

## **Indianapolis, Day 5 - USA's Michael Andrew and Canadian Relay Team re-write world junior record book**

Gregory Eggert, Honorary Secretary of the FINA Media Committee (USA)

Michael Andrew (USA) won his third gold medal of the 2017 FINA World Junior Championships on Sunday posting a victory and junior world record in the men's 50m butterfly at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis. Andrew finished in 23.22 seconds, besting his previous junior world record of 23.27 set in Saturday's semifinal, to earn his fourth medal in Indianapolis. He also has wins – and junior world records – in the 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke, as well as a bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke.

Canada's women continue to reign in the freestyle relays setting another world junior record in the 4x100m event.

The same four women earned gold medals in the 4x200m freestyle relay, also in world junior record time.

Taylor Ruck and Penny Oleksiak have earned four gold medals in relay events, three of these performances in world junior records. Seven new Championship meet records were set in the women's 1500m freestyle, the women's 100m butterfly, the women's 50m freestyle, the men's 50m breaststroke and the men's 400m individual medley.

Andrew's 50m butterfly and the 4x100m freestyle relays were also new championship meet records.

### **Women's 1500m Freestyle**

Argentina's Delfina Pignatiello swam to a new championship meet record while vanquishing her rivals. She collected her third medal of the meet and her second gold medal.

Her 400m and 800m races were new South American records. Pignatiello's time of 15:15.51 was the first swim under 16 minutes for a female swimmer in the six editions. These three medals are the only podium appearances by a swimmer from Argentina in this history of the FINA World Junior Championships.

Anja Kesely of Hungary, the winner of the 400m freestyle, touched the wall 16.17 seconds behind the champion. Spain's Agueda Cons Gestido captured her second bronze medal, previously finishing third behind the same two women in the 800m freestyle.



*Delfina Pignatiello (ARG)*

"I have been practicing the 1500m all semester. We tried some ways to do it, but today we chose this one, to repeat the pace of 1:04 during the mile. The last 300m I didn't have much air and I was wishing that it was over, but the last 50m I was thinking 'oh the wall, the wall!' and I was very happy at the end because it was the time I wanted. I am very happy."

### **Men's 50m Butterfly**

Michael Andrew continued his assault of the world junior swimming record books tonight. The American champion in the 50m backstroke and freestyle events added another gold medal in the fastest event on the program. His time of 23.22 improves on the 23.27 mark that he set last night when he added his name to the world juniors record books for the three 50m events in his portfolio.

Russia's Andrei Minakov deserved the silver medal for his 23.53 sprint, just .31 behind the American champion. His trophy case also includes a bronze in the 100m butterfly. Earning the bronze medal was Kristof Milak of Hungary who distinguished himself in Budapest at the FINA World Championships.

Milak finished second to Caeleb Dressel of the USA in the 100m butterfly in his home country.

Milak won Hungary's first individual gold medal in the 100m fly and was the anchorman for two of his nation's gold medal winning relays, the 4x100m and 4x200m freestyle relays. Milak now holds world junior records in the 100m butterfly and in the 4x200m freestyle relay.



*Michael Andrew (USA)*

“Coming into the meet, the goal was to swim as fast as I possibly could and for that to have happened up to this point, I’m super satisfied.”

### **Women's 50m Backstroke**

Jade Hannah of Canada and Natsumi Sakai of Japan stood at the top of the medals podium after swimming to a tie at 27.93.

Adding to Canada's bounty, Hannah's gold medal is her highest finish in the three backstroke events she swam in Indianapolis.

She placed 6th in the 200m backstroke but was fast enough to medal in the 100m, earning a bronze. Sakai who swam in the Rio Olympic Games also earned a bronze medal in this meet in the 200m backstroke. Grace Ariola of the USA finished .18 behind the winning co-champions to earn her first individual medal, a bronze. Ariola was the anchor on three Team USA relays that each won silver medals.



*Jade Hannah (CAN)*

"I'm very happy. I'm so excited right now I can't put anything into words. The team has pushed me to do my very best, they're very supportive. I was so happy to get under 28 tonight. It means a lot to me because I've worked so hard for it. It was so exciting to be able to have the first individual gold medal for Team Canada, it's just such an exciting moment for me."

*Natsumi Sakai (JPN)*

"I saw the time first, and I was happy to reach 27 seconds. After that, I realised that I won the race, I was even happier... I had not been able to break my personal record for more than a year, and I was aiming for it with this Championship, so I'm very glad."

### **Men's 400m Individual Medley**

Hugo Gonzalez of Spain swam to a championship meet record in a winning time of 4:14.65. The Spanish champion was awarded his second gold medal having previously won the 100m backstroke. Gonzalez owns 3 of the 5 medals from his country including a silver medal in the 50m backstroke.

Arriving exactly one second behind the new champion was Hungary's Marton Barta who improved upon his bronze medal received in the 200m individual medley.

The Hungarian was a member of two gold medal winning freestyle relays - the 4x100m and the 4x200m which set a new world junior record. Balazs Hollo's bronze medal in this event gives him a medal in each colour.

He earned the silver medal in the 400m freestyle and was a member of the world junior record smashing 4x200m freestyle relay last evening.



*Hugo Gonzalez (ESP)*

"Before the race, I didn't expect to win so it's great. I have swum three seconds faster than my race time, so I'm not sure how to explain that, but it's awesome."

### **Women's 4x100m Freestyle Relay**

"Oh Canada" is a refrain from the anthem that has been played many times at the meet. A new world junior record from Taylor Ruck, Penny Oleksiak, Rebecca Smith and Kayla Sanchez, shaving more than 3.5 seconds off the mark set by Australia in 2015 Singapore. The Relay Queens include Ruck and Oleksiak who also have gold medals in the 4x200m women's, and the 4x100m mixed medley and mixed free relays.

The same four women swam on the winning 4x200m freestyle relay that was crowned gold in a new world junior time.

The USA squad swam from behind and arrived 3.5 seconds back for the silver medal, also swimming faster than the previous world junior record. Japan's quartet arrived 4.40 seconds later to claim the bronze medal.



*Penny Oleksiak (CAN)*

“It’s pretty exciting and it shows that our Canadian women are very strong, and our men are pretty strong too, and it’s making us all more confident in our abilities but I think being able to come in with girls from all over the country, and some of the boys, is pretty exciting.”

*Rebecca Smith (CAN)*

“This team is so strong as a group and we’re all so close so we’re all swimming fast and building on each other’s success and doing well. We’re doing so well right now and we’re all still learning so we can all still improve.”

## **SEMIFINALS**

### **Men's 100m Freestyle**

Ivan Girev of Russia swam 48.83 to lead the field of 16 men, the next 7 fastest advanced to tomorrow's championship finals. Girev was .31 of a second faster than Hungary's Nemeth and one half second faster than Breno Correia of Brazil.

### **Women's 100m Butterfly**

Japan's national record holder Rikako Ikee continues to impress her peers and fans in this meet. She shaved .17 off the championship meet record that she set in the 2015 Singapore edition and soundly triumphed over the field. Rebecca Smith of the USA was the second fastest arriving at 58.79, .68 slower than the top qualifier from Japan. Suzuka Hasegawa, also of Japan, was the next fastest, but 1.09 seconds behind her teammate.

### **Women's 50m Freestyle**

The top qualifier from Japan posted a new championship record, also becoming the first female to cover the one lap sprint in under 25 seconds in the six editions of the world junior championships.

Rikako Ikee swam 24.74, just .13 ahead of Grce Ariola of the USA. Another speedy Japanese swimmer was third fastest of the field and one of the 8 women to advance to the championship final tomorrow evening.

### **Men's 50m Breaststroke**

Italy's Nicolo Martinenghi lowered the championship meet record he posted this morning in the heats by .19.

The Italian's 27.02 was .59 faster than the USA's Michael Andrew.

Alessandro Pinzuti was the third fastest of the evening, his 27.65 was .63 behind his Italian teammate.

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