



QIN KAI: ONE SINGLE DIVE IS NOT ENOUGH TO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

🕒 23.07.2015, 13:00

SPORT



Two-time Olympic champion and six-time world champion, Chinese diver Qin Kai talking to a sports reporter of the OC's Press Office made a confession: it was not until fairly recently when he found out about new routine of his opponents from Russia and he also commented on why Chinese athletes were so unique.

– What are your exact impressions of the host city Kazan and Aquatics Palace?

– I have already been to Kazan at the leg of FINA Diving World Series, my impressions then and now are the same, Kazan is a magnificent city! The citizens are so hospitable, they make everyone feel the atmosphere of the forthcoming sporting extravaganza. The same thing I can say about the Aquatics Palace, it is an up-to-date well-built sports facility where it is quite comfortable to train and later on perform.

– You are the top athlete of four World Championships in a row. Are you expecting the excellent performance this time as well?

– Winning constantly athletes set high standards which scales up the popularity, the status and the reputation. All these standards should be maintained up to the level, that's why I guess after topping the podium for several times I am simply not allowed to fail.

– Who are your main rivals for gold?

– Russian divers of course, Evgenii Kuznetsov and Ilya Zakharov. I think it will be challenging to compete with them. Who else? The starting protocol can help with it (smiles). Almost everyone can bring good and not so good surprises.

– As for Russian divers Ilya Zakharov and Evgenii Kuznetsov, they are working on a dive with a 3.9 degree of difficulty.

– I've only found out about it here, before one of the training sessions. They are courageous enough to perform that dive and it is definitely going to be quite challenging for the Russian duet. We'll certainly see whether they are going to make it or not.

– Is it going to diminish your chances for gold somehow?

– Every athlete is undoubtedly to feel sort of pressure competing with such powerhouses as Zakharov and Kuznetsov. However, one single dive is unlikely to bring you the win. Apart from the degree of difficulty there are other criteria in judging the performance. The medals are generally split among those who make every single criterion work together.

– What is the secret of the usually successful performance of Chinese divers?

– There are no any secrets apart from discipline and constant workouts which allow Chinese divers achieve great results. And personally, I would also add: self-confidence!

Press Office of Organising Committee for 16th FINA World Championships



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