



PRESS RELEASE

N° 43/2009



FINA WOMEN'S WATER POLO WORLD LEAGUE SUPER FINAL USA defeats Canada to become 2009 Champs, Bronze to Australia

Lausanne (SUI), June 15, 2009 – Yesterday in Kirishi (RUS) the Super Final of Women's Water Polo World League 2009 concluded. The American team is the winner after defeating their North American neighbours Canada with a score of **6-9 (1-2, 2-2, 2-5, 1-0)**. The win gives Team USA four World League titles in six years since the Women's World League began. The bronze medal has been taken by the Australians, who overcame Spain with a score of **8-12 (4-4, 1-3, 2-2, 1-3)**.

The destiny of the 2009 World League title was decided in the third period of the final. During a span of two and a half minutes, American players Wenger, Rullon and Gandy scored three goals to gain an advantage of 7-3. American goalkeeper Elizabeth Armstrong was also an asset, deflecting some difficult shots during key moments of the game.

In the bronze medal game, the team of Spain – playing without three of their key players - began their game perfectly (3-0 by the third minute), but couldn't maintain dominance. Already by the end of the second period Australia had not only levelled the score, but advanced, and in the final quarter their victory was obvious.

Final Rankings Overall: 1. USA, 2. Canada, 3. Australia, 4. Spain, 5. China, 6. Russia, 7. Greece, 8. Italy.

The Tournament's top-scorers were Blanca Gil (ESP) with 15 goals, and then Angeliki Gerolymou (GRE), Gao Ao (CHN) and Sun Yujun (CHN) with 14.

The Russia vs. China game to determine 5th-6th also took place yesterday. A failure by the host team at the end of the first period, when they allowed four successive Chinese goals, also determined how the game would unfold. For most of the game Russia tried to catch-up, but overtook their opponents with just six minutes left after two goals by Olga Belyaeva. However, luck smiled on the Chinese when a goal by Sun Yating 30 seconds to the end made the score **9-10 (1-4, 3-2, 2-1, 3-3)** for China.

In the game for 7th-8th places, the Greeks started their game confidently (despite the absence of a key player), and achieved an appreciable advantage in the first quarter. In the second period the Italian team tried to change the course of the game, but could reduce the goal difference only to a minimum and only for a short time. In the third period Greece made decisive steps and finished the game with a victory of **13-6 (3-0, 2-3, 4-1, 4-2)**.

FINA Communications Department • Tel.: (41-21) 310 4710 • Fax: (41-21) 312 6610 • www.fina.org

Official FINA Partners

