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# SwimmingWORLD

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## WORLD CUP MADNESS

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# World Cup AIN'T NUTHIN' LIKE IT!

BY JASON MARSTELLER

Seven meets in a little more than a month...all over the world. There's nothing in competitive swimming quite like the FINA/Arena World Cup circuit, which had plenty of world, regional and national records, not to mention a check for \$100,000 to top performers **Therese Alshammar** and **Randall Bal**. Following are the highlights from each meet:

## OCT. 19-20 • DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Alshammar and Bal were quick out of the gates, showing everyone that they meant business in their pursuit of the circuit's high-point award and monetary winnings.

Bal was 3-for-3 in backstroke on his way to a perfect 21-for-21 after seven meets that earned him the nickname, "Blackjack." Alshammar got things started with a 25.64 in the 50 fly—31-hundredths off Anna-Karin Kammerling's world record.

The USA's Natalie Coughlin also came close to setting a world record in the 100 back with a 57.21, a half-second off her own standard. She also snared the 100 fly in 56.60.

South Africa's **Gerhard Zandberg** treated the hometown fans to wins in the 50 free (21.59), 50 breast (27.53) and 100 IM (53.93).

## OCT. 27-28 • SINGAPORE

The first world record of the circuit was broken in Singapore, courtesy of **Coughlin** with a 56.51 in the 100 back. That bettered her own mark of 56.71 from 2002 and was her second '02 record bettered in 2007—last March at Worlds, she clocked 59.44 in the long course 100 meter back. Coughlin also took a run at the 100 IM mark of 58.80 with a winning 59.12.

Other top performances came from South Africa's Roland Schoeman, who won the 50 free (21.61), 100 free (47.34), 50 breast (27.45) and 100 IM (53.87). Alshammar earned

victories in the 50 and 100 free (24.02 and 53.67) and 50 fly (25.69).

## NOV. 2-3 • SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Australia's **Leisel Jones** swam well in front of her partisan supporters, dominating the women's breaststroke. She clocked 1:04.37 in the 100—just shy of her 1:03.85 world record—and won the 50 in 30.03 and the 200 in 2:20.84.

**Bal** clocked the second-fastest American time in the 50 back with a 23.42 to match Neil Walker, while Korea's Tae



[PHOTO BY BILL COLLINS]

ABOVE » Randall "Blackjack" Bal was a perfect 21-for-21 in backstroke, and received a check for \$100,000 as the men's top performer.

Lane 9

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## GLOBAL STANDARDS SET AT EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four individual world records fell during the European Short Course Championships held in Debrecen, Hungary in mid-December. Hungary's **Laszlo Cseh** took down both the 200 and 400 meter IM standards with times of 1:52.99 and 3:59.33. Poland's **Otylia Jędrzejczak** clocked a 2:03.53 in the women's 200 fly, while Croatia's **Sanja Jovanovic** touched in 26.50 in the women's 50 back.

## ROWDY'S KIDZ TO PROVIDE FREE SWIM CLINICS

Swimming legend **Rowdy Gaines** stepped down from his full-time role with the USA Swimming Foundation to return to his home state of Florida and create Rowdy's Kidz. The program, which will be sponsored by The Limu Company, will provide free swimming clinics for children

throughout the country. Gaines will, however, continue to support the Foundation wherever and whenever possible.



## A BABY BOY FOR GARY HALL JR.

Gary Hall Jr.'s wife, **Elizabeth**, gave birth to **Charles Jameson Hall**, Dec. 10. Their son weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces. The Halls also have a daughter, **Gigi**. Gary Hall Jr. will try to become the first U.S. male swimmer to compete in four consecutive Olympic Games. Since 1996, he has won five gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

## CAL WINS MEN'S NCAA WATER POLO TITLE

In a battle of the nation's top two teams, No. 2 Cal beat No. 1 USC, 8-6, at the men's NCAA Water Polo Championships, Dec. 2, at Palo Alto, Calif. With the win, Cal captured its NCAA-record 13th national title and topped the Trojans for the second year in a row in the championship match.

Hwan Park won the 200, 400 and 1500 free (1:43.38, 3:39.99 and 14:49.94).

### NOV. 9-10 • MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Russia's **Nikolay Skvortsov** clocked a very quick 1:50.74 to win the men's 200 fly, but fell 1-hundredth shy of tying Frank Esposito's 2002 world record.

Another Russian, **Yulia Efimova**, shared the spotlight in Moscow by sweeping the breaststroke events. The 15-year-old set a national record in the 50 with a 30.80 that eclipsed the 30.88 set by Elena Bogomazova in 2005. She also snared the 100 in 1:07.52 and 200 with a time of 2:25.08.

Australia's Eamon Sullivan clocked a national record in the men's 50 free with a winning 21.31.

### NOV. 13-14 • STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

The records continued to fall in Sweden.

Zandberg returned to the circuit to set an African record in the 50 back with a 23.67, and Sweden's Stefan Nystrand recorded a European standard in the 100 free in 46.48.

Efimova claimed all three Russian records in women's breaststroke with a 30.42 in the 50, 1:05.41 in the 100 and 2:21.41 in the 200, while Thiago Pereira set Brazilian records in the men's 100-200-400 IM (52.97, 1:55.08 and 4:06.30).

Alshammar continued her winning ways—and fast swimming—with a 23.79 in the 50 free.

### NOV. 17-18 • BERLIN, GERMANY

Easily the crown jewel of the World Cup circuit, Berlin was the site of four world and nine regional standards.

**Nystrand** put together a pair of global records in sprint freestyle. He became the first swimmer ever to break 46 seconds in the 100 with a 45.83, destroying the previous mark of 46.25 held by Schoeman and the USA's Ian Crocker. He also claimed the 50 WR with a time of 20.93 to clip Schoeman's 20.98.

In the women's 50 free, world-record honors went to Holland's **Marleen Veldhuis** with her 23.58 that nipped Alshammar's 23.59 from 2000. In that race, 40-year-old Dara Torres lowered her own U.S. mark of 23.87 from prelims

Coach **Kirk Everists'** Golden Bears were paced by a strong defense and two goals apiece from seniors **Adam Haley** and **Zac Monsees**. Senior **Michael Sharf**, who led Cal in scoring this season with a school-record 98 single-season goals, was named the 2007 NCAA Tournament MVP.

### CORRECTION

*Swimming World Magazine* received the following letter-to-the-editor from five time U.S. Olympic coach **Don Gambрил** after it reported in its January issue that **Skip Kenney** was "suspended for two months from Stanford (in March 2007) as head men's coach after NCAA violations."

"I think if you will check, Kenney did not violate NCAA rules by excluding former swimmers from a best times list," Gambрил wrote. "He has admitted he was wrong, and apologized. Well enough. He should not at any time be labeled as a cheater, which is what those who violate NCAA rules are."



[PHOTO BY UZSLO BALOGH, REUTERS]

**ABOVE** » Of the four world records set in Berlin, Stefan Nystrand was responsible for two, lowering the 50 free to 20.93 and becoming the first swimmer ever to break 46 seconds in the 100 free with a 45.83.

with a 23.82. Kara Lynn Joyce held the previous mark with a 24.21 in 2004.

Finally, **Pereira** claimed his first world record with a 1:53.14 in the men's 200 IM, knocking 17-hundredths off Ryan Lochte's 1:53.31 in 2006.

### NOV. 23-25 • BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL

Meet hosts for the final stop of the series mixed things up a bit, with the finals being held in the morning, similar to what will take place at this year's Beijing Olympics. Brazil also served as the only outdoor venue of the tour.

South Africa's Lize-Marie Retief set African records in the women's 50 and 100 fly (25.90 and 56.98), while a trio of Brazilian records fell to Guilherme Guido (men's 50 back, 24.23p), Tatiane Sakemi (women's 100 breast, 1:08.98) and Jamilla Marson (women's 50 fly, 27.16). ♦

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[PHOTO BY BILL COLLINS]

**ABOVE** » Kalyn Keller



### KALYN KELLER RETIRES FROM SWIMMING

Kalyn Keller of Club Wolverine retired from swimming in December after being diagnosed with Crohn's disease, a chronic, inflammatory condition of the gastrointestinal tract. She first began showing signs of the disease after the Pan American Games last July. She tried to fight through it, but after finishing fourth at the U.S. Open Water

World Championship Trials in October and not qualifying for the U.S. team that will compete next April at the World Championships in Seville, Spain, Keller decided to move back to Arizona with her family to battle the disease. ♦