

MONTREAL 2005

Montreal World Championships are the former ones competed in a North American city. They take place in the Canadian city between July 16th and 31st: Parc Jean-Drapeau islands, in the heart of the St. Lawrence River, are the location for all the competitions.

Azzurri's performance is marked by great Filippo Magnini's victory in the 100 m freestyle. With his typical, exceptional acceleration in the second lap, the swimmer from Pesaro overcomes the South-African Roland Schoeman (gold medal in the 50 m) winning the main race of the World Championships with a time (48"12) really close the World Record. Magnini's one remains the only Italian gold medal: *Azzurri's* walk is lame. If Simone Ercoli (bronze medal in the 5 km), Federica Vitale (silver medal in the 10 km) and Laura La Piana (bronze medal in the 25 km) shine in the Open Water races, in the Water Polo both *Settebello* and *Setterosa* disappoint. In diving Tania Cagnotto ends her final on the 10 m platform at the tenth position, but she gets even conquering the bronze medal in the 3 m springboard.

With Ian Thorpe's forfeit, the only swimmer who can face Michael Phelps' explosion is Grant Hackett: the Australian places himself behind Phelps in the 200 m freestyle, but he scores an hat-trick on the long distance. Gold medals in the 400, 800 and 1500 m freestyle are him. Then, Phelps has to content himself with the silver medal in the 100 m butterfly and with the second gold medal in the 200 m medley: you have to add the triumphs in the 4x100 m and in the 4x200 m freestyle relays to these medals. In the end, United States win on Australia in the medal collection with 17 gold medals and 39 total medals: Australians stop at 25 medals, 13 of which are gold. Behind them, Chinesees, Russians and Canadians. Italians are 13th: one gold, three silver and three bronze medals is their booty.