

March 6, 2019

BEIJING READY TO HOST SECOND DIVING WORLD SERIES LEG



National heroes and Olympic champions Shi Tingmao, Cao Yuan and British stars Thomas Daley and Jack Laugher will lead a total a group of 78 divers from 14 countries ready to compete at the second leg of the FINA/CNSG Diving World Series, from March 7-9.

The Beijing Water Cube is hosting this last major competition before it is transformed into the Ice Cube, the venue that will stage the Beijing 2022 Olympic Games curling competition.

FINA Best Women Diver of the Year consecutively since 2015 Shi Tingmao said during the pre-meet press conference:

"It is always great and sweet to compete in the Water Cube. I have a new partner, but long-time friend, Wang Han for the synchro event. Wang is excellent and skilful. I hope we can show our best in front of the home crowds."

Cao Yuan, who collected two golds in the synchro platform and synchro springboard as well as one silver medal in the individual 3m springboard in the first leg in Sagami-hara, Japan, said he will continue his momentum in Beijing.

"It is a big challenge to me to handle three events from springboard and platform. I need to find the balance in between," Cao said.

Thomas Daley was happy to come back to the Water Cube again:

"I took four months off with my family because I now have a son. It changed my perspective on a lot of things, including training and diving. For me being able to train and dive is all the more important now because I have someone that I want to

make proud," said Daley who made a strong comeback last week in Japan as he finished second in the 10m platform with 579.85 points, just behind Chinese Yang Jian's 586.20.

"It was my first international competition since I am back from my break and it went pretty well last week. So I am looking forward to competing here in the Water Cube," Daley said.

Jack Laugher, 2016 Olympic gold medallist in the 3m synchro springboard, who had an operation on his ankle last year said:

"I had a difficult season last year, but I am getting ready this year. China is always one of my favourite legs and where I always did pretty well. I am really glad to be here," Laugher said.

According to Water Cube Director Yang Qiyong, it is the ninth edition of World Series and the last one before the venue makes its transition into the Ice Cube.

"I hope you will enjoy the top diving competition here and then we will turn the Water Cube into the Ice Cube for the Olympics Year in three years."

China swept all ten gold medals on offer at the first leg of the FINA/CNSG Diving World Series in Japan.

You are able to closely follow LIVE all the results of this meet on the FINA app, and all finals are live streamed on FINAtv.

2019 Results

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JAPAN SHINES AT INAUGURAL ARTISTIC SWIMMING WORLD SERIES LEG



Japan won four gold medals at the [FINA Artistic Swimming World Series 2019](#) in Paris, France, this weekend (March 1-3), becoming the biggest winner on the three-day top-notch competition.

Rio 2016 bronze medallist and soloist Yukiko Inui of Japan was the best in the individual events in Paris. The 29-year-old star topped the solo technical with 90.5294 points and was followed by Spain's Ona Carbonell with

90.4893 and Vasilina Khandoshka of Belarus with 82.5783. Inui also took the top honours in the solo free with 91.7667, while Ukraine's Marta Fiedina claimed silver in 91.0000 and France's Eve Planeix closed the podium 84.9667.

World medallists Yumi Adachi/Atsushi Abe of Japan took the top honours in both the mixed events, with 85.8529 and 87.4667 points respectively. Spain and Brazil secured the silver and bronze medals in this order for both the technical and free too.

Both duet events were won by Ukrainian pairs: Anastasiya Savchuk and Marta Fiedina clinched gold in the technical with 90.7207, while the twin sisters Maryna Aleksiiiva/Vladyslava Aleksiiiva achieved 91.6333 in the free for the gold. Japan, France and Spain were the other nations to medal in these sessions.

France managed to clinch its only gold medal of the meet in the last session of the competition on Sunday. The girls achieved 86.233 point to claim gold in team free, in front of Brazil with 83.800 and Israel with 81.000.

The free combination event was won by Brazil in 83.4333, while Spain defeated France and Israel in the highlight routine.

Medals table in Paris / [results available here](#)

- Japan - 4G, 2S
- Ukraine - 3G, 1S, 1B
- France - 1G, 2S, 1B,
- Spain - 1G, 3S, 1B
- Brazil 1G, 2B
- Israel - 4B
- Belarus - 1B

The 2019 World Series circuit next stops in Alexandroupolis (GRE) from April 4-7.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



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SIX TEAMS QUALIFY TO EUROPA CUP FINAL

The Game Day 10 of the FINA Women's Water Polo World League 2019, as part of the European qualification phase, was played last night (Tuesday March 5) in Szentes (HUN) and Rotterdam (NED) respectively.

The Hungarians, playing at home, defeated Italy 12-8 despite a tie in the first quarter (3-3, 3-1, 3-2, 3-2).

In Rotterdam, the Dutch crushed France 19-2, giving the French no chance as of the second quarter and until the end of the match (5-2, 4-0, 4-0, 6-0).

Both teams being in Group B, Hungary maintained its second position with 11 points now, and the Netherlands are still third of the group with 10 points. Italy is the leader with 15 points. All teams have played 6 games.

Group A's game, Greece-Spain, will conclude the European preliminaries on March 19. However, six teams have already secured a berth to the brand new Europa Cup Final, to be held in Turin (ITA) from March 29-31, 2019.

Those six teams are: **Russia, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Greece and the Netherlands.**

Provisional ranking

GROUP A: 1. Russia 17pts; Spain 10pts; Greece 6pts; Israel 0

GROUP B: 1. Italy 15pts; Hungary 11pts; Netherlands 10pts; France 0

The FINA Men's Water Polo World League resumes on March 12.

You can follow the pool action and watch most games LIVE streamed or on VoD on FINAtv.

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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 (SU).



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