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From former Hungarian Olympian to Italian coach

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Back in 1992 she was standing on the platform in Barcelona, now in 2017 Ibolya Nagy is instructing the girls beside the pool in Budapest. She has not neglected the red-white-green tricolour but the stripes' direction has changed from horizontal to vertical.

The former diver, who finished 21st in women's 10m springboard at the Barcelona Olympics moved to Italy with her daughter in 2000. Now she has returned to her home country as the head coach of the Italian diving team to help the girls (including her daughter, Noémi Bártki) performing at the World Championships.

Here is an interview with the Hungarian Diver of the Year award winner of 1992, Ibolya Nagy.

What are your impressions about the FINA World Championships hosted by Budapest so far, how did you feel during the competition?

I swell with pride for many reasons. For one thing, the event itself is extraordinary, many say the standard of organisation and conduct is similar to that of the Olympics. The new swimming facility is fascinating, apparently it required comprehensive planning and tremendous work construct such a complex and I hope Hungary and Hungarian divers will make best use of it in the future, as well. For another thing, the city itself is marvellous, squares are neat and tidy, venues. The entire Italian team was impressed.

How do you evaluate the Italian diving team's performance?

Unfortunately we could not do our best, but it happens at major international events sometimes. As for my competitor, Noémi Bártki I can tell you she did not have such an outstanding performance she could have been capable of, but in the year after the Olympics it is understandable. I hope she can continue to improve since the goal is to make it to Tokyo. The two bronze medals claimed are encouraging, though, many feared that the retirement of Tania Cagnotto and Francesca Dallapè would cause serious challenges to face.

You have highlighted your competitor, Noémi Bártki, who is your daughter in fact. Is it hard to separate daughter-mother and coach-competitor relations?

Today there are no problems deriving from this special situation. Of course, there were some conflicts before, especially during her adolescence but it is over now, luckily Noémi is really good at separating roles. Lately we have been talking about her career, the end of her career is approaching slowly, changing coaches might bring about a new momentum and motivate her in the remaining period of her career in professional sport. Overall, I am very grateful for coming along a long way together.

As a coach what are your plans for the future if your daughter changes to another coach?

This is an interesting question really, currently I am working with a bigger bunch of kids aged around 10 but I have some older competitors, as well. Now I will continue working as before and time will tell which way to take in the future.