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Monterrey 2008, Day 4: Russia joins USA at top of medals table with five gold; amazing win for Sokolova in women's 400 free

Camillo Cametti, FINA Press Commission Chairman

On Day 4 (July 11) of the 2nd FINA World Junior Swimming Championships being held in Monterrey (MEX) from July 8-13, 2008, Russia joined the USA at the top of the medal tally with five gold. As described below, Elena Sokolova (RUS) winning the 400m freestyle in an amazing time, was among the day's highlights. PRELIMINARIES Seven Championships records were set in the morning session. In the women's 50m backstroke both the two fastest semi-finals qualifier, Elizabeth Pelton (USA, 1993) and Etiene Medeiros (BRA, 1991) swam under the previous mark, respectively in 29.18 and 29.29. Same thing in the men's 50m butterfly for Ivan Lendjer (SRB, 1990) and Daniel Bell (NZL, 1990), who swam the distance in 24.12 and 24.17 respectively.

Russia's Elena Sokolova (1991), already winner of the 800m freestyle in Monterrey, set the fastest qualifying time for the final in the 400m freestyle, in 4:12.82, a Championships record. With this feat, she was poised for her second title in Monterrey.

Germany's Marco Koch was the fastest in the men's 200m breaststroke in the new Championships record time of 2:14.97.

The last Championships record of the preliminaries was set by the men's 4x200m freestyle relay of Great Britain, with 7:26.26. The quartet was formed by Chris Walker-Hebborn 1:51.06, Thomas Parris 1:50.67, Jack Dunn 1:52.62 and Ryan Bennett 1:51.91.

SEMI-FINALS

Australia's Grace Loh (1991), of Asian origin, was the fastest qualifier in the women's 50m backstroke, with the time 29.22. USA's Elizabeth Pelton (1993) was the second qualifier, in 29.37, ahead of the Canadian pair Tess Simpson (1991, 29.50) and Hannah Riordan (1991, 29.61).

Daniel Bell (NZL, 1990), already a hero of these Championships, set the fastest qualifying time in the men's 50m butterfly with 23.77 while swimming in the first semi-final, by far a new Championships record. His arch-rival, the Serbian Ivan Lendjer (1990), won the second semi-final with the second best time, 23.98.

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