FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, December 14, 2022



World, American Records Fall at FINA World Swimming Championships (25m)

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MELBOURNE, Australia – Relays highlighted USA Swimming performances on day two of competition Wednesday at the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC).

Opening the evening session, the mixed 4x50m medley relay won gold in a world record-setting time of 1:35.15. The women's 4x200m freestyle relay closed the night with an American record of 7:34.70.

Semifinals in the women's and men's 100m freestyle and 100m breaststroke were also contested on Wednesday night. Lilly King (Evansville, Ind./Indiana Swim Club) and Nic Fink (Morristown, N.J./Metro Atlantic Aquatic Club) advanced to the final in the breaststroke with Torri Huske (Arlington, Va./Stanford University) and Natalie Hinds (Midlands, Texas/Gator Swim Club) moving on in the freestyle, both scheduled for Thursday evening.

Prelims continue Wednesday at 11:05 a.m. AEDT (6:05 p.m. ET, December 13) with finals at 7:35 p.m. AEDT (3:35 a.m. ET, December 14).

A look at the federation medal table:

Federation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
United States	4	3	4	11	
Australia	5	2	2	9	
Canada	1	1	4	6	
Italy	2	2	-	4	
Brazil	1	-	-	1	
France	-	1	-	1	
New Zealand	-	1	-	1	
Switzerland	-	1	-	1	
China	-	-	1	1	
Hungary	-	-	1	1	
Japan	-	-	1	1	

Norway	1	1
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Athlete	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Kate Douglass	2	1	-	3
Torri Huske	2	1	-	3
Alex Walsh*	1	1	1	3
Ryan Murphy	2	-	-	2
Shaine Casas*	1	-	1	2
Erika Brown*	-	1	1	2
Carson Foster	-	1	1	2
Claire Curzan	-	1	1	2
Erin Gemmell*	-	1	1	2
Leah Smith	-	-	2	2
Michael Andrew*	1	-	-	1
Nic Fink	1	-	-	1
Natalie Hinds*	-	1	-	1
Jillian Cox*	-	-	1	1
David Curtiss*	-	-	1	1
Hali Flickinger	-	-	1	1
Trenton Julian*	-	-	1	1
Drew Kibler	-	-	1	1
Kieran Smith	-	-	1	1

A look at the U.S. individual medal table:

* - includes medal from prelim swim on a relay

Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay - FINAL

Gold – USA, 1:35.15*

Ryan Murphy (Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla./California Aquatics), 22.37 Nic Fink (Morristown, N.J./Metro Atlantic Aquatic Club), 24.96 Kate Douglass (Pelham, N.Y./University of Virginia), 24.09 Torri Huske (Arlington, Va./Stanford University), 23.73

*World record

Head coach Braden Holloway on the race: "What an awesome mixed 200 medley relay. One of our goals going into it was to break the world record. We put together a great plan this morning to put us in a great lane to race tonight. Tonight, they all did their jobs and executed their legs. It was a nice win for USA and breaking the world record."

Douglass on the potential for a world record: "I think last night was a super exciting night for me and for Team USA all together. It was great to carry the momentum forward to tonight's finals. I prefer not to think about (aiming for a world record) because it puts a little bit of pressure on but after this morning's swim, we thought we had a pretty good chance of getting that world record. We had a team meeting before we came to the pool and we all said 'we are going to get it!' It's such a great feeling to want something like that and to be able to go out and get it." Fink on the relay: "The relay was awesome – a great way to start the night. We were all juggling a lot of different races so it was kind of fun to see how everyone prepped for that. Happy to get started with a bang."

Race Notes:

- The swim is 1.03 seconds faster than the previous world-record mark, set by the Netherlands in November 2021.
- Murphy's backstroke leg of 22.37 would be an American record time but American records aren't recognized in mixed relays.
- Fastest split ever recorded for Fink.
- Shaine Casas, Michael Andrew and Alex Walsh also receive gold medals for their prelim swims in the event.

Women's 800m Freestyle – FINAL

Fourth – Leah Smith (Pittsburgh, Pa./Longhorn Aquatics), 8:14.24 Sixth – Jillian Cox (Cedar Park, Texas/University of Texas), 8:20.95

Race Notes:

• Cox (17) was the youngest swimmer competing in the fastest heat of the event.

Women's 100m Backstroke – FINAL

BRONZE (tied) – Claire Curzan (Cary N.C./Stanford University/TAC Titans), 55.74

Eighth – Isabelle Stadden (Blaine, Minn./California Aquatics), 57.20

Curzan on her race: "I'm feeling pretty good. I know I'm getting momentum as we're going and I'm just ready for a lot more racing."

Race Notes:

• U.S. has now medaled in the event in three-consecutive editions of the competition.

Men's 100m Backstroke – FINAL

GOLD – Ryan Murphy (Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla./California Aquatics), 48.50*

*Championship record

Murphy on his race: "It felt really good. It's been an incredible hour for me - a world record in the relay, and I think we went half-a-second faster than we thought we were going to go. Of course, I was getting ready for my 100 back and realized I needed to use the bathroom so I actually went into drug testing and got that out of the way and was out just time for the victory ceremony for the relay. It was great to hit that time – a nice time drop and a championship record as well."

Race Notes:

- This gold marks Murphy's 10th World Championships (25m) medal (fifth gold).
- Murphy wins his second world title in the event following his gold in 2018.

Women's 50m Butterfly – FINAL

GOLD (tied) – Torri Huske (Arlington, Va./Stanford University), 24.64 Fifth (tied) – Claire Curzan (Cary, N.C./Stanford University/TAC Titans), 24.92 Huske on using momentum from the relay win: "I was really excited to be on the mixed medley, and I was so happy they put me on it. I was just trying to carry the momentum because they gave me such a tremendous lead and I didn't want to let the team down. And then I feel like when you have one good swim, it's easy to keep the momentum going and just have a really positive attitude about the next race."

Race Notes:

- Huske and Canada's Maggie MacNeil tied for the gold medal.
- Huske had four career FINA World Championships (25m) medals going into this event, however this marks her first individual medal.

Women's 4x200m Freestyle Relay – FINAL

BRONZE – USA, 7:34.70*

Alex Walsh (Nashville, Tenn./University of Virginia), 1:53.90 Hali Flickinger (York, Pa./Sun Devil Swimming), 1:53.48 Erin Gemmell (Potomac, Md./Nation's Capital Swim Club), 1:52.23 Leah Smith (Pittsburgh, Pa./Longhorn Aquatics), 1:55.09

*American record

Head coach Braden Holloway on the race: "We're really proud of the 800 free relay and finishing the night with an American record. They battled it through each leg. We wanted to be in contention to move up a little higher on the podium; walking away with an American record and some great legs is an awesome way to end the night."

Race Notes:

- This time bests the previous American record of 7:35.30 set in 2018 at the World Championships (25m). Smith was also a part of that relay.
- Erika Brown and Jillian Cox will also receive bronze medals for swimming the relay in prelims.

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