

## Americans capture three golds on Day 5 of WUGs (8/16/2005)



IZMIR, Turkey – The temperature might have reached 95 degrees in Izmir, Turkey, on Day 5 of the World University Games, but Team USA's gold medal run on Tuesday night made the Manisa Ö.I.M. Swimming Pool feel even hotter.

The Americans sizzled, capturing three golds and a silver to extend their medal tally to 17 – seven gold, six silver and four bronze – for the meet, which

concludes tomorrow. The U.S. is tied for first with Japan in the medal standings, in addition to leading the gold medal count.

To dub one of the gold medal swims as the “most exciting” of the night is tough, as all three were memorable for different reasons.

**Hayley Peirsol** (Irvine, Calif./Auburn) had a stellar swim in the women's 1500m freestyle, blowing out the field by more than 14 seconds with a time of 16:08.06. Her time broke the Universiade record by more than six seconds, making her the 12<sup>th</sup>-fastest woman in history and the sixth-fastest American.

“I'm really happy with that swim,” Peirsol said. “It's a best time, so I can't ask for more than that. (Becky Cooke) was out fast from the beginning, so I knew it was going to be tough. Once I saw myself creeping up on her, I knew I'd have it if I could pass her and stay in front so she wouldn't catch me on the last 100. That race felt better than my 800, so that's good.”

Cooke, of Great Britain, hung on for the silver (16:22.47), while Jana Pechanova of Czechoslovakia claimed bronze in 16:37.77. **Alyssa Kiel** (Hudson, Ohio/Georgia) clocked a 16:41.37 to finish in seventh place.

The women's team completed a sweep of the relays, as the team of **Hayley McGregor** (Austin, Texas/Texas), **Megan Jendrick** (Puyallup, Wash./Pacific), **Demerae Christianson** (Gillette, Wyo./Auburn) and **Maritza Correia** (Valrico, Fla./Georgia) captured gold in the 400m medley in 4:07.00. The last time the U.S. women won all three relays at WUGs was in 1995.

“It's an honor to swim with three other amazing girls. We had a goal of coming in here and winning the gold medal, and that's what we did,” Christianson said. “In 2003, we didn't win any of the relays, so to dominate the relays like we did is a huge accomplishment.”

Japan finished almost two seconds behind the Americans with a time of 4:08.99, while Russia was the bronze medalist in 4:10.36.

**Eric Shanteau** (Lilburn, Ga./Auburn) began the night with a bang, bagging his second gold of the meet in winning the men's 400m individual medley in 4:18.64. Shanteau's first victory in the 200m IM on Sunday, added to his gold medal tonight, makes him the only American individual to sweep the IMs at the World University Games.

Shanteau was half of a second behind Hungary's Peter Nagy after the backstroke, but a strong breaststroke leg propelled him from third to first.

"No matter what meet I'm swimming in, or who I'm swimming against, even internationally, I always have the same race plan," Shanteau said. "I've taught myself that I can't panic if I fall behind in the backstroke. I always have to have a great breaststroke.

"I wanted to go a little faster in the 200 and a lot faster in the 400, but I pretty much got what I wanted – wins in both IMs – so I'm happy about that."

Nagy claimed the silver with a time of 4:20.05, and Japan's Hidemasa Sano was just six-hundredths behind him in bronze (4:20.11). **Pat Mellors** (Pittsburgh, Penn./Virginia) narrowly missed a medal, touching the wall in 4:20.87 for fourth.

Not to be outdone by the other U.S. medalists, **Dana Vollmer** (Granbury, Texas/Florida) won her first individual medal of the Games, capturing silver in the women's 50 fly with a personal best of 26.91, just three-hundredths behind gold medalist Vasilissa Vladykina of Russia.

"All I wanted was to go faster than when I was 13, which was a 27.07, so I'm really happy with 26.91," Vollmer said. "There's still stuff to work on, but it's exciting to end the meet this way."

Vladykina's winning time of 26.88 was a Universiade record. Italy's Cristina Maccagnola took the bronze in 26.99. **Demerae Christianson** (Gillette, Wyo./Auburn) notched a ninth-place finish by winning the B final in 27.79.

**Justin Mortimer** (Milton, Mass./Minnesota) was the top U.S. finisher in the men's 200m free, taking fifth with a time of 1:50.95. Russia's Yuri Prilukov swam a Universiade-record time of 1:49.12 for his third gold of the meet. In the B final, **Michael Klueh** (Evansville, Ind./Texas) posted a 1:50.58 to place 12<sup>th</sup> overall.

In the men's 50m fly, **Peter Verhoef** (Newport News, Va./Georgia) took third in the B final (24.54) to finish 11<sup>th</sup> overall, while **Dan Rohleder** (Austin, Texas/Texas) swam a 24.64 for 14<sup>th</sup> place. Ukraine's Sergiy Breus took his second butterfly title in as many days, winning the gold in a Universiade record of 23.63.

## PREVIEW OF WEDNESDAY

The competition concludes Wednesday when the final eight events will be contested. Here is the list of each event and the U.S. swimmers competing:

\* Women's 200m fly: **Elizabeth Hill** (Atlanta, Ga./Georgia) and **Kim Vandenberg** (Moraga, Calif./UCLA)

\* Men's 50m breast: **Caleb Rowe** (Wailuku, Hawaii/Cal-Berkeley) and **Kevin Swander** (Greenwood, Ind./Indiana)

\* Women's 200m back: **Haley Chura** (Summerville, S.C./Georgia) and **Leah Retrum** (Columbus, Ind./Florida)

\* Men's 50m free: **Cullen Jones** (Irvington, N.J./NC State) and **Tim Patrick** (Ellisville, Md./Kentucky)

\* Women's 100m breast: **Megan Jendrick** (Puyallup, Wash./Pacific) and **Rebecca Soni** (Plainsboro, N.J./USC)

\* Men's 1500m free: **Michael Klueh** (Evansville, Ind./Texas) and **Justin Mortimer** (Milton, Mass./Minnesota)

\* Women's 50m free: **Maritza Correia** (Valrico, Fla./Georgia) and **Sarah Wanezek** (Brookfield, Wis./Texas)

\* Men's 4x100m medley relay

Prelims begin at 9:30 a.m. in Turkey (2:30 a.m. EST), and finals begin at 5:30 p.m. (10:30 a.m. EST) at the Manisa Ö.I.M. Swimming Pool. Izmir is seven hours ahead of EST.

Results are available online at both the [Universiade 2005 website](#) and the [Events page](#) of the USA Swimming website.

For more information on swimming at the 2005 World University Games, visit the Media section of [www.usaswimming.org](http://www.usaswimming.org). To read more about all U.S. sports, visit [www.usocpressbox.org](http://www.usocpressbox.org).

### **About USA Swimming**

As the National Governing Body for competitive swimming in the United States, USA Swimming formulates the rules, implements policies and procedures, conducts national championships, disseminates safety and sports medicine information and selects athletes to represent the United States in international competition. USA Swimming has more than 300,000 members nationwide and sanctions more than 7,000 events each year. For more information, visit [www.usaswimming.org](http://www.usaswimming.org).

---

[Back](#)