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FINA 10km MSWC 2008 - Preview

FINA Communication Department

The 2007 FINA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup edition gave open water swimming fans and athletes a clear view of who is setting the standard in this sport. In the women's field, for every race in which she appeared, Germany's Angela Maurer was a force to be reckoned with. She took the lead of the general standings in January after winning Race 1 in Santos, Brazil and she was still in first place nine months later, when she became World Cup champion after race 11 in Cancun, Mexico. Never far behind was her compatriot Britta Kamrau-Corestein, who finished second overall, and they both faced pressure from third place finisher Poliana Okimoto (BRA) and several others such as Americans Chloe Sutton, Micha Burden, Australians Kate Brookes-Peterson, Alexandra Bagley, and Trudee Hutchinson, China's Yang Jiequao, and Sweden's Eva Bergland, a newcomer who won race 3.

For the men, Russia's Vladimir Dyatchin was the overall victor, followed by Maarten van der Weijden (NED) and Valerio Cleri (ITA). Several others stood out in the standings, namely Spyridon Giannotis (GRE), Simone Ercoli (ITA), and Russia's Evgeny Koshkarov. Ky Hurst and Thomas Lurz of Australia and Germany respectively each took single gold medals, an obvious indication of what they're capable of. Alan Bircher of Great Britain fared well at home in race 5 when he took second behind Hurst, but only by half a second. Egypt also had a medal winner in race 6 after Mazen Aziz took third behind Petar Stoychev of Bulgaria, who was leading the 2007 FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix at the time. With such a talented field and such close competition, it's anybody's guess who will dominate in 2008.

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Chloe Sutton (USA) & Poliana Okimoto (BRA)

**During the 1993/94 season, FINA managed an edition of a Marathon Swimming Series World Cup. The following seasons,*

responsibility of the event was given to the organising Member Federations until 1997, when FINA took back control to

