

September 12, 2018

BERLIN 2018, DAY 1: HOST GERMANY DEFEATS WORLD SILVER MEDALLIST HUNGARY



FINA Men's Water Polo World Cup 2018

Group B

Victory for Serbia

Serbia opened the FINA Men's Water Polo World Cup in Berlin with a goal festival. In the first match of Group B, the Olympic Champion outclassed the World Championships 16th South Africa 21:3 (4:1, 5:0, 7:0, 5:2). After just 47 seconds, Gavril Subotic scored for the first time. With six goals, the 22-year-old was also named the most successful shooter of the opening match, which was decided after the first quarter and peppered by hits in the minute.

For Serbia, four goals were scored by Nemanja Vico, while captain Dusan Mandic and Ognjen Stojanovic scored three times, Mateja Asanovic and Strahinja Rasovic scored twice while Dorde Lazic scored once. For outsider South Africa, Mark Spencer scored twice and Donn Stewart once.

Croatia prevails against the USA

In the second match of Group B, World Champion Croatia defeated the tenth of the Olympic Games USA with 15:10 (3:2, 4:2, 3:3, 5:3), but they had some difficulties. After a well-balanced first quarter, the Croatians had the lead with three goals however, lost their competitive advantage during the middle of the third quarter as the US-team caught up to a close 6:7.

With several goals within only a minute and a half, the favourite increased their lead and pulled away just before the last break and was unbeatable from there on. Top-scorer of the Croatian team was Ante Vukicevic with four goals, for the United States Alex Bowen scored three times.

Group A

Japan was defeated by Australia

In the first match of Group A, the seventh of the World Championships Australia did not waste any time against the tenth of the World Championships Japan and won confidently with 14:6 (3:0, 5:0, 5:5, 3:1). The Australians survived the first two quarters even with a clean sheet and led to the half of the game already with a sovereign 8:0. Captain Aaron Younger impressed with a remarkable strike-rate of 100% by scoring four out of four chances. On the other hand, Atsushi Arai was the most successful shooter with three goals for Japan.

Germany defeats runner-up to the World Champion Hungary

What a kick-off to the host: Facing the second place of the World Championships Hungary, the team of national coach Hagen Stamm managed the big surprise of the day. With the 12:10 success (1:2, 3:4, 4:2, 4:2), the German team turned up the heat at the Europasportpark (SSE) in Berlin and their spectators were chanting with them. They managed to finish the game in victory after lagging behind 4:6 after the first two quarters.

"There are 100 days of hard work behind us, including the European Championship and now the next tournament," said German national coach Hagen Stamm. "The boys are just worth it and really deserve it today. The effort payed off and the audience was really terrific today."

At the beginning of the third quarter, the Hungarians even moved ahead to 7:4, but then the Germans turned the tables and started with a 8:8 tie in the last break. At the score of 9:9, the German team turned their power up even more with scores from Ben Reibel, Julian Real and again Reibel to 12:9 - the victory was clear.

Best scorers from the German point of view were Ben Reibel and Julian Real with three goals each, for Hungary Bence Batori also scored three times.

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6 LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE KAZAN AQUATICS PALACE



From the Aquatics Palace in Kazan, Russia, one can see the past, present, and future.

On one end, perched above the River Kazanka, is the Kazan Kremlin, a fortress and UNESCO World Heritage Site whose foundations go back more than 1,000 years.

In the opposite direction, about 300 meters away, is the Kazan Arena, which was packed with football fans two months ago to witness six FIFA World Cup games, including the upsets that eliminated Argentina and Brazil.

And inside the Aquatics Palace itself, Kazan will host its first [Swimming World Cup](#) event this weekend to initiate a four-year run as a regular stop on the World Cup swim tour, leading up to the 25m World Championships, which it will also host in 2022.

If Kazan already sounds familiar, perhaps it is because it also hosted the 2015 World Championships, the 2015 Master's World Championships, and 2013 World University Games.

Given its legacy, its stronghold on the future - not to mention its stunning architecture and the effect the five-year-old building has had already on the popularity of swimming in Kazan - it's worth a closer look.

To that end, here are six little known facts about the coolest swimming venue in Tatarstan:

1. Swimming was not actually held at the Aquatics Palace during the 2015 World Championships. Diving was. And while China swept 10 of the 13 gold medals here, the swimmers made history about 300 meters away, on an elevated pool in the middle of the football stadium where they set 12 world records three years before the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Chad le Clos of South Africa, an avid football fan who earned gold and silver in that temporary pool said Thursday in Kazan that swimming the butterfly in the middle of that pitch, *"for me, was a dream come true."*
2. The Aquatics Palace is one of the longest swimming venues in the world because it contains three pools in a line: two full-sized 50-meter pools end-to-end, followed by a 33-meter diving pool. Each pool has its own entrance and separate locker rooms, but on the pool deck there are no barriers so it is possible to walk the 187-meter length of the building uninterrupted.
3. The exterior was designed to look like a giant blue waving rolling toward the river, which also explains why the pools were set end to end, rather than in a block formation.
4. The Aquatics Palace is highly versatile. Not only does it have a movable pool floor to accommodate younger swimmers, but during the 2013 World University Games - for which it was originally built - organizers often changed the configuration of the pools for artistic swimming and swimming multiple times a day, which involved

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



dismantling the photo finish and transforming the deck into a starting podium for artistic swimming.

5. It is an excellent (and rare) indoor training venue for high divers. In high diving, men and women compete from 27-meter and 20-meter platforms, respectively. But given the high impact of landing, divers usually train a bit lower and the Aquatics Palace has a 23m platform in the ceiling that can be reached by walking on a metal path among the lighting beams. Also, the venue's fixed platforms at 3m, 5m, and 10m, allows high divers to progress all in one place. Otherwise, *"you have to find a cliff by the sea or prepare a platform somewhere,"* said Ranko Tepavcevic, the deputy director general at the Kazan directorate for sports. *"Here, you have the full facility."*

6. Currently, about 3,000 children a day use the Aquatics Palace, whether for swimming, artistic swimming, or diving. In addition, the city of Kazan has another seven or eight pools. The republic of Tatarstan (of which Kazan is the capital) has more than 200, so every municipality has a pool. *"The region is investing a lot in aquatics,"* Tepavcevic said. *"It helps a lot to promote aquatics. Now, every year, there are FINA events here in diving, swimming, artistic swimming as well as national championships."*

"Having such a venue is a milestone not only for the city but for the country. You can not only organize events here, but you can serve thousands of people on a daily basis," he said.

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BIDS FOR 2025 AND 2027 SHOWCASE ARE NOW OPEN!

FINA opened last week the bidding procedure for the 2025 and 2027 editions of the FINA World Championships and FINA World Masters Championships. According with the calendar related with this procedure, interested National Federations and Cities should firstly notify FINA of their intention to be involved in the bid(s) by no later than November 26, 2018.

On January 25, 2019 FINA will organise a meeting in Lausanne with this potential interested candidates, while formal bids have to be received by FINA by no later than April 25, 2019.

Following site visits to the formal bidding cities and support in the finalisation of the respective Host City Agreement, FINA will decide on the hosts for these Championships on July 11, 2019 with the occasion of the Bureau meeting in Gwangju (KOR).

The Korean city is precisely the host of the 2019 edition of the FINA World Championships and FINA World Masters Championships, with Fukuoka (JPN, 2021) and Doha (QAT, 2023) staging the subsequent editions.

KEY DATES

November 26, 2018 - Presentation of bidders intention

January 25, 2019 - Information meeting in Lausanne (SUI)

April 25, 2019 - Presentation of formal bids

July 11, 2019 - Award by FINA Bureau of the 21st and 22nd FINA World Championships and FINA World Masters Championships 2025/2027

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The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide. Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in 25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 209 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SU).

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