AUSTRALIA SURPRISES WPWL WINNERS USA IN DAVIS

Team Australia emerged victorious at the FINA Women’s Water Polo World League Intercontinental Tournament 2017, held in Davis, California, USA, from May 2-7.

The Australians remained unbeaten throughout the tournament to the exception of their fifth game on Day 5, when the USA beat them 9-7 after a series of penalty shootouts.

However both teams made it to the final game and Australia did something no team had done all week: it defeated the U.S. 10-7!

Things looked promising in the first quarter when Elle Armit put two balls past the young U.S. goalie Georgia Phillips to take a 2-0 lead. In the second quarter, Armit scored again early, but Melissa Seidemann began scoring for the U.S. with a power play goal deep into the corner pocket. Jewel Roemer inched the score closer for the U.S. with a long-range goal to the centre of the net. At halftime, Australia led, 3-2.

In the third quarter, Aria Fischer tied the score, 3-3, on a power play goal. But Australia added the next three goals.

At the start of the fourth quarter, the U.S. trailed 6-3, and had to dig its way out of yet another hole. Paige Hauschild and Jewel Roemer helped by scoring two points in the first 90 seconds to bring the U.S. within reach, 6-5. But Hannah Buckling quickly put Australia up 7-5. Fischer fed off that energy and tied it 7-all with 3:04 remaining. Australia regained the lead when Armit scored her fourth goal of the game with 1:47 to go. In the last minute, Gofers put the ball past U.S. goalie Georgia Phillips – overhead and out of reach – to make it 9-7. Gofers scored again on a power play with three seconds left, propelling Australia to gold, 10-7.

Current Olympic and World titles holders, Team USA hadn’t lost a game since May 2016 and collected the World League Title consecutively since 2014 (2013 was China, refer to Media Book)

Australia’s Elle Armit, who scored four, shared her thoughts on why her team won the game:

“It’s always a tough game because of it being a rivalry between two big, strong physical teams. I’m really proud. We learned from yesterday [the loss to USA in a shootout]. We were making sure our defence was solid, and making more attacks and not wasting them.”
Intercontinental Tournament final standings


**Australia, USA, Canada, Japan and China** (as the host) will be taking part in the Super Final in Shanghai from June 6-11 together with the European teams qualified, namely **Hungary, Russia** and the **Netherlands**.

Awards of the Tournament went to Rowie Webster (AUS), for the Top Scorer, with a total of 18 goals scored, Jessica Gaudreault (CAN) got the Best Goalkeeper award and Melissa Seidemann (USA) was the Most Valuable Player.

The men will be battling it out in Ruza (RUS) from June 20-25. The teams qualified for the Super Final are: Australia, USA, Japan and Kazakhstan & Serbia, Croatia and Italy, as well as Russia (as host country).

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**OLYMPIC AND WORLD CHAMPIONS PAY VISIT TO DANUBE ARENA**

Swimming champions preparing for the upcoming 17th FINA World Championships in Budapest (HUN) paid a visit to the brand new state-of-the-art Danube Arena, built for what will be Hungary’s biggest sporting event ever hosted.

Rio 2016 gold medallists Sarah Sjostrom (SWE), Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA) and Adam Peaty (GBR) were among the first athletes to visit the modern facilities of the complex, invited by FINA’s long-term partner Arena for a photoshoot.

After taking a first dip in the pool, Sjostrom said:

“The swimming pool is awesome and I was glad to have a chance to test it before the World Championships.”

The 100m fly champion has been training hard since November 2016 with a new coach and it has apparently paid off as she is currently leading the world ranking in four events.

“Certainly the priority is still 50 and 100m butterfly, but we have started to work on my sprint technique in freestyle which has already proved to be effective, because in Stockholm I swam my personal best in both the 50 and 100m freestyle. I am looking forward to seeing what I can achieve through hard work in freestyle in Budapest this summer.”

Regarding the Danube Arena, Paltrinieri said:

“I am absolutely fascinated by the Arena, it is extremely spacious, the lights are good”

Looking for new challenges Paltrinieri recently tried himself in open water and finished fourth in the 10km race of the European Cup in Eilat (ISR).

“I liked it very much and I am planning to enter more open water races later, but definitely not at the next World Championships. There I will compete only in traditional pool in the 800 and 1500m freestyle precisely.”

100m breast champion at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and World Record holder Adam Peaty shared his first impressions of the Danube Arena.

“I am a visual person pretty much, I like to observe venues I am about to compete in. I watched a lot of 360 videos of Rio back then, as well. Now I am glad to be here. The Arena is beautiful, spacious and bright. The grandstands can seat a huge amount of fans which definitely inspires me.”

“As soon as I saw the pool I knew that it would be a fast one” he said, while looking around fascinated.
BANGKOK TO HOST 1ST FINA INTL' CLINIC - SWIMMING FOR ALL, SWIMMING FOR LIFE

Bangkok in Thailand is set to play the host to the first ever FINA International Clinic - Swimming for All, Swimming for Life – from May 15-17, bringing together participants from 49 countries* and representing the five continents.

The Clinic will aim at creating unified and uniform fundamental principles. It will provide the participants with technical and practical information on the learning of swimming in different circumstances and infrastructures, to be familiar with the health and safety of participants and the organisation and development of lessons.

The aim of this Clinic is not only to spread mass teaching of swimming and life-saving techniques, but also, to contribute to the integration, education and inclusion of citizens in the places where it is applied.

Promoting Swimming in the 21st Century, not only means producing high quality events and records but also to achieve the type of access for all the people for the recreational, healthy and appropriate practices for a healthy lifestyle; and most importantly to prevent drowning and thus save lives.

As per the World Health Organization (WHO) Global report on drowning of November 2014, 372'000 people die each year due to drowning. As the guardians of aquatic sports, FINA could not face this reality without acting!

That is why FINA has launched the Swimming for All - Swimming for Life programme.

*PARTICIPANTS

- ANG - CUR - ITA - NZL - TAN
- ANT - DEN - KOS - PER - TGA
- ARU - ESP - LCA - PHI - THA
- AUS - FIJ - LTU - PLW - URU
- BAH - FRA - LUX - RSA - UZB
- BAN - GAM - MAR - RWA - VAN
- BAR - GBR - MRI - SAM - VIE
- BRN - HAI - NEP - SEN - VIN
- BRU - INA - NGR - SUI - ZAM
- COK - IRI - NMA - SYR
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).