

DWS, Day 3, Beijing: China repeat winning feat to sweep all gold medals

Xin Zhou, FINA Media Committee Member (CHN)

Chinese divers satisfied the crazy home crowds at the Water Cube as Zhang Jiaqi, Yang Jian and Si Yajie/Lian Junjie wrapped the last three gold medals to complete a clean sweep with 10 titles on offer at the [FINA/CNSG Diving World Series](#) [1] which concluded in Beijing (CHN) on Saturday March 9.

Two-time World Cup champion Zhang Jiaqi led from the start to the end and sealed victory in the women's 10m platform with 400.05 points. Rio Olympic champion Ren Qian came second (371.20) and Meaghan Benfeito of Canada third (336.40).



"It was my best performance in the recent months. I felt better with the competition atmosphere. I was very nervous because all the fans were cheering up for us. It was not easy to receive scores above 400+," said 15-year-old Zhang.

Yang Jian continued his winning streak in the men's 10m platform after he won the event in Sagami-hara, Japan, last weekend. Yang collected a total of 573.60, including 102.60 for his fifth dive 207B and 110.70 for his last dive 109B. Olympic champion Chen Aisen came from behind after three rounds and finished runner-up with 527.65. Aleksandr Bondar from Russia placed third 509.95 and British star Thomas Daley failed to make the podium with 488.50.



"I don't think I could have had a perfect final tonight. I won the gold medal just because my strong rivals, Chen Aisen and Daley had bigger mistakes than I did. I suffered from big scratches and long stitches on my right heel during this winter that made me out of training for one month. After our national qualification meet, the World Series in Japan and here in Beijing, I felt exhausted in terms of physical strength," Yang said.

Daley, who had a flying start as he finished second after two rounds, but made a big splash in his fourth dive 626B and earned 63 points which put him down to fourth place, said:

"I did not perform as good as I did in Japan. It was two long weeks of competition. I think I still need to work on my strength that can prevent me from injury. I need to get used to the competition pace. I put on more dry land training, such as weightlifting since last year. I will try to make myself stronger when I come back home and get ready for the next World Series and World Championships," Daley said.



Chinese new pair Si Yajie/Lian Junjie claimed victory in the mixed 10m platform synchro in 346.38, beating Nikita Shleikher/Luliia Timoshinina of Russia 301.26 and Nathan Zsombor-Murray/Meaghan Benfeito of Canada 300.96, respectively.

After two first legs in Sagami-hara (JPN) from March 2-3 and Beijing (CHN) from March 7-9, the FINA/CNSG Diving World Series will stop in Montreal (CAN) from April 26-28, Kazan (RUS) from May 10-12 and London (GBR) from May 17-19.
