



# MARY T. MEAGHER PLANT

ALL TIME GREATEST WOMAN BUTTERFLY SWIMMER

In 1981, Mary T. Meagher established world records in the 200 fly (2:05.96) and the 100 fly (57.93) at the U.S. Long Course National Championships in Brown Deer, Wisconsin, both of which lasted nearly two decades. Her 200 fly time was rated as the fifth greatest single event performance of all time by Sports Illustrated magazine.

It all began for Mary when, as a 14 year old girl who wore railroad track braces and traveled with a stuffed green frog named "Bubbles," she set her first world record at the 1979 Pan American Games. Coached by Dennis Pursely at Lakeside Aquatic Club in Louisville, Mary Meagher was expected to compete for medals at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, Russia. However, Meagher, along with the rest of the United States Olympic team, never got her chance due to President Jimmy Carter's boycott of the Olympics.

At the Summer Olympic Games in 1984, Mary T. won gold in the 100m and 200m and in the 4x100 medley relay. Mary T. had planned to retire, but her desire to break her own world record and the fact that she still held 17 of the fastest 200 fly times in history was enough to convince her to give it another try. More importantly to Mary, however, as a loyal and dedicated athlete, she would feel badly about staying home.

In a sport where tenths and even hundredths of a second separate first through last place, timing is everything. At the 1988 Games in Seoul, Mary finished third in the 200 fly final won by Kathleen Nord of the German Democratic Republic.

Mary's 100m record was broken by Jenny Thompson (U.S.A.) in 1999 and her 200m record fell to Susie O'Neill (Australia) a year later.