

WORLD CUP 4

DAY 2

HUI QI (CHN) SETS 200 BREASTSTROKE NEW WORLD CUP RECORD WITH 2:21.82

SHANGHAI - Chinese teen ager Hui Qi highlighted the meet with a stunning performance in the 200 metres breaststroke she won in a new World Cup record, with 2:21.82. Other highlights were provided by Martina Moravcova (SVK), and Davide Cassol (ITA) who emerged as the most winning swimmers in the meet, respectively with five golds and one silver and three golds and one bronze. Alex Popov (RUS) added an easy win in the 50 metres freestyle to his yesterday's victory in the 100 metres.

Event Highlights

MEN:

200 FREESTYLE: China's Zha Chen and Xueliang Song went one-two respectively with 1:48.68 and 1:49.48. Nien Pin Wu (TPE) came in third with 1:49.81.

100 BREASTSTROKE: Davide Cassol (ITA) held on to narrowly win with 1:01.03, a new pb, over Morgan Knabe (CAN), 1:01.12. Brazil's Marcelo Tomazini came in third with 1:01.70.

100 BUTTERFLY: After winning the 50 metres on day 1, Mike Mintenko, one of Canada's most promising swimmers, won also this event with 52.53. His previous pb was 52.88. In second place Jiawei Zhou, with 52.81, and in third Xiao Zhang, with 53.83, both from China.

50 BACKSTROKE : Sebastian Halgasch (GER) won with 24.76 over Kunpen Oyang (CHN), 24.93, who yesterday came in first in the 100 metres ahead of the German.

200 IM: Italy's Davide Cassol won his second event in the day (and third in the meet; yesterday he took also the 50 breaststroke) narrowly beating Germany's Jirka Letzin. A mere 0.11 sec. separated the two contenders on arrival. The German was faster in the first half; at the 100 metre turn he led by 0.23 sec.; Cassol overtook him in the breaststroke leg and hold on in the final freestyle leg. He won in a pb time of 1:59.23. Briton James Goddard came in a distant third 2:02.63.

50 FREESTYLE: Alexander Popov (RUS) easily won with 22.18. Long course world champion William Pilczuk, of the United States, came in second with 22.69 while fellow countryman Scott Tucker placed third with 22.72.

1500 FREESTYLE: Xueliang Song, a Shanghai based swimmer, won the race unopposed with the time of 15:00.27, a new Chinese record.

200 BACKSTROKE: Croatia's Gordan Kozulj dominated the race and won with 1:54.88. For the second and the third place Kunpeng Oyang (CHN) and Sebastian Halgasch (GER) battled fiercely. Oyang managed to come in second with 1:77.24, with Halgasch in third with 1:58.29.

WOMEN:

100 FREESTYLE: Martina Moravkova didn't need to push her best to comfortably win the event, unchallenged, with 54.35. Having to swim two more finals she even slowed down in the last metres. Yu Yang (CHN) beat Nadine Rolland (CAN) by 0.42 sec. for second place, with 55.45.

50 BREASTSTROKE: Emerging sixteen year old Xuejuan Luo (CHN) dubbed her win in yesterday's 100 metres by winning this sprint event with 30.91, also a remarkable time. Amy Balcerzak (USA) came in second with 31.30, just 0.08 sec. ahead of Sylvia Gerasch (GER).

400 IM: Shuang Liang and Weihui Shi, both from China, battled for victory for most of the race. Liang was always in the lead and took victory with 4:41.07 while Shi closed in in the last fifty metres and touched in second place with 4:42.66.

100 DORSO: Talented fifteen year old Shu Zhan got a clearcut victory with the time of 1:00.44, down a second a half from her previous pb. This young swimmer from Dalian - a province in the north east of China - yesterday won also the 50 backstroke.

Two more Chinese swimmers, Hui Li and Xiujun Chen, came in respectively in second and third place, with 1:01.22 and 1:01.66.

200 BUTTERFLY: This was a close race between Chinese Tiangyi Zhang, who won with 2:11.30, and Yi Yuan, in second with 2:11.70. Yuan was in lead for most of the race . With 50 metres left she still was nearly two seconds ahead of her rival. Zhang come home very strongly: her last 50 metre split was 33.10, while Yuan splitted 35.37.

400 FREESTYLE: China's middle distance specialist Hua Chen dubbed her 800 metre win in day 1 by taking victory in this event with 4:09.56. Behind Chen's shoulders Weihui Shi and Yan Zhang, both also from China, strenuously battled for second place they curiously shared with 4:10.20.

200 BREASTSTROKE: Chinese teen agers Hui Qi and Xuejuan Luo staged a great race. Qi set a new World Cup record - also a national record -, with 2:21.82 (32.70, 1:08.64, 1:45.17) to win to event over Luo, whose time of 2:24.84 was also a pb. Qi was born on 13 January 1985 in the Jangsu province. She is tall (1,75 m) and lean (65kg). Her stroke is supported by a perfect technique.

At fifteen she is certainly one the most promising swimmer on the international scene. Luo, 16, who earlier in the meet won both the 50 and the 100 metres events, also confirmed her potential.

100 IM and 50 BUTTERFLY: The two last women's events were territory of Martina Moravcova. She won both events, respectively with 1:01.86 and 26.85. Chinese swimmers took second and third place in both events.

During the meet swimmers from Macau set eight national records.

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