Two meets into the 2018 FINA/CNSG Diving World Series, China is already showing amazing form.

The diving powerhouse has claimed all gold medals at stakes so far, both in Beijing (CHN) and in Fuji (JPN).

As a result, Chinese divers are leading the ranking: Cao Yuan is first in the men's 3m springboard with 34 points. He is followed by teammate Xie Siyi with 32 points. Yang Jian (CHN) is atop the men's 10m classification with 34 points, while Olympic champion and veteran Shi Tingmao is the best in the women's 3m springboard with 36 points and Zhang Jiaqi leads the women's platform ranking with 36 points.

The synchronised and mixed events ranking can be found here

FINA announced on March 9 a new four-year partnership agreement with China National Sport Group (CNSG), making the group the title sponsor for the 2018 edition of the FINA Diving World Series.

The new partnership between FINA's most influential and highest level annual diving competition outside of the FINA World Championships and the Chinese sponsor aims to enhance the promotion of this competition and the discipline within the Chinese market, China being the sport's most successful nation of the last three decades.

CNSG is a state-owned sports industrial business organisation which business scope covers sports venue construction, sports venue management, sports event organisation, sport lottery services, sports real estate services, sports investment management and business incubation, and after years of development the CNSG has become a valuable brand with a strong market influence in the Chinese sports industry.
The third leg of the 2018 FINA/CNSG Diving World Series will take place in Montreal (CAN), a newcomer in the circuit, on April 27-29.

All the Series action can be followed live or on demand on FINAtv and detailed news reports are available on FINA website.

FINA AND MICROPLUS LAND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR 10KM WORLD SERIES

FINA announced last week, on Thursday March 16 the latest partnership put in place for the FINA/HOSA Marathon Swim World Series that kicked-off on Saturday March 17 in Doha, Qatar.

Italian company Microplus becomes the Series official timekeeper for the 2018 and 2019 edition of the event.

Microplus Data processing & Timing provides a large range of services to its clients: from on venue result system, central result system to broadcast solution, infrastructures services and accreditations system, Microplus has many years of experience providing on-site timing solutions for several aquatic events such as the FINA/HOSA 10km Marathon Swimming World Cup 2017, FINA Artistic Swimming World Series and FINA World Masters Championships.

FINA President Julio C. Maglione commented:

"We are very grateful for the support of Microplus and we are delighted to be working with them. This new partnership will play an important role over the next two years in helping us to further grow the Series and provide a professionally-run and unified annual competition for the elite of the sport."

Microplus Chairman of the Management Board, Maurizio Destefanis said:

"We just want to thank FINA for the great opportunity we have been given. FINA and Microplus have a long history of cooperation over the years. In particular we have been working together for the World Masters Championships for the last three editions with mutual satisfaction. Microplus is working to develop Timing and Data Services for the Aquatic World for a long time and for this new project we plan to introduce new technologies to have real time data information using special GPS devices that will be experimented during the season. The agreement that has just been signed is an important step and a great challenge and we are sure that the unconditional support that our team will provide will assist FINA and all LOCs to achieve consistently professional world class results."

Olympic champions from the Netherlands Sharon Van Rouwendaal and Ferry Weertman respectively won the women and men's race last weekend in Doha.

Van Rouwendaal clocked a time of 2h02m24s40, while Weertman touch home first in 1h52m41s60.

RANKING

Detailed races report is available on FINA website and the complete results, provided by Microplus, are available here.

You can re-watch the races on demand on FINAtv.

WPWL MEN'S ROUND 5: CROATIA FIRST TEAM TO QUALIFY FOR SUPER FINAL

The European water polo teams met last night on Tuesday March 20 for their fifth round game of the FINA Men's Water Polo World League 2018.
Playing at home in Podgorica, Montenegro beat Serbia 11-8, leading right from the start of the game but letting the Serbians come back in the last two quarters (3-2, 4-2, 1-1, 3-3). However Serbia keeps the lead of Group A with 9 points (3 wins). Montenegro is second with 6 points (2 wins) and Romania is last.

Group B's game was on March 6, when Russia beat Germany 16-12 (2-1, 5-1, 4-5, 5-5). Following this game, Croatia was the first team to secure a berth to the Super Final.

Group C's Hungary crushed the Netherlands 13-1 in Debrecen (HUN) giving zero chances to the Dutch in the three first quarters (2-0, 2-0, 5-0, 4-1). Hungary has 9 points and is atop of the group. Spain is second with 6 points and the Netherlands are last with no win so far.

Provisional ranking

GROUP A: 1. SRB 9 pts (3W, 1L); 2. MNE 6 pts (2W, 1L); 3. ROU 0 pt (3L)

GROUP B: 1. CRO 9 pts (3W); 2. RUS 5 pts (2W, 2L); GER 1 pt (3L)

GROUP C: 1. HUN 9 pts (3W); 2. ESP 6 pts (2W, 1L); 3. NED 0 (4L)

The sixth and final round of the World League will be played on April 10 in Izvorani (ROUvsMNE), Slavonski Brod (CROvsGER) and Pamplona (ESPvsHUN).

The women's European tournament resumes on Tuesday March 27.