



FINA OPEN WATER SWIMMING GRAND PRIX 2011

Hervas (ESP) and Biagioli (ARG) win first GP leg in Rosario

On January 23, 35 open water swimmers from 11 countries took to the water for a 15km effort in Rosario (Argentina), the first race of the **2011 FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix**.

The men's event was won by **Francisco Hervas** (ESP) in 2:02.55, a newcomer to the FINA podium club. He was followed by another fresh face of the open water world stage, **Brian Rickeman** (BEL), timing 2:02.57. The third place was reserved for consistent performer **Alexander Studzinski** (GER), clocking 2:02.59. All three raced for the win in an extremely tight finish with a 2-second margin of one another. Veteran swimmer Petar Stoychev had to settle for fourth while home favourite Damian Blaum placed fifth. Italians Andrea Volpini and Rodolfo Valenti (fourth and third in the overall ranking last year), finished in sixth and seventh position respectively.

The Argentinean delegation took the spotlight among women with **Cecilia Biagioli** repeating her brilliant performance from last year, touching first in 2:04.41, and reigning Grand Prix champion **Pilar Geijo** claiming third spot in 2:11.09. Runner-up **Esther Nunez Morera** (ESP) gave her country the second medal of the day with a time of 2:08.26.

Rosario 2011 Results:

Men	Women
1 - Francisco Hervas Espana 2.02.55	1 - Cecilia Biagioli Argentina 2.04.41
2 - Brian Rickeman Belgica 2.02.57	2 - Esther Nunez Espana 2.08.26
3 - Alexander Studzinski Alemania 2.02.59	3 - Pilar Geijo Argentina 2.11.09
4 - Petar Stoychev Bulgaria 2.03.01	4 - Alejandra Gonzalez Lara Mexico 2.14.23
5 - Damian Blaum Argentina 2.03.02	5 - Antonella Bogarin Argentina 2.18.24
6 - Andrea Volpini Italia 2.03.03	6 - Fabiana Lamberti Italia 2.18.26
7 - Rodolfo Valenti Italia 2.03.04	7 - Alessandra Romiti Italia 2.18.40
8 - Guillermo Bertola Argentina 2.03.29	8 - Lara Rodriguez Anido Argentina 2.24.26
9 - Mattia Alberico Italia 2.03.55	9 - Noelia Petti Argentina 2.29.55
10 - Luciano Sales Rubio Argentina 2.04.34	10 - Nicoletta Simonazzi Italia 2.31.13
11 - Ivan Afanevich Rusia 2.05.45	11 - Aurelie Cote Canada 2.37.41
12 - Edoardo Stochino Italia 2.05.55	12 - Gabrielle Trottier Canada 2.44.31
13 - Ian van der Hulst Holanda 2.08.34	13 - Aldana Martinez Argentina 2.49.24
14 - Sergej Bauer Alemania 2.08.37	DSQ - Margarita Dominguez Espana
15 - Evgenij Pop Acev Macedonia 2.16.50	
16 - Raul Macedo Argentina 2.16.51	
17 - Fernando Zabala Argentina 2.24.22	
18 - Emanuel Corsiglia Argentina 2.25.49	
19 - Igor Dimovski Macedonia 2.30.48	
20 - Emanuel Olmedo Argentina 2.33.32	
DNF - Benjamin Korschak Alemania (0.54.53)	

Upcoming races of the FINA OWS Grand Prix 2011:

Race 1: January 23, 2011 in Rosario (ARG, 15km)

NEXT RACE: **January 30, 2011 in Santa Fe-Coronda (ARG, 57km)**

Race 3: February 5, 2011 in Viedma (ARG, 12km)

Race 4: February 13, 2011 in Hernandarias-Parana (ARG, 88km)