



AUSTRALIA'S DAWN FRASER

ALL TIME GREATEST WOMAN SWIMMER

For almost ten years Dawn Fraser reigned as the female version of the water world's "fastest human." She was the first woman to break sixty seconds in the 100 meter free-style and is one of only two swimmers (Krisztina Egerzegi being the other) to win gold for the same event at three successive Olympics (1956, 1960 and 1964). In 1999 the International Olympic Committee named her the World's Greatest Living Female Water Sports Champion.

In 1965 Fraser retired from swimming, after the Australian Swimming Union placed her under a ten year ban. Things had come to a head when, at the Tokyo Olympics, she marched in the opening ceremony against their wishes, wore an old swimsuit (which angered sponsors) because it was more comfortable, and, it was alleged, she climbed a flagpole in Emperor Hirohito's palace, taking the Olympic flag (later proved false). The ban was lifted four years later,

but we'll never know if she could have won the 100 meters a fourth time. Fraser then became a swimming coach and in 1988 was elected a Member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the seat of Balmain in Sydney. She was named Australian of the Year in 1964, was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1967 and on June 8, 1998, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). That year she was voted Australia's greatest female athlete. She was named Australian Female Athlete of the Century by the Sport Australian Hall of Fame. She was one of the bearers of the Olympic Torch at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. She carried the Olympic Torch at the stadium, as one of the runners for the final segment, before the lighting of the Olympic Flame.