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# Daily Preview 2017 - Saturday 22 July

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## Synchronised Swimming - Mixed Duet Free Routine

- At the 2015 FINA World Championships Aleksandr Maltsev (RUS) and Darina Valitova (RUS) won the inaugural edition of the mixed duet free.
- Maltsev will try to retain his title. In Budapest he pairs up with Mihaela Kalancha (RUS).
- United States' Bill May (USA) and Kristina Lum-Underwood (USA) took the silver medal in this event at the 2015 FINA World Championships. May will now pair with Kanako Spendlove (USA, born Kitao).
- Giorgio Minisini (ITA) and Mariangela Perrupato (ITA) took home the bronze medal for Italy in the duet free routine two years ago and are both back this year.
- With Sheng Shuwen (CHN) and Shi Haoyu (CHN) China will be represented by a pair in the mixed duet routine event for the first time.
- Yumi Adachi (JPN) and Atsushi Abe (JPN) compete for Japan. Prior to the Budapest World Championships, Japan had won medals in all synchro disciplines (solo, duet, team), except in the mixed events.

## Synchronised Swimming - Women's Free Routine Combination

- Russia has won five of the previous seven free combination events at the world championships, including the last three.
- Svetlana Romashina (RUS) has claimed a record four medals in this event, all gold.
- Japan (2003) and Spain (2009) are the only two other countries to have won this event.
- China finished in second place in the free combination at three of the last four FINA World Championships. Spain took second place in 2013.
- United States (silver in 2003, bronze in 2007) and Canada (bronze in 2009 and 2011) are

both vying to become the first North American team to win the gold medal in this event.

- Of the teams that have never won a medal, Italy had the highest rank when it finished fourth in 2009.

### **Diving - Mixed 3m Springboard Synchro**

- Wang Han (CHN) and Yang Hao (CHN) won the inaugural edition of the mixed 3m springboard synchro at the 2015 FINA World Championships in Kazan.

- Wang will now try to defend her title with Li Zheng (CHN). The duo won all four FINA Diving World Series meets this season.

- Jennifer Abel (CAN) and François Imbeau-Dulac (CAN) took home the silver medal in this event two years ago. They also finished runners-up at three of the four FINA Diving World Series meets this season, as well as claiming one third place finish.

- Maicol Verzotto (ITA) and Elena Bertocchi (ITA) are the reigning European champions in the mixed 3m springboard synchro.

- Verzotto claimed the bronze medal in this event at the world championships two years ago, together with Tania Cagnotto (ITA).

### **Diving - Men's 10m Platform**

- Chen Aisen (CHN) is the reigning Olympic champion from Rio in the men's 10m platform and could become the first reigning Olympic champion to win the world title since Hu Jia (CHN) in 2005.

- Chen's compatriot Qiu Bo (CHN) won the world title in this event at each of the last three world championships, but will not compete in this event in Budapest.

- China could become the first country to win four consecutive world titles in the men's 10m platform - the only other country with three successive gold medals is United States (1978-1986, all Greg Louganis (USA)).

- Yang Jian (CHN) is the other competitor representing China - the last time two Chinese divers reached the podium in this event at the world championships was 2009 when Qiu Bo finished in second place and Zhou Luxin (CHN) in third behind 15-year old Thomas Daley (GBR).

- Daley also finished in third place in 2015. He could become the fifth diver with three or more medals in this event at the world championships, after Qiu Bo (4), David Boudia (USA, 3), Greg Louganis (3) and Tian Liang (CHN, 3).

- Aleksandr Bondar (RUS) and Viktor Minibaev (RUS) could claim Russia's first medal in this event at the world championships since 2007, when Gleb Galperin (RUS) won the world title.
- Minibaev finished in fourth place in this event at the world championships in 2011.
- Coming into these world championships, France has not claimed a single medal in any diving event, something which could be achieved by reigning European champion Benjamin Auffret (FRA) in this event.