



PRESS RELEASE

N° 31/2008

Special for Swim Star Web Portal



5th FINA WORLD OPEN WATER SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seville, Spain 2008

Results of women's/men's 10km: Two victories for Russia

Seville (ESP), May 5, 2008 – The 10km races of these Championships took place over the last two days with the women's event staged on May 3 and the men's on May 4. The results of these competitions revealed some of the first Olympic swimmers in this discipline, with 10km marathon swimming on the programme for the 2008 Beijing Games in August. This is the first time this event will be contested at an Olympic level. The rest of the 25 Beijing-bound men and women will be decided at the 'Good Luck Beijing' marathon swimming test event, to be held May 31-June 1 at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park, Beijing.

In the women's race, Russia's **Larisa Ilchenko** (2:02:02.7) won after trailing behind **Cassandra Patten** (GBR) (2:02:05.8) for the entire 10km. With her victory, Ilchenko succeeded in defending her 10km title from the 4th FINA Open Water Swimming Championships in 2006. Bronze went to **Yurema Requena** (ESP) in a time of 2:02:07.2.

Rounding out the top ten (those who will go to Beijing) are: Natalie Du Toit (RSA) 4th with a time of 2:02:07.8, Jana Pechanova (CZE) 5th in 2:02:12.6, Poliana Okimoto (BRA) 6th with 2:02:13.5, Angela Maurer (GER), 7th in 2:02:13.6, Keri-Anne Payne (GBR) 8th in 2:02:14.1, Aurelie Muller (FRA) 9th in 2:02:14.1, and in 10th was Ana Marcela Cunha (BRA) in 2:02:16.3. Also securing Beijing berths through continental qualification was Edith Van Dijk (NED) 11th in a time of 2:02:18.6, Yanquiao Fang (CHN), 12th in 2:02:23.3, Andreina Pinto (VEN) 17th at 2:02:39.8, and Melissa Gorman (AUS), 25th in 2:03:18.4.

The men's race was rough and resulted in disqualification for Grant Hackett (AUS), who was widely expected to medal in the competition. Occupying the podium were **Vladimir Dyatchin** (RUS), 1st in 1:53:21.0, **David Davies** (GBR), 2nd in 1:53:21.3, while 3rd went to defending world champion **Thomas Lurz** (GER) at 1:53:27.2. Rounding out the top 10 were: Maarten Van der Weijden (NED) 4th with 1:53:36.3, Evgeny Drattsev (RUS) tied for 5th (1:53:37.6) with Ky Hurst (AUS), Mark Warkentin (USA) 7th at 1:53:37.8, Valerio Cleri (ITA), Gianniotis Spyridon (GRE), and Brian Ryckeman (BEL), finishing with times of 1:53:38.8, 1:53:39.1 and 1:53:39.4 respectively, filled-out the 8th, 9th and 10th spots.

In addition, Gilles Rondy (FRA) 11th (1:53:39.4), Luis Escobar (MEX) 14th in 1:54:32.0, Mohamed El-Zanaty (EGY) 19th with 1:54:36.4, and Saleh Mohammed (SYR) 23rd at 1:54:45 – gained Olympic berths through continental Olympic qualification procedures also fulfilled through these race results.

For more news and full results, visit: www.fina.org