

PERTH 1998

After seven years the World Championships come back to Perth. In Australia they compete in January, from 8th to 17th. 1371 athletes participate, the Italian Team is formed by 63 persons. The first medals arrive thanks to the Open Water Swimmers: 2 bronze medals from Luca Baldini's and his team in the 5km race, in particular from Baldini-Venturini-Casprini's trio. The third medal is brought by Gargano-Pescatoti-Casprini thanks to the best total time in the 25km race. Water polo teams start badly, but Setterosa arrives to recuperate the situation. On the edge of elimination Formigoni's girls dominate against Spain and Kazakhstan. Melania Grego leads to victory her partners at the Golden Gol with a long distance shot against Australia. In the finals the Italians Athletes overreach Holland, eternal adversary, thanks to a Cristina Consoli's smart move. Nothing to do for Settebello that after a deluding starting doesn't succeed in recuperating and gets a fifth place rich of controversies. In Swimming the balance is made of two silver medals: Rosolino in the 200 free style, Brembilla in the 1500.

The host city is Perth and the Australian champions swim at home. Michael Klim (picture) snatches applauses: the 21 years old swimmer goes home with four gold medals, two silver and one bronze medal. Perth World Championships see the beginning of a legend: Ian Thorpe (picture). The 16 years old wins the gold medal in 400 m Freestyle and in relay 4x200 m.