



## **Stefania “Cicci” Tudini (ITA)**

**The Synchro Smiling Lady**

*2017 Paragon Award | Synchronized Swimming*

Stefania Tudini began her aquatics career as a speed swimmer when she was 11 years old. In 1957, she became successful at age 14 by winning her first Italian Championship with a national record in the 50m butterfly. She tried out for the 1960 Italian Olympic Team, but unfortunately did not make it.

Tudini became a swimming coach in 1971 and a synchronized swimming coach in 1975. She was appointed to oversee synchronized swimming for the Italian Swimming Federation in the same year. Her job was to reorganize the entire synchronized swimming department, with particular attention to the competitions aspect of the sport.

For the last 20 years, Tudini has organized and been the director for international events for synchronized swimming for the Italian Federation, such as Roma Sincro and Loano Synchro Cup. She was Director of the synchronized swimming portions of the 1994 and 2009 FINA World Championships, as well as several editions of the European Senior and Junior Championships and European Cups.

Stefania Tudini has served on the FINA Technical Synchronized Swimming Committee (TSSC) since 1992 and was elected Chairman in 2009, where she served two terms. For her achievement she received the FINA gold pin. She was also the chairman of the LEN TSSC and was honored by them for her years of service. “Cicci”, as she is known to all her synchronized swimming friends around the world, is currently the Director of Synchronized Swimming for the Italian Swimming Federation. Participation in the sport has grown exponentially in Italy under her leadership. She has attended and taken part in every FINA competition including the World Championships in Budapest, last month. The 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest, was her last official event as a member of the FINA family.

Tudini says, “There is something in my sports life that makes me very proud about myself. With the help and the participation of Mrs. Sophie Sarwat and Madeleine Bernavon, I decided to transform the existing CO.ME.N Cup (Confederation Mediterrane de Natation) in a competition for age group (13/15) that has become the most important competition for this age all over the world. Maybe games of fate, I don’t know, but my first TSSC meeting was in Fort Lauderdale 25 years ago and now I am closing my career in the same place. A magic circle”