

Vertical Blue 2009: THE MEN

There will be twice the men to women at Vertical Blue 2009, but will they pack twice the punch? Will there be rivalries and closely fought head-to-heads over the 9 days of competition? Who will come up from the mysterious depths of Dean's Blue Hole with the deepest tag for 2009? Stay tuned, follow each athlete's training, and maybe you will know before they do!



William Trubridge

The host of the competition, after a successful 2008 William is back to see if he can better his own records in Unassisted and Free Immersion. He will have to stave off competition from rivals Nitsch and Winram.



Herbert Nitsch

Although he is the best freediver of this decade, Nitsch currently doesn't hold any of the world records in the competitive depth disciplines. This is likely to change at Vertical Blue, as Nitsch can lead an assault on any and all of the three disciplines offered at Vertical Blue.



Ryuzo Shinomiya

The Okinawa Dragon, Ryuzo, entered into the elite group of 100m Constant Weight divers last year. With a refined technique and a measured and methodical approach to building depths, Ryuzo is still improving, and may be a serious contender amongst the world's deepest this year.



William Winram

This year the best freediver in the west (pan-American records in all disciplines) is giving himself a full month to train in Dean's Blue Hole before Vertical Blue starts in April. He says he will arrive with no expectations, which is kind of ominous...



Eric Fattah

Last year Eric set a precedent for FRC diving, with a 67m dive after a passive exhale. His training since has been merciless, but there are rumours he may be coming back to full inhale diving.



Robert King

The United States freediving champion, and a progressive improver, Robert will look to extend his record without fins and maybe attempt the constant weight record held by compatriot Deron Verbeck.



Davide Carrera

In 2001 Davide broke the world record in Free Immersion, with a long dive to 91m in rough conditions. After a long hiatus from any events Davide returned 7 years later to compete with the Italian team at the 2008 world championships. With his graceful and natural style Davide will look to build on the 90m constant weight dive he recorded in that competition.



Walter Steyn

Head and shoulders above any other diver in Australia, Walter recorded the second longest dynamic without fins in 2008: 176m. He has also entered the 200m club with a fin. One to watch for Vertical Blue 2009...



Leo Muraoka

Leo stole the show at Vertical Blue 2008, building through grit and determination to a national record in free immersion of 76m. It still stands and Leo will no doubt be eyeing the remaining US records.



Frank



Pernet

The lung doctor from Colombia. Frank set the mark for his country without fins last year, and is back in 2009 to improve on it.



Kerian Hibbs

Being one of the top freedivers in a country like New Zealand is equivalent to world class. Kerian will be competing this year with the monofin to convert his huge dynamic into depth.



Mads Becker Jørgensen

The Danish coach, Mads is a strong freediver himself, and will be diving mostly without fins.



Walid Boudhief

A talented up-and-coming French diver, Walid trains at altitude in Colombia.

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