

Shane Gould (AUS)



Australia's Shane Gould had a short but incredibly brilliant career in which she held every freestyle world record from 100m to 1500m, as well as the standard for the four stroke 200m Individual Medley, at the same time.

During one short period, from April 13, 1971 until January 8, 1972, the then fifteen year old blonde broke 7 world records including the oldest in the books, Dawn Fraser's 100m freestyle mark that had lasted for almost sixteen years.

She entered the 1972 Munich Olympics as a favorite to win five individual Olympic Gold medals. Had she won all five, her fame might have surpassed that of Mark Spitz, who won seven gold medals, but only four were in individual events.

However, swimming in twelve races and logging 4,200 meters of competitive racing over an eight day period, proved to be too ambitious. Still, she left Munich with three gold medals, a silver and bronze, and became the first woman to win five individual medals in a single Olympic Games.

A year later, Shane Gould retired from competition at the age of sixteen and disappeared completely from public life for twenty five years. After raising four children on a farm in Western Australia, she was welcomed back into the lime-light as a national hero at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Tracy Caulkins burst onto the international scene at the 1978 Berlin World Championships, winning five gold and one silver medal. At 15, she became the youngest recipient of the AAU Sullivan Award given to United State's finest amateur athlete. In the ensuing years she accumulated more National Championship titles (46) and set more American records (63) than any other swimmer in history, male or female.

Like many other American athletes, she was expected to put in a great performance at the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, Russia (which was then the communist controlled Soviet Union). However, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter announced that the United States would not be sending an Olympic team to Moscow in protest to the invasion. Caulkins was consequently not able to compete at the 1980 Olympics.

At the 1984 Summer Olympics, Caulkins won individual golds in the 200m and the 400m individual medley. She also won a relay gold by swimming the breaststroke on the women's 400m medley relay.

She was America's queen of the individual medley for eight years and her versatility was phenomenal. Tracy's record setting performances from 1971 to 1984 included every stroke and distance at the AAU, USS and NCAA National Championships.

Tracy Caulkins (AUS)

