



## Four Individual World Titles for U.S. at FINA World Swimming Championships (25m)

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**MELBOURNE, Australia** – Night three of competition on Thursday saw four United States swimmers capture individual gold medals at the FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC). The women’s 4x50m freestyle relay set American and Championship records en route to the gold medal.

Semifinals for the 50m backstroke and 100m individual medley also took place Thursday evening. **Claire Curzan (Cary, N.C./Stanford University/TAC Titans)** advances to Friday’s final as the top seed, setting an American record with her time of 25.60. **Ryan Murphy (Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla./California Aquatics)** was the second overall qualifier to Friday’s backstroke final. **Hunter Armstrong (Dover, Ohio/California Aquatics)** will compete in a 50m backstroke swim-off on Friday morning for the last spot in the final.

**Michael Andrew (Encinitas, Calif./MA Swim Academy)** and **Shaine Casas (McAllen, Texas/Longhorn Aquatics)** earned the top two seeds, respectively, in Friday’s IM final.

Prelims continue Friday at 11:05 a.m. AEDT (6:05 p.m. ET, December 14) with finals at 7:35 p.m. AEDT (3:35 a.m. ET, December 15). Swimmers from 160 countries will compete across 46 events through December 18.

### A look at the federation medal table:

<i>Federation</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>United States</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>
Australia	8	4	3	15
Italy	2	4	1	7
Canada	1	1	4	6
Netherlands	-	1	3	4
South Africa	2	-	-	2
France	-	2	-	2

New Zealand	-	2	-	2
Japan	-	1	1	2
Switzerland	-	1	1	2
Brazil	1	-	-	1
Hong Kong	-	1	-	1
China	-	-	1	1
Germany	-	-	1	1
Great Britain	-	-	1	1
Hungary	-	-	1	1
Lithuania	-	-	1	1
Norway	-	-	1	1

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

<i><b>Athlete</b></i>	<i><b>Gold</b></i>	<i><b>Silver</b></i>	<i><b>Bronze</b></i>	<i><b>Total</b></i>
Kate Douglass	3	1	-	4
Torri Huske	3	1	-	4
Alex Walsh*	2	1	1	4
Erika Brown	1	1	1	3
Claire Curzan	1	1	1	3
Erin Gemmell*	1	1	1	3
Nic Fink	2	-	-	2
Ryan Murphy	2	-	-	2
Natalie Hinds*	1	1	-	2
Shaine Casas*	1	-	1	2
Kieran Smith	1	-	1	2
Hali Flickinger	-	1	1	2
Carson Foster	-	1	1	2
Leah Smith	-	-	2	2
Michael Andrew*	1	-	-	1
Lilly King	1	-	-	1
Dakota Luther	1	-	-	1
Jillian Cox*	-	-	1	1
David Curtiss*	-	-	1	1
Trenton Julian*	-	-	1	1
Drew Kibler	-	-	1	1

\* - includes medal from prelim swim on a relay

**Women's 100m Freestyle – FINAL**

Fifth – Torri Huske (Arlington, Va./Stanford University), 52.04

Eighth – Natalie Hinds (Midlands, Texas/Gator Swim Club), 52.24

**Women's 200m Butterfly – FINAL**

**GOLD – Dakota Luther (Austin, Texas/Longhorn Aquatics), 2:03.37**

**SILVER – Hali Flickinger (York, Pa./Sun Devil Swimming), 2:03.78**

*Luther on her race: “I was a little out of my element in short course meters but I felt really great. I had an awesome time racing Hali (Flickinger) and being under the bright lights with the USA flag on my cap was a great experience.”*

*Race Notes:*

- *Luther becomes the first American female to win the 200m butterfly (SCM) world title since Mary Descenza in 2008.*
- *Luther’s time of 2:03.37 is a new personal best and makes her the third-fastest American performer in the event’s history.*
- *Luther’s win marks her first world championship title.*

### **Men’s 200m Butterfly – FINAL**

Seventh – Trenton Julian (Glendale, Calif./Rose Bowl Aquatics), 1:50.94

### **Women’s 100m Breaststroke – FINAL**

**GOLD – Lilly King (Evansville, Ind./Indiana Swim Club), 1:02.67**

*King on her race: “I tried to go out really fast, and I went out pretty fast but wasn’t the fastest out. Then I just tried to hang on for dear life the second 50 (meters) and it worked, so it was good.”*

*Race Notes:*

- *First world title in the event for the U.S. since Rebecca Soni in 2010.*
- *First world title in the event for King, who won silver in the event in 2016.*
- *King’s time was 0.17 off her personal best.*

### **Men’s 100m Breaststroke– FINAL**

**GOLD – Nic Fink (Morristown, N.J./Metro Atlantic Aquatic Club), 55.88**

*Fink on his race: “It was a stacked field and the middle of the meet. It was good to keep the momentum going for Team USA. I saw Lilly (King) won the race before me and it’s all about momentum. Just trying to keep it up for the team.”*

*Fink on swimming multiple events on multiple days: “It’s funny. I feel like I’m swimming a lot, but then I look at what Torri (Huske) or Claire Curzan are swimming and they have like three swims in a session for two or three sessions in a row and it’s insane. I just try to put it in perspective. My one race tonight is not going to kill me either way. It’s doable.”*

*Fink on winning the world title: “It means a lot. I was able to get the other two last year and completing the set – as (the announcer) was saying – is kind of fun and it’s giving me confidence to defend the next two.”*

Race Notes:

- *The time is Fink's third performance ever under 55.9, a mark that only three other Americans have ever breached.*

**Men's 400m Freestyle – FINAL**

**GOLD – Kieran Smith (Ridgefield, Conn./Ridgefield Aquatic Club/University of Florida), 3:34.38\***

Seventh – Jake Magahey (Dacula, Ga./University of Georgia/Swim Atlanta), 3:38.12

*\*American record*

*Smith on his race: "That race was fantastic. It felt really strong from the start. I felt a lot of confidence when I built such a big lead at the 200, then I was fighting on the last 100 but I got it done."*

*Smith on winning gold: "It is the first time that I have been at the top of the podium so it's a new chapter in my career. It was an exciting race and I knew that those guys were going to be tough but I was ready."*

Race Notes:

- *Smith joins Chad Carvin as the only American to ever win the event.*

**Women's 4x50m Freestyle Relay – FINAL**

**GOLD – USA, 1:33.89\*\***

**Torri Huske (Arlington, Va./Stanford University), 24.08**

**Claire Curzan (Cary, N.C./Stanford University/TAC Titans), 23.30**

**Erika Brown (Modesto, Calif./Tennessee Aquatics), 23.74**

**Kate Douglass (Pelham, N.Y./University of Virginia), 22.77**

*\*American record*

*\*Championship record*

*Head coach Braden Holloway on the race: "Once again, the ladies stepped up to close the evening session with a fabulous 200 freestyle relay. We jumped on the lead early, pressed forward and never let it go. I'm really happy with the way they held their composure through their races and getting their hand on the wall first."*

Race Notes:

- *Erin Gemmell, Natalie Hinds and Alex Walsh also earn medals for their swims in the event's prelims.*

**Men's 4x50m Freestyle Relay– FINAL**

Fifth – USA, 1:24.03

David Curtiss (Yardley, Pa./NC State/Hamilton Y Aquatic Club), 21.16  
Shaine Casas (McAllen, Texas/Longhorn Aquatics), 20.83  
Hunter Armstrong (Dover, Ohio/California Aquatics), 20.94  
Drew Kibler (Carmel, Ind./University of Texas), 21.10

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