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PR 65 - SWC 2019: Eleven World Cup records broken in Tokyo, successful first meet for Team Australia

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Still fresh from the FINA World Championships performances in Gwangju, Korea, elite swimmers gathered in Tokyo,

Japan, for the inaugural leg of the FINA Swimming World Cup 2019 [1] from August 2-4.

Athletes showed an incredible form for this first meet of seven as no less than eleven new World Cup records (WC) were established in the city that will host the 2020 Olympic Games in a year-time.

Australia was the most successful nation of the meet with eleven individual gold medals and a victory in the 4x50m free mixed relay event. Mitch Larkin grabbed the gold at stake in the following events: 100m back (53.76); 200m back (1:55.9) and the 200m IM in which he set a new WC record in 1:57.06. Teammate Emily Seebohm also topped three races: she was

the fastest in the 50m/100m and 200m back, clocking times of 28.03, 59.44 and 2:09.03 respectively. Cate Campbell,

Brianna Throssell, Kiah Melverrton and Holly Barratt added to the glory of the Australian team in Tokyo by claiming gold

in the following events: 100m free (52.64 WC), 200m free (1:56.99), 400m free (4:06.71, 800m free (8:22.24 WC) and 50m

fly (25.96).

Hungary's Katinka Hosszu confirmed her dominance in her pet events as she won the 200m fly (2:07.10), 200m IM (2:08.63) and 400m IM (4:32.30 WC).

Sweden finished the competition on Sunday with two gold medals: sprinter Michelle Coleman was the fastest in the 50m free (24.66) and Louise Hansson touched home first in the 100m fly.

South Africa's Tatjana Schoenmaker smashed a WC record in the 200m breast (2:22.35), while she also won the 100m breast (1:06.54).

Veteran Alia Atkinson (JAM) claimed the 50m breast gold in 30.35.

Back to the men's competition, Vladimir Morozov (RUS), Danas Rapsys (LTU) and Ilya Shymanovich (BLR) were all multiple winners this weekend in Tokyo. Morozov bagged the 50m/100m free and 50m back gold medals at stake, while Rapsys smashed two WC record in the 200m and 400m free clocking times of 1:45.74 and 3:45.57 respectively. Shymanovich also broke a new WC record in the 100m breast in 58.73 and in the 50m breast in 26.78.

Japan impressed the audience on site with victories in the 1500m free (Shogo Takeda, 15:07.05) and the 400m IM (Daiya Seto, 4:11.41 WC). Japanese club swimmer Nao Horomura won the 200m fly race (1:55.25) and Team Japan also emerged

victorious in the mixed relay 4x50m medley setting a new WC record in 3:44.75.

World Record holder Andrii Govorov of Ukraine swam the fastest in the 50m fly (23.10) and the two Andrews, Wilson and Seliskar, took the 200m breast (2:07.77) and 100m fly (51.34) golds.

The Swimming World Cup resumes on Thursday August 8 in Jinan, China.

You can follow the pool action LIVE or on-demand on FINAtv [2] and daily news reports are available on FINA website [3]

during competition. Results are immediately available after each race on the FINA mobile app [4] or on FINA website [5].

