

## BARCELONA 2003

The 10<sup>th</sup> FINA World Championships take place in Barcelona from July 12<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. It's a very hard fight among three national teams to stand out in the medal collection, but in the end – as usual – Usa prevail over Russia and Australia. In Barcelona Michael Phelps's star begins to shine: he's 18-years-old and he gets four gold medals: 200 m butterfly, 200 m and 400 m medley and 4 x 100 m medley relay. But the star is Kosuke Kitajima - historical rival of Domenico Fioravanti - who wins the 100 m and the 200 m breaststroke: Kitajima is the first athlete to achieve this exploit in the World Championships. He will replicate it in Athens and Beijing Olympic Games. Japan national team conquers 8 medals in Spain, three of which bear Kitajima's signature. And what about Italy? Viola Valli is the absolute protagonist: she triumphs both in the 5 km and in the 10 km Open Waters, giving to Italian national team its only gold medals. *Settebello* and *Setterosa* get the silver medal: but the girls will have their revenge 12 months later, winning the gold medal in Athens Olympics.