

McIntosh powers to third gold of worlds

12-year-old Yu fourth

AFP | Singapore, Singapore

Canadian swimming sensation Summer McIntosh powered to her third gold of the Singapore world championships with victory in the 200m butterfly on Thursday, falling agonisingly short of a new world record.

McIntosh touched the wall in 2min 01.99sec, just failing to beat the world mark of 2:01.81 set by China's Liu Zige in 2009. It was the second-fastest time in history.

American Regan Smith was second in 2:04.99, with Australia's Elizabeth Dekkers third in 2:06.12.

Chinese 12-year-old Yu Zidi was narrowly fourth in 2:06.43.

The dominant win kept McIntosh on course to join retired great Michael Phelps as the only swimmers to win five individual titles at a single world championships.

The 18-year-old McIntosh, the 200m butterfly Olympic champion, has already won the 400m freestyle and 200m individual medley in Singapore.

"My coach and I, our big goal was to break that world record and that was what we were training for," said McIntosh.

"To see that I missed it by that little -- overall really happy with the time and PB (personal best)



(L-R) Silver medallist US' swimmer Regan Smith, gold medallist Canada's swimmer Summer McIntosh, and bronze medallist Australia's swimmer Elizabeth Dekkers celebrate on the podium of the women's 200m butterfly swimming event during the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore

but I did not reach my goal tonight."

McIntosh will continue her assault on the world championships in the 800m freestyle, where she will square off against American legend Katie Ledecky.

Ledecky is a four-time Olympic gold medallist and the world record holder in the 800m freestyle but McIntosh clocked

the third-fastest time ever last month.

The Canadian said her 200m butterfly performance "gives me a lot of confidence".

"Happy with the gold, happy with the win and just going to keep pushing for it," she said.

China's Yu has turned heads in Singapore with her prodigious talent.

She also qualified for the final of the 200m individual medley and again came fourth, missing out on a medal by just 0.06sec in what was not considered her strongest event.

If she had claimed bronze, she would have become the youngest medallist in the history of the world championships, which began in 1973.

India captain Gill run out in sight of Gavaskar record

London, United Kingdom

India captain Shubman Gill ran himself out on Thursday's opening day of the fifth and deciding Test against England as he closed in on Sunil Gavaskar's national record for runs in a series.

The tourists were 85-3 when rain stopped play for a second time at the Oval after being sent in to bat in a match India must win to square the series at 2-2.

Gill, who has



India's captain Shubman Gill leaves the field

already scored four hundreds in a prolific debut campaign as captain, came in with India struggling on 38-2.

At that stage, he needed just 53 more runs to overhaul Gavaskar's mark for the most runs scored by an India batsman in a Test series of 774 -- set by the "Little Master" against the West Indies in 1971.

The 25-year-old

Gill struck several elegant trademark drives and rarely looked in trouble, despite the overcast, bowler-friendly conditions that favoured England's quicks.

But on 21 he pushed the ball into the offside and set off for a single that was never on, with fast bowler Gus Atkinson, following through, throwing down the stumps at the striker's end.

Gill, halfway down the pitch, slipped as he tried to turn back to safety. The skipper could yet break Gavaskar's record should India have a second innings.

Sai Sudharsan was 28 not out when the rain came again, with Josh Tongue and Jamie Overton -- two of England's three recalled quicks along with At-

kinson -- too often wayward.

Earlier, England took two wickets after Ollie Pope, leading the hosts in place of injured captain Ben Stokes, won the toss on his Surrey home ground.

It was not long before Atkinson, a Surrey team-mate of Pope and one of four changes to the England team following last week's drawn third Test at Old Trafford, had opener Yashasvi Jaiswal lbw for two on review.

Veteran seamer Chris Woakes then had opener KL Rahul, who has scored more than 500 runs the series, playing on for 14 trying to cut a ball that was too close to him. India left out pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who hurt his back earlier this year.

MMA star McGregor loses appeal in rape civil case



Nikita Hand

AFP | Dublin, Ireland



Conor McGregor

Mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor lost an appeal in Ireland yesterday over a civil court ruling last year awarding damages to a woman who accused him of rape.

Three judges at the Court of Appeal in Dublin dismissed all the grounds for appeal raised by McGregor, 36.

Jurors at Dublin's High Court in November awarded damages of almost 250,000 euros (\$258,000) to Nikita Hand, 35, who alleged that McGerger raped her in a hotel in the Irish capital in 2018.

The court heard allegations that McGregor "brutally raped and battered" Hand. The Irish sports star has insisted they had consensual sex.

However Hand lost an assault lawsuit against a second man.

Following the November ruling, McGregor was ordered to pay the entire costs of the case, estimated at around 1.5 million euros (\$1.58 million).

He appealed the jury's decision, seeking a re-trial of the civil case against him.

McGregor, a vocal figure in the Irish anti-immigration movement who in March met US President Donald Trump

in the White House during a Saint Patrick's Day visit, was not in court during a month of appeal hearings.

His legal team argued that judicial errors occurred in the original trial, including in how he was cross-examined.

After the ruling, Hand told reporters that the appeal had "retraumatized" her but that she can now "finally move on and try to heal".

"To every survivor out there, I know how hard it is, but please don't be silenced, you deserve to be heard, you also deserve justice," she said.



Nicknamed "The Notorious," McGregor is one of the biggest stars in the history of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) mixed martial arts circuit, formerly holding the featherweight and lightweight titles.

Michell says New Zealand lead crucial on tricky pitch

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

New Zealand batsman Daryl Mitchell said he believed getting a substantial lead was crucial after he steered the Black Caps into a commanding position on the second day of the first Test

against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club on Thursday.

Mitchell hit 80 as New Zealand took a first innings lead of 158 runs before claiming two late wickets.

Zimbabwe were 31 for two at the close, still 127 runs short of making New Zealand bat again.

"It's nice to get a lead on a challenging surface which is going up and down a bit. A couple of wickets to-night tops it off," said Mitchell.



Verstappen quells speculation by committing to Red Bull for 2026

AFP | Budapest, Hungary

Max Verstappen ended weeks of speculation about his future on Thursday when the reigning Formula One world champion said he would be staying with Red Bull in 2026. Verstappen said it was time to "stop all the rumours".

"I've never really said anything about it because I was just focused on talking to the team

about how we can improve our performance," the Dutchman explained at the Hungaroring circuit ahead of this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix.

"And that's why I had nothing really to add, but I think it's time to basically stop all the rumours.

"For me, it's always been quite clear that I was staying anyway."

Four-time world champion Verstappen's future became a subject of speculation after rival

driver George Russell revealed his Mercedes team were talking to the Dutchman's management about his future plans.

It emerged that there was a performance clause in Verstappen's contract that offered him a chance to leave Red Bull if he was not in the top three at the end of July.

But that clause has now elapsed and he will stay with Red Bull next year, the first

season following a sweeping change of technical regulations.

Verstappen is contracted to Red Bull until the end of 2028 and a similar scrutiny of his contract is expected next year once it becomes clear which teams have adapted and progressed best under the new regulations. Verstappen has fallen 81 points behind series leader Oscar Piastri of McLaren into third place in the drivers' cham-

pion-ship this year.

Red Bull are in a state of flux, after sacking their team principal Christian Horner this month and replacing the Briton with Laurent Mekies, the boss of their 'B' team Racing Bulls.



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