

European Diving Championships 2017, Kiev (UKR) – Day 5, Summary

Perfect “dress rehearsal” for Zakharov

Kiev (LEN) – Ilya Zakharov is back on the top. While the Russian kept local heroes Ilya Kvasha and Oleg Kolodyi at bay in the 3m final, he also held a perfect dress rehearsal for the upcoming World Championships next month in Budapest. After the 2012 Olympic champion had missed the podium last year at the Europeans in London, today he offered a nearly perfect performance, receiving a total of 525.10 points. Kvasha, already decorated with a gold in the 1m event, came second with 484.30 points, ahead of his compatriot Oleg Kolodyi who clinched bronze with 470.30 points. In the second ever edition of the mixed 10m synchro event Great Britain’s Lois Toulson and Matthew Lee grabbed gold, ahead of Russia and Italy.

“As I had expected it was a great battle with the famous Ukraine divers today,” Ilya Zakharov said. “My dives have been strong and difficult although I made a few mistakes today. At the World Championships in Budapest I would like to fight for gold.”

Silver medallist Ilya Kvasha was happy with his own performance but also praised compatriot Oleg Kolodyi. These two have another medal chance in the 3m synchro event on Saturday. “Oleg dives well when he’s not nervous,” said Kvasha. Kolodyi’s motivation today partly came from his weaker result in the 1m competition where he finished fourth. “After that I was really angry, and that helped me today. My performance was good, everything worked out. I was not expecting this third place but now I’m very happy, especially as this is my first individual medal in the 3m springboard.” To an amazement of many, Germany’s top diver Patrick Hausding didn’t make the final.

Great Britain’s Lois Toulson and Matthew Lee clinched the title in the mixed 10m synchro after a thrilling and high-quality competition, gaining 308.16 points. Right before the last round only 2.14 points separated the first three pairs. “It was a good competition for us today”, Matthew Lee said. “My partner Lois Toulson is very pleased now as a double champion here in Kiev.” Russia’s Iuliia Timoshinina and Viktor Minibaev (300.30 points) came second while the Italian duo Maicol Verzotto and Noemi Batki (299.58 points) earned the bronze.

“It seems that I’m an expert for mixed contests in our team. After winning gold in the 3m event, this is the second medal in the mixed competitions,” Maicol Verzotto said. “We have entered the event with the aim of coming up with our best possible performance. The quality of the other duos’ dives was mostly high. We knew we had to do a very good job and we did that.”

LIGUE EUROPÉENNE DE NATATION

9, rue de la Morâche
CH 1260 Nyon
SWITZERLAND

Tel: +41 22 552 99 99
Fax: +41 22 552 99 89
lenoffice@len.eu

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Medal table (after 9 of 13 competitions)

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Ukraine	3	3	3	9
Great Britain	3	0	1	4
Russia	1	4	2	7
France	1	0	1	2
Italy	1	0	1	2
Germany	0	1	1	2
Switzerland	0	1	0	1
	9	9	9	27

Day 6: Russian synchro duo hot on title number six

In the Synchronised 3m event the Russian duo Evgeny Kuznetsov and Ilya Zakharov is hot for title number six after 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Also among the medal contenders are Germany's Patrick Hausding, who missed the 3m final on Friday, and Stephan Feck. Both earned a fourth place at the 2016 Olympics, but have not yet celebrated a European Championship title in this event. For sure host Ukraine with Illya Kvasha and Oleg Kolodyi hopes for another medal and Great Britain's young duo Frederick Woodward-James Heatly might of course be always good for another surprise too.

Who will succeed diving legend, retired Italian Tania Cagnotto, in the 3m Springboard? Since 2009 Cagnotto had earned the podium's top spot with just one exception (2012, Anna Lindberg). Now it's the turn on her compatriot Elena Bertocchi, 2016 already hot on Cagnotto's heels, as well as on Russian Olympic bronze medallist Nadezhda Bazhina and local hero Anna Pysmenska who already grabbed gold from the 1m springboard.

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LIGUE EUROPÉENNE DE NATATION

9, rue de la Morâche
CH 1260 Nyon
SWITZERLAND

Tel: +41 22 552 99 99
Fax: +41 22 552 99 89
lenoffice@len.eu

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REMAINING SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 17, 2017

10.00 hrs 1m Springboard Women – Preliminary
16.30 hrs **Synchronised 3m Men – Final**
18.00 hrs **1m Springboard Women – Final**

Sunday, June 18, 2017

10.00 hrs 10m Platform Men – Preliminary
16.30 hrs **Synchronised 3m Women – Final**
18.00 hrs **10m Platform Men – Final**



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16 June 2017