

European Aquatics Championships, Rome (ITA), Day 8 – Summary

Second gold for Punzel, third medal for Pellacani, Laugher grabs first men's title

Tina Punzel, alongside Lena Hentschel, clinched her second gold medal in two days after winning the women's 3m synchro. Italy's Chiara Pellacani's medal count stands at three, she had a silver now, and Britain's Jack Laugher came first in a really exciting final, the opening event of the men's tourney.

Diving

A really balanced performance from Tina Punzel and Lena Hentschel secured another gold for Germany on the 3m boards. Punzel won the mixed event a day earlier and now she landed another title – the first 2.0DD dives went well, followed by three 60+ pointers (no other pairs could achieve that), including the highest scoring dive of the final in the last round; it was more than enough to bring the gold home. Their winning margin was 20 points, pretty huge compared to the tiny gaps in the previous days.

Italy's Elena Bertocchi and Chiara Pellacani had to dig deep after a mediocre dive in the second round dropped them to the 7th place. But two fine jumps brought them back, and even though another error came in the last one, the rivals did not have perfect runs either, so they ended up in the second place. It was the third medal for Pellacani and the second for Bertocchi, winner of the 1m event. It was an extremely tight battle for the minor spoils, the Swedes got the bronze ahead of the Ukrainian duo – the latter two was separated by 0.30 points and only 3.36 were the difference between the second and the fourth.

The first men's final offered a really high-level competition, the top contenders barely made mistakes – Britain's Jack Laugher's marks were not lower than 7.5 in the first two rounds. And he carried on his momentum, produced the best dive of the day in the fourth round for 76.50 points. Then two relatively moderate ones still gave him a comfortable winning margin ahead of his Italian chasers.

Team- and room-mates Lorenzo Marsaglia and Giovanni Tocci finished second and third respectively, to the joy of the home crowd which filled the stands again and created a frenetic atmosphere, just like over the previous seven days in the neighbouring swimming pool.

High diving

Only a few seats remained empty for the historical opening session of the high diving competition as well – the tribunes were packed as the participants performed the first-ever jumps from 20 and 27m in the history of the European Championships.

Both competitions somewhat mirrored the latest results in the sport's annual pro series. The highest ranked Europeans in the cliffdiving circuit also hold the top spots after Day 1. In the men's event two-time world champion Gary Hunt of France is battling with the Romanian duo, Catalin Preda and Constantin Popovici (only identical names with David, the posterboy of the swimming meet, no family

Ligue Européenne de Natation
9 rue de la Morâche - 1260 Nyon - Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 552 99 99
Email: lenoffice@len.eu
www.len.eu

relations). Two Germans lead the women's contest after two rounds, with 2013 world bronze medallist Ana Bader on top.

Open water swimming

The wind and the high waves are ruining the open water swimmers' plans – instead of staging the first races, the athletes were confined to the training pools. And during the day LEN officials and the organisers had to settle for another postponement and cancel the second day's competitions as well.

Now the forecasts promise more calm for the weekend, so the individual events will be held over two days. According to the plans, both 5km races are to be swum on Saturday morning from 10.00, followed by the 25km events in the afternoon, from 14.00. Then the main races, the 10km will take place on Sunday from 10.00 – sadly, the relay has to be scratched from the programme, under the time pressure.

18 August 2022

Ligue Européenne de Natation
9 rue de la Morâche - 1260 Nyon - Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 552 99 99
Email: lenoffice@len.eu
www.len.eu