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## ERVIN: “A NICE WAY FOR US TO MOVE ON”



Whenever he swims, Anthony Ervin (USA) doesn't go unnoticed. With most of the upper part of the body tattooed, he is one of the most recognisable athletes of the planet. And one of the finest swimmers too. And with a longer career. His sport achievements have plenty of superlatives. At 38, he is the second oldest competing star in the second leg of the **FINA Champions Swim Series** in Budapest (HUN). Despite a break of almost 10 years between 2003 and 2012, Ervin has been a privileged witness of swimming's evolution during the 21st century. It all started in 2000, it continues in 2019, and probably it will go until 2020.

At the Sydney Olympic Games, Anthony Ervin is a 19-year-old star, swimming the fastest event of the programme – the 50m free. Together with his compatriot Gary Hall Jr, they touch first for gold. He would be a second time on the podium during those Games, after earning a bronze in the 4x100m free relay. Came the 2001 FINA World Championships in Fukuoka (JPN) and he does even better, with a double victory in the 50m and 100m free. In Barcelona 2003, Ervin is only 17th in his pet event, and from then on, the swimming world has to wait until 2012 to see him again in the pools.

After getting his qualification in the US Olympic Trials, Ervin competes in the London Games, finishing fifth in the 50m free. His entry in the history books would come four years later, in Rio, when he gets gold in this race, 16 years after his first success at the highest level. In the meantime, he had been an active athlete in the FINA Swimming World Cup series.

2019 marked the launch of the FINA Champions Swim Series and Anthony Ervin was naturally invited as the reigning Olympic champion in the freestyle dash. In Guangzhou, in the first leg of the circuit, the US star was fourth in the 50m free.

*“I think it's a good concept. This is what the athletes have been asking for. It provides them additional financial opportunities, a kind of nice return for what we have done and contributed to the Sport”, Ervin confesses. “Most of the swimmers, even with long careers, continue loving what they are doing, so this is a good way for them to move on. The reality of life is that*

we have to sustain ourselves, some of us even have a family (Ervin is a happy father of a daughter). It is very meaningful for us, to continue doing the sport we love. It's a very good start. Where it goes, I don't know..." he continued.

Asked if this was just a personal feeling or a more general opinion, the US sprinter who sold his 2000 Olympic gold medal on eBay to aid survivors of the 2004 tsunami, adds:

*"From what I was able to talk with the others, they generally like the competition format – four swimmers per final. It's a bit more streamlined, just four of us, centred in the pool. Properly incentivised, this concept will allow really fast races and some World Records in the future."*

And about the change in the pool: *"From an aesthetic point of view, the four starting blocks in the centre of pool even look better, with some banners and open water on the sides".*

Anthony Ervin then provides his vision about the evolution of the sport he loves.

*"Swimming has been gradually opening up. I may have a different vision from most of those guys, as I have been around for more time. Back then, in 2000, there was only the World Cup races. The viability of that circuit grew and we are now at this stage. The important is that swimmers remain satisfied with what they are doing."*

On his own competitive horizon: *"I love swimming and feel it is something ancient to me. I feel very lucky and blessed that I am still relevant at my age. But I also know there is more in life than this. If I do leave the water, I'll find my way back."*

Ervin concludes: *"I plan to finish elite swimming next summer – whether I make it or not to Tokyo, we'll see. I'll do my best, which is all I have ever done. After, maybe I'll be going to Masters swimming..."*

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## DWS 2019 RANKINGS SHAKEN AFTER KAZAN LEG



The penultimate leg of the 2019 **FINA/CNSG Diving World Series** concluded on Sunday May 12 in Kazan, Russia, as Great Britain's Jack Laugher and China's Yang Hao topped the men's individual events and Canada's Jennifer Abel and DPR Korea's Kim Mi Rae triumphed in the women's springboard and platform events.

After four legs and just one more to go, Kazan's results have slightly shaken the

overall ranking.

Great Britain's Jack Laugher, previously third until the Canadian leg held from April 26-28, has been propelled to the top of the 3m springboard ranking with 62 points. The two Chinese aces Xie Siyi and Cao Yuan, who led the board until Kazan, move down one step to rank second and third with 52 and 48 points respectively.

Thomas Daley of Great Britain steals the 10m platform first position with 60 points, leaving previous leader Yang Jian (CHN) secure the second position with 52 points. Russia's Aleksandr Bondar remains third with 47 points.

In the women's individual events, Canada's Jennifer Abel is now leading the 3m springboard thanks to her Kazan victory. She has now 58 points, while Wang Han and Shi Tingmao (CHN) follow with 52 and 50 points respectively.

The women's platform is now led by Kim Mi Rae of DPR Korea with 54 points. Zhang Jiaqi now occupies the second spot with 36 points and Meaghan Benfeito of Canada managed to maintain the third rank with 33 points.

Check out the current temporary [ranking here](#)

The FINA/CNSG Diving World Series 2019 resumes on Friday May 17 in London, Great Britain, and will conclude on Sunday May 19. The ultimate meet will be held at the London Aquatics Centre within the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

You can follow the competition LIVE or in VodD on [FINAtv](#) and results are available on [FINA mobile](#) and [FINA website](#).

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



# FIRST FINA AQUATICS MANAGERS SEMINAR HELD IN BUCHAREST

FINA held its first edition of the [FINA Aquatics Managers Seminar](#) from May 3-4 in Bucharest, Romania, as the programme was launched in an effort to support the National Member Federations to improve their organisation management and administration, respecting the highest international standards of sports management.

This programme, held over two days, offered practical examples and theory of best practice in the field of managing sports organisations, as well as the mentorship of recognised experts, Brian Minikin and Pierre Lafontaine that guided the Federations to strategically plan their activities in order to promote aquatics in the best way within their country.

The purpose of the FINA Aquatics Managers Programme is to:

- Increase the management competencies of the FINA National Federations
- Support the FINA National Member Federations to better promote aquatics within their county
- Promote the use of strategic planning in order to establish a common pattern of organisation among the FINA National Federations

Nine Federations and 26 participants, including Olympic and World Champions Camelia Potec, Diana Mocanu, and Athletics 5000m Olympic champion and former Minister of sports in Romania Gabriela Szos, actively took part.

The next FINA Aquatics Managers Seminar 2019 will be taking place in Johannesburg from June 22-23.

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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 Artistic 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 209 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).