

FUKUOKA 2001

From July 16th to 29th 2001 the ninth FINA World Championships take place in Japan. *Azzurri's* beginning is brilliant: Viola Valli and Luca Baldini get the higher podium in the 5 km. Emiliano Brembilla wins over Massimiliano Rosolino in the 400 m freestyle, conquering a bronze medal. Ian Thorpe, after winning the gold medal in the 200 m freestyle, gets the first position in the 400 m freestyle, improving the World Record. Domenico Fioravanti gets the second place in the 200 m breaststroke. July 26th is the day of first *azzurri's* triumph in the swimming pool: Rosolino replicates his Olympic and European victories in the 200 m medley. *Setterosa* girls reach the final thanks to a series of consecutive victories, then they win over Hungary national team celebrating their deserved triumph. Australian Thorpe confirms his abilities conquering the gold medal in the 800 m freestyle, too. Brembilla-Pellicciari-Beccari-Rosolino get the silver medal in the 4x200 m freestyle relay. In the end, *azzurri's* booty gathers 12 medals, 6 of which are gold medals. Australian team win the biggest number of gold medals: 23 medals, 13 of which gold medals. Also China (10 gold medals) and United States (9) do well.