CAO, YANG, SHI AND REN RULE AT FINA/CSNG DWS 2018

After four incredibly competitive legs in Beijing (CHN), Fuji (JPN), Montreal (CAN) and Kazan (RUS), Team China continues to shine and dominate the discipline as Chinese stars Cao Yuan, Yang Jian, Shi Tingmao and Ren Qian all reign on their respective individual events.

Cao Yuan, 23, finishes atop of the FINA/CNSG Diving World Series 2018 3m springboard event, after winning gold in Fuji and Montreal and securing the silver medal in both Beijing and Kazan. Olympic champion Cao accumulated 68 points throughout the circuit, while earning a total prize money of US$ 30'000*.

Teammate Xie Siyi who also won two golds, in Beijing and in Kazan, got 66 points to rank second.

2012 Olympic gold medallist Ilia Zakharov from Russia secures the third position in the overall ranking with 56 points.

In the 10m platform event, Yang Jian is the best with 68 points. Yang started and terminated the season on a high with gold in both Beijing and Kazan. He then took silver in the Japanese rendezvous and in Montreal.

25-year-old World Cup champion Yang is followed by two Russians: Aleksandr Bondar and Nikita Shleihker respectively ranking second and third with 52 and 50 points each.

In the women’s competition, Olympic and World champion Shi Tingmao, 26, leads the ranking with 72 points. The star grabbed all four golds at stake and bagged US$ 30'000. She is followed by teammate Wang Han who systematically earned the silver medal at stake across the event, which ran from March to May.

Canada’s Jennifer Abel is third with 46 points.
China's Ren Qian, both an Olympic and World gold medallist, collected 68 points to finish on top of the 10m platform. Despite her young age (17) she added to her impressive international tally two golds (Montreal and Kazan) and two silver (Beijing and Fuji).

DPR Korea Kim Mi Rae and Kim Kuk Hyang respectively occupy the second and third position with 44 and 40 points.

FULL RANKING available here

(2017 Ranking)

*The prize money for the individual events is distributed as follows:

1. US$ 30'000
2. US$ 20'000
3. US$ 15'000
4. US$ 10'000
5. US$ 7'000
6. US$ 5'000

ARTISTIC SWIMMING WORLD SERIES RESUMES IN SLOVAKIA

Samorin in Slovakia is set to host for the first time since the inception of the event in 2017 the fourth leg of the 2018 FINA Artistic Swimming World Series from May 11-13.

More than 300 athletes are expected to take part in the three-day competition. 12 international delegations will be presenting their routine: Austria, Belarus, China, Czech Republic, Spain, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Check out the ENTRY LIST here

Among the stars announced are: Italy's famous duet Linda Cerruti and Constanza Ferro, the Chinese sisters Jiang, as well as Austria's Vasiliki Alexandri and Vasilina Khandoshka from Belarus, both take part in the solo technical.

The 2018 circuit is composed of 10 legs and will next stop in Budapest (HUN) from May 18-20 before heading to Madrid, Spain (May 25-27).

The competition will be live streamed on FINA.tv and daily news reports will be available on FINA website.

Previous RESULTS HERE & provisional RANKING HERE

RENAN ALCANTARA (BRA): AN ANSWERED LOVE

He was just a seven-year-old boy when he first saw a synchro training session. It was love at first sight. Renan Alcantara dived into the pool to perform difficult routines and has kept on ever since. This love for the sport, now newly named artistic swimming, made him persist and eventually win through. Today, at 24, he forms Brazil's mixed duet with Giovana Stephan and says he is happy the gender
barrier has broken down in a sport once seen as solely feminine. To use a very Brazilian expression: "A great FINA goal was scored!"

He did not allow himself to be affected by the prejudices that surrounded him:

"I started at the age of seven, when my mother brought me and my two brothers to diving. When I saw the girls training in the front pool, in the Maracana Aquatics Complex, I fell in love and got into the sport. I trained until I was 12 years old, but for a long time there was no opening for men in the sport, so I ended up doing dance. I returned to training at 17, but FINA had not yet sanctioned male participation either."

"Today the acceptance is enormous"

Finally admitting mixed synchro in Kazan 2015, FINA took the long-awaited step.

"Today is a dream that took a long time to become reality. I've been passionate since I was a child, and I am very grateful to this sport, to all who helped me to get here. It took a lot, but finally this gender barrier in the sport was broken. The setbacks I felt more on my skin (on a daily basis) as a child when I was more vulnerable. Even in my teens I had very difficult days, but today the acceptance is enormous. Strange sometimes the hurting approach still exists, but I do not care, my dream is greater than any comment or thought of others," Alcantara said.

[...]

Read the full interview here