanding race against Italian Martina Carraro and fellow swimmer Sarah Vasey.

The second Sette Colli record (27.57) is attached to Australian Holly Barratt in women's 50m backstroke, while the third one was performed by Danish Pernille Blume (24.13) in 50m freestyle. Although it falls behind the best time of Sarah Sjöström this year (23.83), still it is the second best on the list ahead of her runner-up Dutch Ranomi Kromowidjojo (24.39), who had swum the third best time of the season a week earlier in Barcelona (24.29). Yet the Dutch swimmer had nothing to feel sorry about, as the day before she swept 100m freestyle (53.07) ahead of Danish rival (53.59). In 50m butterfly Kromowidjojo topped the podium again, beating Australian Barratt and fellow swimmer De Waard.

200m freestyle saw the victory of Federica Pellegrini (1:56.16), slightly slower than her personal best this year (1:55.94) ahead of Swedish Coleman and Dutch Heemskerk.

Boglarika Kapas did an excellent job in Rome, too. She clinched gold in 400m and 800m freestyle as well. In the longer one she touched in 8:23.71, almost 6 seconds better than Italian rival Simona Quadarella (8:29.53), while in the shorter course she finished in 4:06.05, her personal best this year, more than 3 seconds better than silver medallist Canadian Harvey (4:10.85).

Liliana Szilagyi proved to be the best in 200m butterfly (2:07.50) beating British Atkinson (2:08.31) and Hungarian Zsuzsanna Jakabos (2:08.91). 200m backstroke saw Hungarian victory, too, the gold went to Kata Burián (2:09.89) ahead of Australian Wittaker and Italian Panziera.

It is interesting to note the delegation of over 260 top athletes had the privilege to visit the Vatican and be received by the Head of the Catholic Church. Concerning swimmers, Italian Federica Pellegrini, Siobhan-Marie O'Connor (of Irish origin) and Australian James Magnussen were particularly touched when being asked about this special event. Due to their catholic upbringing meeting Pope Francis was a unique experience for all three of them. The Pope blessed all members of the delegation, including Hungarian swimmers Boglarika Kapas and Zsuzsanna Jakabos.

### **Water polo: Dutch victory at Thetis Cup**

In light of the World Championships hosted by Budapest the Dutch, Spanish and Greek

women's water polo teams played in Athens from Friday to Sunday. The first day of Thetis Cup saw the Iberian team going down against Dutch 11-14, then by beating the hosting team 12-11 the Dutch won the trophy. Between the two competitive matches teams had training matches, which were claimed by the orange team, too. The tournament was much like an intense training camp rather than a classic tournament, yet with the World Championships approaching fast all players were content with this setting.

Head coach of the Dutch team, Arno Havenga pointed out that it was quite a good decision to play outdoors since weather condition were very similar to those expected in Budapest. In preparation for Budapest the Dutch will play their last matches between 5 and 7 July in Utrecht against France, Canada and China.

After the one-month-long training camp in Sierra Nevada Highs this was the first time the Spanish played friendly matches. Head coach Miki Oca was overall satisfied with the team's performance. The Spanish are receiving the Russian team this week, then they will attend an international tournament in Portugaete.