

June 20, 2018

## SUPER FINAL - SPAIN EDGES OUT WORLD CHAMPION CROATIA IN SHOOTOUT



The FINA Men's Water Polo World League Super Final 2018 is currently taking place in Budapest, Hungary, until Saturday June 23.

Montenegro and the USA are the only two sides in the field standing with a clean sheet. On Day 2, the Montenegrins had a big win over host Hungary, coming from 7-9 down to clinch the match with 12-9, while the Americans beat Kazakhstan with ease. Spain recovered from the opening day's defeat against the US and managed to beat World champions Croatia in a penalty shootout. Australia did a splendid job against Japan, thanks to the outstanding efforts of Aaron Younger who netted 6 goals.

In the first game of the second tournament day, the Aussies beat Japan with ease. Australia took a 4-1 lead in the opening period - with a hat-trick from Younger - and managed to maintain a 3-4 goals lead throughout the game, Japan never had the chance to earn any point this afternoon.

The second game of the second day brought the first penalty shootout of the tourney as Croatia managed to force the game into a shootout after a late equaliser. With a great spell in the second period Spain rushed ahead and maintained its lead for most of the game but were unable to score in the last period and that cost them one point - but at least they won in the shootout as their goalie Dani Lopez had two stops.

Montenegro and Hungary played a magnificent match which was really entertaining for three periods, at least for the home fans - but the fourth period saw only Montenegrin goals while the Hungarian ran out of ideas. They led 7-9 with 2:54 to go in the third - but they were unable to score any more in the game while their rivals produced a 5-0 rush, won the match and is set to win the group.

The closing match of the day brought less excitement: apart from a weaker spell early in the second period, the US side took the game under firm control against Kazakhstan and decided the outcome by the end of the third period as they netted three goals in 1:43 minutes to go 8-2 up.

You can read detailed match reports [here](#) and today's (DAY 3) report will be available this evening on [FINA website](#).

### Provisional Standings

**Group A:** 1. Montenegro 6, 2. Hungary 3, 3. Australia 3, 4. Japan 0

**Group B:** 1. United States 6, 2. Croatia 4, 3. Spain 2, 3. Kazakhstan 0

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## JAPAN AND UKRAINE LEAD THE PROVISIONAL DUET AND SOLO ASWS 2018 RANKING



With just one more leg to go, swimmers from Japan and Ukraine are leading the [FINA Artistic Swimming World Series 2018 ranking](#) in both the Solo and Duet events, as the circuit is about to resume for the tenth and final meet of the season in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from June 29-July 1.

Rio 2016 silver medallist Yukiko Inui of Japan, who just missed the podium in both the Technical and Free routines in [Budapest World Championships 2017](#), and Yelyzaveta Yakhno of Ukraine have shown consistent efforts and results throughout the competition and currently lead with 330 points each in the Solo and 320 points in the Duet.

Artistic swimmers from Italy Linda Cerruti and Costanza Ferro place third with 250 (Solo)

and 295 points (Duet).

Italy's mixed pair Giorgio Minisini and Manila Flamini are however leading the mixed duet ranking and Ukraine, France and Slovakia lead the Teams placing, with respectively 760, 420 and 353 points.

Don't miss out the gracious pool performances! Follow the [LIVE stream](#) of the last leg on [FINAtv](#).

[Provisional Ranking 2018](#)

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## WELLBROCK STUNS THE MEN'S FIELD, CUNHA SHINES AGAIN IN BALATON

In the fourth leg of the [FINA/HOSA Marathon Swim World Series 2018](#) in Balatonfüred, 21 year-old Florian Wellbrock claimed his first-ever title and proved he could be the next big hit from Germany. Netherlands's Olympic and World champion Ferry Weertman was a distant second in this race.

Among the women, Ana Marcela Cunha (BRA) added one more triumph to her tally already featuring a handful of medals from Lake Balaton. She just out-touched Haley Anderson, preventing the U.S. star from claiming back-to-back wins in the World Series.

The men's race was dominated early on by Florian Wellbrock as he rushed to the leading position at the halfway mark, and never looked back. The German broke away from the pack and gained 16.8sec on Ferry Weertman at the end - though he didn't offer too many smiles at any stage, it seemed to be just another successful chapter in his career.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



On the contrary, reigning World and Olympic champion Dutchman Ferry Weertman was all smiling while hugging France's Axel Reymond after they came second and third respectively. For them, Lake Balaton brought success once more as Weertman clinched gold in the 10km last year at the FINA World Championships, while Reymond did the same in the 25km.

The women's race was a different affair. In the first half the lead was constantly changing but none of the eventual medal-winners showed up in front. They travelled with the pack before switching gears - then the finish was as thrilling as it could be. After the final gruelling sprint, five swimmers stormed in within 3.9sec, Brazil's legend Ana Marcela Cunha was the fastest, out-touching USA's Haley Anderson by 0.3sec, while Italy's Rachele Bruni arrived with further 1.6sec adrift.

The 2018 circuit will next stop in Lac St Jean, Canada, on July 26 for the fifth of nine meets.

All the races can be watched on-demand on FINAtv.

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