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Budapest, Day 1: Morozov claims 100th gold, Hosszu and Milak fly high to light up the Duna Arena

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The 4th leg of the FINA Swimming World Cup kicked off with some outstanding races in the magnificent Duna

Arena, home of world-class swimming since the 2017 FINA World Championships. Russian overall leader Vlad

Morozov clinched his 100th World Cup gold in style by winning the 50m free. Hungary's new super-hero Kristof

Milak came up with an outstanding silver-gold combination in a span of 20 minutes in the 400m free and the 100m

Maddy Gough didn't leave any chance for her rivals in the session opening 400m free final as the Aussie rushed to the front at the beginning, built a massive body-length advantage and kept it till the end – adding one more win after she had come first in the third leg of the series in Singapore.



Maddy Gough did a clean job in the women's 400m free - Credits: Istvan Derencsenyi

The men's final was a much more thrilling contest as Danas Rapsys, winner of each gold in the first cluster in the 400m, sneaked to the final in the 7th place so the Lithuanian swam outside on lane 1. Rapsys, who had touched first in Gwangju but had been disqualified for a false start, set up the pace, led throughout the race and seemed a sure winner. However, Hungary's fly specialist Kristof Milak, racing next to him (having won this event exactly one year ago at the Youth Olympic Games), staged a surprise late surge and almost caught Rapsys but the Lithuanian reacted well and withstood the pressure.



Danas Rapsys made 4/4 in the 400m free so far in the World Cup

The women's 50m back went to Netherlands's Kira Toussaint, while in the 200m backstroke Japan's Ryosuke Irie was no match for the others, he got inside 1:57min while only two others managed to clock sub-2min efforts. One of the two, Adam Telegdy got the silver medal, much to the joy of the home crowd – and to his fiancée, Boglarka Kapas who watched race in the last call room and was called on stage in the next final in the women's 200m fly.

The distance belonged to the Magyars in Gwangju – both titles went to their swimmers, the men's one to Milak and Kapas claimed gold among the women. Now she faced a stiff challenge from her compatriots Katinka Hosszu and Zsuzsanna Jakabos but at the halfway mark Denmark's Helena Bach led the race a bit surprisingly and she was still in front at 150m. The last leg brought something different, Hosszu blew up the field, rushed away with Jakabos and won with ease, Kapas this time had to settle for the fourth place.



Katinka Hosszu ruled the field in the 200m fly

Next came (back) Kristof Milak: after just 20 minutes of rest he reached his top gear in the 100m fly and touched first with ease. In fact, he recalled the fond memories of the 2017 FINA World Championships when he had made his first big splash by finishing runner-up in this event as a virtually unknown 17 year-old kid. By now he has become the poster boy of Hungarian swimming – and the official programme of this World Cup – and with his opening day performance he just sent another strong signal that he was capable of achieving more big things.



Krisof Milak: silver in the 400m free, gold in the 100m fly 20min later – the 19 year-old can't stop suprising even himself

The 'breaststroke part' saw fine wins from Slovenia's Tjasa Vozel (in the women's 200m) and Netherlands' Arno Kamminga who clocked a fine 59.05 to clinch the 100m title among the men.

The session ending dash-parade produced magnificent races as expected, especially the women's field featured some of the biggest stars, Olympic champions Cate Campbell and Ranomi Kromowidjojo – however, the gold landed in the hands of Sweden's Michelle Coleman who managed to touch in first in a competition where the first four stormed to the wall within 0.13sec. She is now even with Campbell after four legs in the 50m, the Swede won in Tokyo and here while the Aussie was the victor in Jinan and Singapore (though while Coleman was runner-up in these latter two meets, Campbell was only fourth here, a kind of setback for her in the race for the overall title against Katinka Hosszu who, holding a 6-point lead after the first cluster, already bagged a gold here).

Finally came the leader of the men's overall, Vladimir Morozov and did not commit any mistake while making 4/4 in the 50m free this season. He just copied his winning time from Tokyo where he raced tapered just some days after the World Championships so his 21.50 here (the best time based on the FINA points on Day 1) is really a worthy effort to celebrate his 100th World Cup gold medal.



Celebrating his 100th World Cup gold in style: Vlad Morozov offered a great swim in the 50m free

Quotes from the winners

Maddy Gough (AUS), winner of 400m free (women)

“I’m happy with my performance this was my fastest race of the season and I’m satisfied with the time and how the whole race went.”

Danas Rapsys (LTU), winner of 400m free (men)

“No, there was no plan to swim on lane one, simply the morning heat hurt badly. But I can tell you that this final hurt even more. I didn’t see too much from the race though heard as the crowd was getting louder and thought Kristof (Milak) was

.”

(On Gwangju) “What happened, happened, I try to leave it completely behind. I think I’ve managed to achieve that.”

Ryosuke Irie (JPN), winner of 200m back

“I’m happy with my win though the time wasn’t that great. I wish I had a 1:55, this 1:56 is almost the same I swam in

Gwangju. Since this is just the beginning of the preparations, I think it’s good after all.”

(On Tokyo 2020) “Yes, we definitely feel the pressure before the home Games and it will just grow in the coming months.

But I hope, swimming at home will be fun for all of us at the end.”

Katinka Hosszu (HUN), winner of 200m fly

“That wasn’t that good, we started too slowly. 2:08.5 is good only at the beginning of October but on the whole it is not the

time I wanted. One second better would have been nice. I mean, 33secs in the second and especially in the third 50m show

that it was anything but a fast and demanding race and my last 31sec split with almost no pain just underlines this.”

Kristof Milak (HUN), winner of 100m fly

“It wasn’t as bad as I expected after the 400m free, I didn’t have that bad pain. And I can tell you I have even surprised myself with the time. Thought it was a 52-something, the 51.2 is a really pleasant surprise after just one month of serious trainings.”

Tjasa Vozel (SLO), winner of 200m breast

“I’m happy with the win though my time could have been better. In fact, I’m a bit disappointed as I swam 2:26.0 in the morning and though I could make the Olympic A cut which is 2:25.5 but I missed it. I hope I can make it next time but it’s

but this is the first time we could come to this World Cup.”

Arno Kammenga (NED), winner of 200m breast

“This is a personal best so I’m super happy with this race. Obviously, it wasn’t planned but we had a really great training

camp in Rome and I felt I was in good shape and it ended up in a PB, so it’s really great.”

Michelle Coleman (SWE), winner of 50m free

“I’m really happy with this win. It was a really competitive field and it’s great that I could win that race, it’s a really good feeling.”

Vladimir Morozov (RUS), winner of 50m free

“Considering that I just flew in three days ago and I’m still feeling the jet-lag, this was a very good race and I’m happy that I could tick this win here. My finish could have been better as I was a little bit gliding at the end so the 21.50 is definitely good now.”
