

MELBOURNE 2007

The 12th FINA World Championships take place in Melbourne, Australia, from March 17th to April 1st. *Azzurri* go back in Italy with nine medals and the 11th position in the medal collection that represent a two-positions improvement compared to the Montreal World Championships. The only gold medal is conquered by Filippo Magnini in the 100 m freestyle. Once again the swimmer from Pesaro, who shares his medal with the Canadian Brent Hayden, confirms in facts the title won in Canada. Magnini also contributes for the silver medal (and the European record) in the 4x100 m together with Massimiliano Rosolino, Alessandro Calvi and Christian Galenda. Another silver medal goes to Marco Formentini in the 25 km Open Water. The other Melbourne protagonist is Federica Pellegrini, who gets the World record in the semi-final of the 200 m freestyle with the time of 1'56"47, and who settles the Italian record in the 400 m freestyle with the time of 4'06"51. But in the 200 m freestyle final, the athlete from Venice has to content herself with the bronze medal: French Laure Manaudou is the World champion. The remaining bronze medals go to Luca Marin (400 m medley), Loris Facci (200 m breaststroke) and, in diving, to Cristopher Sacchin (1 m springboard) and Tania Cagnotto (3 m springboard). After the disqualification of Tunisian World champion Oussama Mellouli – turned out to be positive to a Doping control – also Federico Colbertaldo, fourth in the 800 m freestyle, gets a bronze medal. The Australian World Championships are painted of star and stripes: United States conquer 40 medals, 21 of which gold, getting the first position in the medal collection. The undisputed star is Micheal Phelps: five World records for him.