



North Shore Amateur Swimming Club Inc

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NEW ZEALAND SWIMMERS MISS FINALS ON DAY SIX

30th March 2007

New Zealand swimmers could not lift again to force their way into finals on the sixth night of the FINA World Championships in Melbourne tonight.

Corney Swanepoel, Hannah McLean and Melissa Ingram all missed out in their semi-finals at the Rod Laver Arena.

Swanepoel was unable to better his New Zealand record-breaking performance from the morning heat to finish seventh in his semi-final.

After a superb 52.46 in the morning heat, the 21-year-old went out a fraction faster to the turn in the 100m butterfly in tonight's semi-final but faded a little on the run home to clock 52.94.

It has marked a significant jump back near the top of the best times for Swanepoel who improved his world ranking from 36th to 14th.

American world champion and record-holder Ian Crocker led the semi-finals in 51.41 with his world record-devouring team-mate Michael Phelps third fastest.

McLean and Ingram both qualified for the semi-finals of the 200m backstroke and both drew the second semi-final. They needed to crack the 16-year-old New Zealand record of Anna Simcic of 2:10.79 to force their way into the final. Both North Shore swimmers pushed hard but the pace told in the much quicker second semi-final as they finished outside of their excellent morning heat swims. McLean was sixth and Ingram eighth with American Margaret Hoelzer holding out world record-holder Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe) for top qualifier in 2:07.70.

McLean qualified for semi-finals in both the 100m and 200m backstroke and tonight improved her 200m world ranking from 20th to 13th.

New Zealand's best chances tomorrow lie with three time world championship medalist Zoe Baker in the 50m breaststroke, where Annabelle Carey also looks to qualify.

Sprinters Lauren Boyle and Liz Coster are back in the pool for the 50m freestyle heats with the women's 4x100m medley team will be looking to make it a clean sweep in terms of qualification for the Beijing Olympics with a top-12 performance.

New Zealand results, day 6 finals, FINA World Swimming Championships:
100m butterfly:

Semi-final 1: Albert Subirats (VEN) 51.80, 1; Milorad Cavid (SRB) 52.16, 2; Ryan Pini (PNG) and Jason Dunford (KEN) 52.26, equal 3; Corney Swanepoel 52.94, 7.
Semifinal 2: Ian Crocker (USA) 51.41, 1; Lydon Ferns (RSA) 51.90, 2; Michael Phelps (USA) 51.92, 3.

200m backstroke:

Semifinal 1: Ester Baron (FRA) 2:10.55, 1; Alessia Filippi (ITA) and Nikolett Szepesi (HUN) 2:11.16, equal 2.
Semifinal 2: Margaret Hoelzer (USA) 2:07.70, 1; Kirsty Coventry (ZIM) 2:07.78, 2; Reiko Nakamura (JPN) 2:08.82, 3; Hannah McLean (NZL) 2:13.12, 6; Melissa Ingram (NZL) 2:14.07, 8.