

Spain's women's water polo team crowned first world champion in history on home turf

Water polo women - 2013/08/02 23:39

Spain's national women's water polo team won the gold medal at the 15th FINA World Championships Barcelona 2013. The dream team coached by Miki Oca beat Australia 8-6 in tonight's final to become the first team to claim the world championship title on home soil. 4,500 filled the stands at the Bernat Picornell Pool to the Iberians to the well-deserved victory



At 11pm local time in Barcelona and 7am in Sydney, Australia (two Olympic cities), Spain dominated the Barcelona 2013 women's water polo final to take the 6-3 lead. Until this moment, the Spanish team has played the perfect tournament. Miki Oca's team started off strong in the attack (2-0) and defended the shots of the Australian rival. Spain's Laura Ester, who was elected best goalkeeper of the tournament, saved four incredible shots on goal in the first half.

Although Australia tried to get back into the game, Spain defended great to tie the third quarter 1:1. Five minutes and 14 seconds before the end of the final, Spain's team captain Jennifer Pareja scored a penalty shot to stun the fans at the Bernat Picornell Pool. In the last second of the game, the Aussies netted the last goal of the women's tournament for the final score: 6-8.

The Spanish defense proved the winner, disrupting Australia at every stage of the match. It was Spain's best performance by far — seventh at Melbourne 2007. Australia won in 1986 and finished with the silver at Melbourne.

"I have played the last World Championship in 2003 and now and it has been really different. The women's water polo has changed a lot, in the past there was a huge difference between men's water polo and women's water polo and now they're in the same level. In BCN 2003 I was really young and I enjoy it a lot. Now, in 2013, what we get is awesome," said Pareja

At the end of the game, Spain, Australia and Greece received the gold, silver and bronze medal. Holland's Lieke Klaasen received the award for top scorer (25) and Pareja was crowned best player of the World Championships.