



Comment Now!

# Golden day for SA swimmers

SPORT Thursday 1 August 2013 - 4:47am



Gold medalist Chad Le Clos poses with his medal. Le Clos won the men's 200-metre butterfly swimming event in the FINA World Championships in Barcelona.



BARCELONA - Cameron van der Burgh and Chad le Clos on Wednesday brought South Africa their first gold medals at the 15th FINA world championships, with Giulio Zorzi weighing in with an unexpected bronze.

Olympic 100m breaststroke champion Van der Burgh took gold in the 50m breaststroke in the Palau Sant Jordi pool in Barcelona, beating Australian Christian Sprenger by the narrowest of margins - 0.01 seconds.

The result was a reversal of the 100m race on Monday night, in which Sprenger prevailed.

Zorzi, who qualified for the finals with the slowest time, was an unexpected bronze medal winner and during the medal ceremony was pulled onto the podium by Van der Burgh who put his arm around his shoulder as the national anthem was played.

"It is a special night for SA swimming and to share the medals and podium with Giulio is special to me and him as well," said Van der Burgh.

"This is a new era of SA swimming and there is welcomed pressure to add to the sport in SA. It's now up to Swimming South Africa (the national body) to step up and make swimming bigger."

Zorzi said he was so happy that he could hardly explain it.

"It is the best third place I ever got. To get a medal at the world championships is the best. I am so happy and proud of myself," said Zorzi.

Le Clos, who stunned Michael Phelps in the 200m butterfly final at the Olympics last year, won in a time of 1:54.32, nearly a full second ahead of the silver medalist Pawel

## TRENDING

- 1 Mantsoe confessed to murdering Mokoena to sever blood tie: NPA
- 2 ANC doesnt need opposition parties to remove Zuma: Motshekga
- 3 UPDATE: Mantsoe denies killing Karabo Mokoena
- 4 ANCs Mantashe admits Gupta emails are authentic
- 5 UPDATE: Second vigilante victim found in Pretoria near forest

## FULL COVERAGE



State capture - the Gupta link?

Temporary JSE suspension good for us: Oakbay



Crisis in South Sudan

South Sudan cancels independence day for second year



ANC succession race

Ramaphosa the only one to save ANC: Cosatu

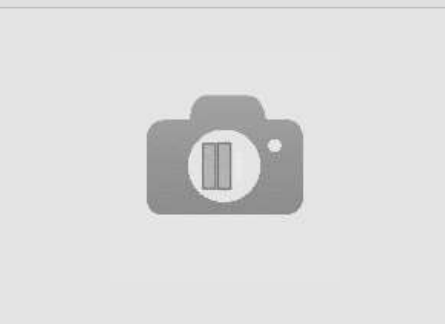


The Clinch - SA's Extreme Fighting

The Clinch TV - The Katz with nine lives

[View All](#)

## CARTOON



Currencies	Commodities	JSE Indices
US Dollar	12.9312	▲ 0.0461
GB Pound	16.4502	▲ 0
Euro	14.475	▼ -0.0085

[View More](#)

Data delayed by at least 15 minutes.

Korzeniowski of Poland.

Bronze went to Wu Peng from China.

"It was exactly to the day and hour to winning my gold medal in London last year," said a beaming and delighted Le Clos.

"It's a great feeling to be the Olympic and World Champion in the same event.

"The nerves before the race came to me a bit and I was a little bit nervous. That is because when you're the fastest competitor your last out onto the blocks so you have to be ready."

During the last 20 metres Le Clos was tossing his head left and right to see where his nearest competitors were.

"I've always done the looking ... I know it's a bad habit," he said.

His father, who made world headlines in London when he used expletives to describe his son, was in the stands wearing South African colours.

"Dad was shouting for me and I'm happy that my parents are here."

Le Clos said that he had studied Phelps' style and this had helped him beat the American last year and to win world championship gold.

"Michael was the person who taught me the underwater and now it's part of my race," he said.

Sapa



Comment Now!

[Discussion Policy](#)

Welcome to Disqus! Discover more great discussions just like this one. We're a lot more than comments. [Get Started](#)

Dismiss x

0 Comments enca.com

Alex Rathke ▾

Recommend

Share

Sort by Newest ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Add DisqusAdd Privacy

**DISQUS**

MORE STORIES FROM eNCA.com