

CHRIS WYBROW

UNIVERSITIES (NSW)

AUSTRALIAN CAPTAIN

370 CAPS, 1979 – 1992

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An Australian junior swimming champion in Adelaide, Chris Wybrow switched to water polo in 1976 and commenced a meteoric rise which was to win him a place in Australian water polo history. ‘

Ski’s’ moved to Sydney in 1979 and played the majority of his international water polo career as a member of the powerful Universities Club. He was first selected in the Australian team for the Italian series that same year, even before playing for an open State team. As an established national player he was a member of the Australian squad for the 1980 Moscow Olympics, but kept a permanent place on the Australian Team from 1981 until his retirement in 1992, accruing an impressive 370 caps for Australia. Chris competed in three Olympic Games at Los Angeles (1984), Seoul (1988) and as captain in Barcelona (1992) where he led the national team to fifth place by beating Hungary in their last match, to achieve Australia’s best ever Olympic result.

He also competed in three World Championships at Guayaquil (1982), Madrid (1986), and Perth (1991); as well as three World Cup tournaments at Long Beach (1981), Duisburg (1985), and Barcelona (1991). Whilst competing in 1981 FINA World Cup tournament, his shot was recorded as the fastest in the world at 80kph. Then in September of the same year, Wybrow also captured the title of Australia’s Fastest Sprinter’ after beating Mark Kerry in the City Tattersalls ‘Archie Punch’50 yard dash.

Whilst competing in a tournament in 1982, Wybrow scored eight goals to spearhead Australia’s first ever victory over Hungary, and he regularly won trophies in international tournaments as the highest goal scorer.

He dropped out of the game with injuries in 1989, but returned in 1990 becoming the first Australian player to be nominated ‘Player of the Tournament’ in major international event. Chris Wybrow had a noble temperament as a player, was very strong and fast in the water, and possessed one of the fastest and most accurate shots in world water polo.

Between 1979 and 1992 Chris won nine titles from twelve National Championships representing both SA and NSW. With the Universities club he won six Australian Club Championships and is a member of the NSW Sporting Hall of Fame.