



North Shore Amateur Swimming Club Inc

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MCLEAN MISSES OUT ON FINAL SPOT AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



26th March 2007

New Zealand swimmer Hannah McLean has missed out on a place in the final of the 100m backstroke after her semi-final at Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena tonight. McLean, the Commonwealth record-holder, was seventh in the faster second semi-final to finish 15th overall and miss out on a top-eight spot for tomorrow night's final.

Swimming in the outside lane, McLean went through the first 50m last in 30.12 and finished with a 1:01.80, nearly a second outside her Commonwealth record set in Melbourne last year. The 25-year-old, who broke the New Zealand 100m freestyle record in the relay yesterday, was 12th fastest qualifier but could not repeat her qualifying effort of last year in Montreal.

McLean, who was chasing a medal in this event, was bitterly disappointed that she did not fire. "Hannah is very capable of making that final but there was none of her usual verve and energy. The swim looked quite mechanical," head coach Jan Cameron said.

"She has swum faster than this in training. It was a very hot field out there and perhaps the nerves got to her. It looked a very nervous swim. What can I say? I just don't have an answer."

Six of her semi-final qualified for the final while McLean was not the only favoured swimmer to miss out with former world record holder Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe) only seventh in the first semi-final.

Tomorrow's main hopes for the New Zealanders lie with Commonwealth Games finalist Moss Burmester in his favoured event, the 200m butterfly along with Dunedin's Andrew McMillan.

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Also in action is Glenn Snyders in the 50m breaststroke, Helen Norfolk and Melissa Ingram in the 200m freestyle and Robert Voss in the 800m freestyle.

Get behind the team and send a message to the SNZ website. Send a message of support to the team here!!! (messages will be checked before being posted to the website and then sent to the team.

Results, semi-final 100m butterfly:
Semi-final 1: L Manaudou (FRA) 1:00.55, 1; I Amshennikova (UKR) 1:01.21, 2; N Szepesi (HUN) 1:01.29, 3.
Semi-final 2: E Seebohm (AUS) 1:00.51, 1; H Ito (JPN) 1:00.62, 2; N Coughlin (USA) 1:00.64, 3. H McLean (NZL) 1:01.73, 7.