



PRESS RELEASE 6/2011 for Swim Star Web Portal

## **FINA OPEN WATER SWIMMING GRAND PRIX 2011**



### **Drattsev (RUS) and Fabian (USA) - the best in Viedma**

On February 5, 47 competitors from 15 countries, many belonging to the open water's global elite, entered the third stage of the FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix, the **12km "La Patagones Viedma"**, the southernmost open water swimming race in the world. The swimmers had to complete 5 laps of a 2,4km course in the Negro River, which separates the cities of Viedma and Carmen de Patagones, Argentina.

The race was largely a Russian-American affair, with 5km and 10km world vice-champion **Evgeny Drattsev** (RUS) taking out the men's field in 2:33.07, despite being challenged by teammate **Sergey Bolshakov** (2:33.10) and reigning 25km world champion **Alex Meyer** (USA, 2:33.14), the silver and bronze medal winners, respectively.

Among women, things were not as close, with 5km world champion **Eva Fabian** (USA) comfortably winning in 2:53.44. The 18-year-old re-affirms her place among the world's best, offering her country the second medal of the day. Marathon specialist **Poliana Okimoto** from Brazil captured silver in 2:54.58 while France's **Ophelie Aspod** obtained her first podium appearance in a FINA competition, timing 2:55.00. This top-three finish is a nice boost for the 20-year-old newcomer. This time and despite being favourite and competing at home, no Argentinean swimmer made the podium.

### **FINA OWS Grand Prix 2011 calendar:**

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

*Race 2: January 30, 2011 in Santa Fe-Coronda (ARG, 57km)*

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

**NEXT RACE: February 13, 2011 in Hernandarias-Parana (ARG, 88km)**

Race 5: April 23, 2011 in Sumidero Canyon (MEX, 15km)

Race 6: June 19, 2011 in Capri-Napoli (ITA, 36km)

Race 7: July 30, 2011 in Lac St. Jean (CAN, 32km)

Race 8: August 6, 2011 in Lake Memphremagog (CAN, 34km)

Race 9: August 7, 2011 in Sabac (SRB, 19km)

Race 10: August 14, 2011 in Ohrid Lake (MKD, 30km)

Race 11: TBC (UAE)