

10km World Cup: Kristof Rasovszky surprises, Rachele Bruni on top

Hans-Peter Sick, FINA Media Committee Member

Kristof Rasovszky, from Hungary, won the third stop of the 2017 FINA/HOSA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup, held on June 24 in Setubal, Portugal. This was the first-ever triumph for a Magyar competitor in a leg of the world cup. In the women's event, the Italian Rachele Bruni could celebrate her eighth victory in the 10 km circuit since 2015.

“I’m really surprised as I’m in the middle of my training sessions for the World Championships at home, in four weeks at Balatonfured”, the Hungarian said. Swimming in a very fast pace due to strong currents, he added: “But I had today a good performance and could keep a good speed in the last lap”.

The silver went to Germany's Rob Muffels. “It could not be better for me here”, considered the runner-up of the 5km event at the last World Championships two years ago in Kazan. He was also a member of the winning German squad in the Team event. With his second place in Portugal, he also booked the ticket for the World Championships in Hungary as the Germans used the World Cup in Abu Dhabi earlier this year and Setubal as their qualification events.

For the first time at a 10 km World Cup Italy's Andrea Manzi climbed on the podium and got the bronze. “It was a good race for me”, he said. The Olympic champion Ferry Weertman (NED) finished in seventh at his last test before the World Championships.

In the women’s event, behind Olympic runner-up Rachele Bruni (who got the gold in Setubal) two South Americans completed the podium. Viviane Jungblut from Brazil - in the past mostly in the shadow of Poliana Okimoto and Ana Marcela Cunha (both with 16 World Cup victories each) - finished second and made surprisingly her first podium ever in the 10 km World Cup. Another surprise was Samantha Salinas from Ecuador in third and with the first podium ever in this event for her country.

“I’m happy with the result and it was a good race”, winner Rachele Bruni stated. “In the last 300 meters I used all my power as I understood I could be on the podium”, Viviane Jungblut said. Samantha Salinas was also surprised with her place.

As the water temperature was measured between 21.2 and 21.6 degrees Celsius no wetsuit had to be used according to the existing FINA Rules.
