

BERLIN 1978

The third FINA World Championships were held in west Berlin from the 20th to the 28th of August 1978, year full of sport and record news. The attending Nations were 37 and at the end the USA will rule the Championships again with 44 medals, while URSS arrives second on the podium with 16 medals and Canada third with 9 medals. The scene will be taken by the soviet 18 years old Valdimir Salnikov, born in the ex Leningrad St. Petersburg. The young prodigy won at the 400 and 1500 m freestyle and became the first to swim less than 15 m. Besides this his team won the silver medal in the 4x200m relay. Four years later in Guayaquil Salnikov will do the same and at the Moscow Olympic Games will conquer 3 gold medals improving always more. For Italy the German Championships remain not the best memory since the medals were only two: the bronze of Giorgio Cagnotto diving from 3 m and the gold medal of the water polo "Settebello" lead by Gianni De Magistris: the Lonzi boys beat Yugoslavia and Soviet Union and even with Hungary in the critical game. The Italian water polo team wins in this way another gold medal 18 years after the Rome Olympics one.