TRIESTE TOURNAMENT: 4 TOP TEAMS TO QUALIFY FOR RIO

The Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament, currently being held in Trieste (ITA) until April 10, is the last opportunity for four more men’s teams to qualify for the upcoming Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (BRA).

So far, the tournament saw a great start for the Netherlands, leading Group B with 6 points (unbeaten so far). Canada and Hungary are co-leading Group A with 5 points, after their match concluded on a tie 14-14 on Day 2 of the tournament.

In the most thrilling match of the third day of the preliminary round, France surprisingly defeated Russia and emerged as one of the revelations of the tournament. The nation totals 4 points, as does Spain who managed to defeat Italy by the narrowest margin (9-8) on Day 3. Host nation Italy has 4 points too.

Provisional Ranking:

Group A: HUN 5pts (2W, 1T); CAN 5pts (2W, 1T); FRA 4pts (2W, 1L); RUS 2pts (1W, 1L); ROU 2pts (1W, 1L); SVK 0pt (3L)
Group B: NED 6pts (3W); ESP 4pts (2W, 1L); ITA 4pts (2W, 1L); GER 2pts (1W, 2L); KAZ 2pts (1W, 2L); RSA 0pt (3L)

Only the top four teams at the event will secure a spot at the Rio Olympics after Friday’s quarter finals, meaning the teams winning their match will book their place for the Games.

Eight teams had already secured their place in Rio during previous qualifying opportunities, which includes Australia, Brazil, Croatia, Greece, Japan, Montenegro, Serbia, and the U.S.
In the women’s operations, USA (gold), Italy (silver), Russia (bronze) and Spain (fourth) were the strongest in Gouda (NED) last week at the FINA Women’s Water Polo Olympic Games Qualification Tournament. These four teams complete the group of nations that will be competing in the Olympic Tournament in August (Australia, China, Hungary and Brazil, as the host).

The Olympic draw (men and women) (LINK) will take place on Sunday April 10 in Trieste following the last game of the men’s tournament.

El Salvador’s Acosta recent great achievement

Talented young athlete Marcelo Acosta made El Salvador history by becoming the first swimmer from his country to qualify for the Olympic Games with an “A” cut, a time achieved on the occasion of the Arena Pro Series in Orlando (USA), which took place from March 3-5.

Acosta won the 1500m race in Florida back in March, with a time of 15:13.09. Apart from winning the race, the swimmer also set a new National Record and placed himself in the 10th position of the FINA ranking for this event.

Following the milestone for El Salvador and the promising athlete, FINA asked him and his coach Gianluca Alberani to come back on this incredible feat.

FINA: Congratulations for your "A" cut, what was your first thought when you saw your time?

Thank you so much. At the beginning I couldn't believe it, after all what happened during the meet and all these years of training, everything was worth it.

FINA: You are the first El Salvador athlete qualifying with an "A" cut, you are writing history for your country, how do you feel about it?

I feel really grateful and proud to represent my country – a country that is going through so much difficulty at the moment: It shows that there are still some people, and not only me, that are trying to change things for the better.

Read full interview

Find out about FINA Scholarship Programme

Diving GP 2016: Surprise in San Juan, more to come in Gatineau

American diver Samantha Bromberg and France’s Matthieu Rosset surprisingly broke China’s dominance at the latest leg of the FINA Diving Grand Prix 2016 in San Juan, Puerto Rico last weekend.

Rosset topped the men’s 3m with 457.30 points, while Bromberg clinched gold in the women’s 10m platform.

Team China managed to top all synchronised events including the mixed 3m as well as the remaining individual events. Check out the results here

The world’s diving elite is now preparing for the fourth leg of the 2016 circuit, in Gatineau Canada on April 7-10.

FINA Diving Grand Prix 2016 calendar:
1. Madrid (ESP): January 15-17
2. Rostock (GER): January 29-31
3. San Juan (PUR): March 31-April 3
4. Gatineau (CAN): April 7-10
5. Bolzano (ITA): July 15-17
7. Gold Coast (AUS): October 27-30
8. Singapore (SIN): November 4-6

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Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)

The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide. Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in 25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 207 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

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