

# CHARLES TURNER

## UNIVERSITIES (NSW)

Bronze Medalist (Coach) - FINA Men's World Cup, Athens (1993)



Charles was born in England but emigrated with his family to Adelaide where he quickly gained a liking for the water. He was a very competitive swimmer but soon turned to water polo and won the South Australian A grade premiership with Payneham/Chrysler in 1970. He was first selected for the South Australian State team in 1966 at just 15 years of age. Prior to representing NSW he represented South Australia from 1968 to 1974. In 1975 he transferred to the Universities club in Sydney and played a further 11 years for Universities and the New South Wales team to record 18 consecutive appearances in the National Championships. During that time he was a pivotal member in Universities' nine Australian Club Championship victories over an 11 year span (1977 - 1987). It was in the international arena though, that Charles Turner really made his mark. He was first selected for the Australian team in 1973 for the I FINA World Championships in Belgrade and remained a member of the national side until his retirement in 1985. He was a central part of Australia's attacking capacity in the Olympic teams at Montreal (1976), Moscow (1980) and Los Angeles (1984). Charles was a member of the Australian team at the first four World Championships in Belgrade (1973), Cali (1975), Berlin (1978) and Guayaquil (1982). Apart from his swimming speed, Charles' forte was his deadly accurate shot, which he used to devastating effect throughout his career. At the Olympic tournaments he ranked third highest goal scorer in 1976, fourth in 1980 and fourth in 1984 and in match play, he regularly contributed at least half of Australia's goals and lined-up for Australia on 397 occasions. As captain of NSW in 1985 he scored 42 goals in his last Australian Championships and in doing so ensured that NSW won their ninth successive Australian Championship. Following his retirement in 1985, Charles became assistant coach at the Seoul Olympics (1988) and took over as head coach of the Australian team for Barcelona (1992). He engineered Australia's third placing at the FINA World Cup in Athens (1993), our best-ever international ranking and was involved in an additional 196 games as coach and 112 games as assistant coach. Charles Turner possessed one of the most devastating and accurate shots, and was one of the fastest swimmers in international water polo and will long be remembered as one of the best, if not the very best water polo player, to come out of Australia. He is a member of the NSW Sporting Hall of Fame. Photo - NSWAWPA Archives.