

AARON PEIRSOL



Profile:

Aaron Peirsol is best known for winning both available gold medals for men in the backstroke at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.

The 411

He surfs, he skates, he swims. Is there anything this man can't do? Not yet! Aaron went to his first Olympics at age 16. He set his first world record at age 17 and hasn't looked back since. His charm and personality shine through in his own playful way making him a favorite of the media. Aaron's laid back attitude out of pool doesn't hold true in the pool where he has become the dominant and possibly the most influential backstroker of all time.

The Pulse

8-Time World Record Holder....4-Time Olympic Medalist including 3 Gold Medals in Athens 2004.....American Record Holder.....8-Time World Champion.....7-Time National Champion...1st man ever under 1 minute 40 seconds in the 200 y back....

The Crystal Ball

Having won 3 Gold medals at the Games in Athens, Aaron has become the man to watch with appearances on the Today Show, Access Hollywood and many others. He started his career at the YMCA and is currently working with his local YMCA chapter on building a scholarship program to help underprivileged children gain access to the sport. In addition, Aaron works closely as a celebrity ambassador for the Surfrider Foundation to help save America's beaches. Aaron looks forward to motivational speaking, youth clinics, and pursuing more Gold in China, 2008!

Bio:

- Two-time Olympian
- Earned three 2004 Olympic gold medals (100m, 200m backstroke, 4x100m medley relay); 2000 Olympic silver medalist (200m backstroke)
- World record-holder in the 200m back and 400m medley relay (long and short course meters)
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Did You Know?

- Swept the backstroke events at the 2004 Olympic Games becoming the fifth male swimmer and fourth American to do so
- Won three gold medals at the 2005 World Championships (100m, 200m backstroke, 400m medley relay)
- Broke his own world record in the 100m backstroke and won the 200m back at the 2005 World Championship trials
- Claimed gold in 200m back at 2001 World Championships
- Won three gold medals at 2002 Pan Pacific Championships (100 & 200m back, 400 MR)
- Youngest American (age 15) to break two minutes in 200m back, which he did first at 1999 Spring Nationals
- Listened to Led Zeppelin's "Heartbreaker" song before he broke the 200m back world record

-Had "Aaron Peirsol Day" with a parade in his high school town of Newport Beach, Calif. following the Olympic Games - "I guess 20 years from now I'll look back and go 'How many people have gotten a parade?' It was insane...hilarious."

-Became the only sibling duo (with his sister Hayley) to medal at the same World Championships on July 22, 2003

-Enjoys surfing and reading; owns two cats named Max and Harry; favorite movie is Braveheart

It's Every Day:

Peirsol is known for being California-style laid back. Though he hails from the Los Angeles area, he doesn't seek any media attention. "I don't like it to be too hyped-up for too long," Peirsol said. "I'm pretty mellow, pretty laid-back. I don't want it to be too much at once. I'm swimming for better reasons than being a celebrity; I mean if I wanted to be a celebrity, I'd be a basketball player or something."