EUROPE TEAMS FOR SUPER FINAL SELECTED

Squads from Serbia, Croatia & Italy are the first ones getting closer to the FINA Men’s Water Polo World League 2017 title, to be held in Russia from June 20-25, and securing a spot for the Super Final of the competition.

The three teams mentioned above all topped their respective groups in the European preliminaries with 17 points for Serbia, 15 points for Croatia and 12 points for Italy.

Serbia won the World League consecutively since 2013. The Balkan powerhouse also holds the Olympic crown, defeating 7-11 neighbours Croatia in the gold match in Rio, as well as the World title (Kazan 2015).

The final ranking of the European tournament was as follows:

**Group A**: SRB 17 pts (5W, 1Wp); SVK 8 pts (2W, 2Lp, 2L); ROU 7 pts (2W, 1Lp, 3L); GER 4 pts (2Wp, 4L)

**Group B**: CRO 15 pts (5W, 1L); GRE 15 pts (5W, 1L); NED 6 pts (2W, 4L); FRA 0 pt (6L)

**Group C**: ITA 12 pts (4W); RUS 6 pts (2W, 2L); GEO 0 (4L)

The Intercontinental tournament (with Australia, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, USA) will be held in Gold Coast (AUS) from April 25-30, out of which the four best teams will join Serbia, Croatia and Italy. Russia, as the host country, will also be battling it out.

The women play their sixth and final round next week on Tuesday April 18.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING STARS SET FOR TAIYUAN (CHN)

The FINA Synchronised Swimming World Series, which debuted in March this year, and set to take place on an annual basis, will see its second leg staged in Taiyan, China, from April 22-24, in conjunction with the prestigious China Synchronised Swimming Open.

China is naturally a strong contingent for the three-day competition as it has recently been one of the fiercest nations in the sport and won the FINA Synchronised Swimming World Trophy for four years in a row (2013-2016).

Team China also claimed the silver medal in most events at the Kazan 2015 World Championships, and at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

The first leg of the event in Paris saw four nations, China, Italy, Japan and Ukraine share the gold.

Check Paris results on FINA website

Calendar of the 2017 FINA Synchronised Swimming World Series:

1. Paris (FRA) – March 10-12
2. Taiyuan (CHN) – April 22-24
3. Tokyo (JPN) – April 28-30
4. Toronto (CAN) – May 2-7
5. Las Palmas (ESP) – May 25-28
6. Long Island (USA) – June 22-24
7. Tashkent (UZB) – September 21-24

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FOCUS ON SYNCHRO SWIMMER JACQUELINE SIMONEAU (CAN)

New face reaching towards new heights

When Jacqueline Simoneau takes a “break,” it doesn’t quite mean the same thing for her as it does for most people.

After four years of hard work to achieve her goal of competing at the Olympic Games in synchronised swimming, Simoneau and her teammates – including duet partner Karine Thomas – took a couple months off last fall.

“During the Olympic quad we were so focused on what we were doing every single day we didn’t have a moment to step out. So, we took that moment, stepped out and disconnected,” says Simoneau, who turned 20 after the Rio 2016 Games.

So, what did she do to unwind? Relax on a beach somewhere warm? Indulge in fast food? Maybe a Netflix marathon?

“School actually,” says Simoneau, who is studying Health Sciences at Vanier College and would like to become a doctor someday.

“I basically got off the plane and went straight to school. I also joined the robotics club at school, which was something I found interesting, and I also started an internship shadowing some doctors.”

It seems there really is no off switch for Simoneau, whether she’s in the water or in the classroom.
“I don’t know what I’d do with myself with a full week off,” says the ultra-disciplined and highly competitive Montreal native.

“I must say her discipline, her commitment to her career, either in synchronised swimming or in her personal life, her school, it has amazingly impressed me,” says national team coach Meng Chen, who has been in Canada since 2008.

“Her commitment or her effort into everything, without a push by other external people, she will drive herself to the goal. Her mind’s drive to succeed is unbelievably strong.”

That might explain why Simoneau is one of the most promising synchronised swimmers Canada has had in recent memory.

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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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FINA OFFICE // CHEMIN DE BELLEVUE 24A/24B - 1005 LAUSANNE // TEL: (+41 21) 310 47 10 // FAX (+41 21) 312 66 10