

Beijing Newsletter 2

The games have begun; after an amazing opening ceremony in the Bird's nest stadium with 4000 athletes from 147 countries. We were dazzled with fireworks and a wide range of performances from both able bodied and disabled. The whole night was based on a fairy tale theme, I hope you caught highlights of the 3 hour extravaganza on TV1.

Swimming started but we had to wait until day 2 for the first NZ action with Sophie Pascoe in 100 FLY S10, but it was worth waiting for. She had a comfortable swim in heat with a 1 second PB 1:12.93 (33.00 + 39.93). With an amazing effort in the final she really came home strong passing the early leading Chinese girl and almost catching the American to win Silver with a new PB of 1:10.53 (32.4 +38.13).

On Day 3 Cameron Leslie has a straight final for 200 FR S5 and Sophie was back in action in heat of 100 Free S10 but narrowly missed out on final placing 9th with 1:05.9.

There has been some amazing swimming so far with world records tumbling here too just like Olympics; some being broke in first heat of an event then again in very next heat only to be beat again in finals.

Look forward to updating you with more news later

Simon Mayne