

# The 2014 FINA World Masters Championships

By Greta van Meeteren



*In this picture: part of the NC group of swimmers who participated in these championships.*

It is hard to describe in a few words what these particular championships are all about. When you go to a huge event like this, the experience comes in many different forms: meeting swimmers, divers, water polo players and synchronized swimmers age 25 and up from 97 countries is amazing. Swimming with people from all different nations is a thrill.

The setting: Parc Jean Drapeau in Montreal.



There were two locations where the competition was held: the "main" competition pool (above) and the "secondary pool" below.



With that came some challenges: there was a 10-minute walk between the two pools, and no warmup pool at the site of the secondary pool. However, one could consider the 10-minute walk part of the warmup or warm down, and it was the same for all swimmers.

The men's and women's events were alternated between the two pools on alternating days.

The events started off with opening ceremonies, where the atmosphere was great and swimmers from different countries showed their colors.



USMS had sent four coaches to Montreal and these wonderful people were working very hard to make sure we swimmers knew what was going on at which pool, which was not a sinecure.



We were of course excited to meet a large contingent of swimmers from The Netherlands and I swam beside a Dutch women in my 100 breaststroke event, which was fun.

Erika Braun's memories are like this:



In addition to bonding with our fellow NC swimmers, one of my favorite memories from Worlds will be our Women's 200 Free relay chasing down two other countries touching them out to win gold as World Champions! *Left to right in this picture: Celia Wolff, Kerry Lindauer, Alicia Uhl and Erika Braun*

It was also very cool competing against 1996 Olympic Gold medalist Claudia Poll in the 100 free...and winning! (barely). *Picture on the right: Erika with Claudia and her daughter.*



Not everyone won medals, but I am sure that everyone came home with good memories.

For nine things SwimSwam noted about these championships, follow this link <http://swimswam.com/nine-things-noted-fina-world-masters-championships-montreal/>

I will share some more pictures with you, several courtesy of Jamie Miller, see below:

