

Today's competition champion lost all of his limbs to a German World War bomb

Berlin, 8th June 2019

On the third day of the International German Swim Championships for People with Disabilities 2019 (IDM 2019) one man was in the spotlight: Aliaksei Talai did not only catch attention due to his two world records as the audience at "Schwimm- und Sporthalle Europasportpark" was very touched by the life story of the Belarusian.

When an old World War bomb suddenly exploded Talai lost all four limbs. That was in 1999. He was 16 at the time. He came to Berlin and Brandenburg for his rehabilitation and has been living in Germany for a couple of years. After the race Talai says: "I'm a world record holder now and I did this in my beloved Berlin!"

Besides Talai other athletes also had a reason to celebrate. Josia Topf (S3) secured his so far eighth German record in 50m freestyle during this IDM in one of the first races of the day. Then Aliaksei Talai (BLR, S1, 50m breaststroke) set the 20th world record in the preliminary run. But this number shouldn't last long. During the women's race in 50m breaststroke Elena Krawzow (Berliner Schwimmteam, S12), Brock Whiston (GBR, S8) and Chantalle Zijderveld (NED, S10) set new bests for their starting classes. Toni Shaw (GBR, S9) set 24 new world records before the end of the preliminaries.

Alice Tai (GBR, S8, 50m freestyle), Artur Saifutdinov (RUS, S12, 50m breaststroke) set the first world records during the finals. Brock Whiston, Elena Krawzow and Chantalle Zijderveld clocked new world records in 50m breaststroke. Aliaksei Talai undercut his time during preliminaries, which set the number of new world records after day 3 of 4 at IDM 2019 competition day to 30.

If you would like to experience top Paralympic swimming with the prospect of many world records up close, you can buy tickets on the website idm-schwimmen.de or follow the livestream.