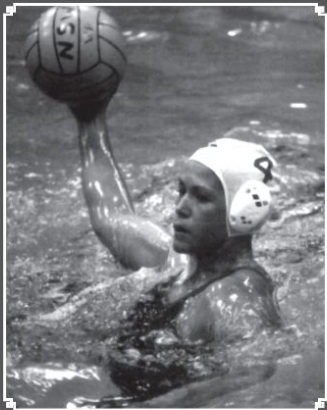


DEBBIE WATSON

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY (NSW)

- Gold Medalist - Olympic Games, Sydney (2000)
- Gold Medalist - FINA Women's World Championship, Madrid (1986)
- Gold Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Sydney (1995)
- Gold Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Irvine (1984)
- Silver Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Winnipeg (1999)
- Silver Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Long Beach (1991)
- Bronze Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Sainte Foy (1983)



Debbie Watson was first introduced to water polo while attending McKeller GHS in the Manly area of Sydney, and was another successful product of the NSWCHS School Sport program. She joined the powerful Sydney University club in 1982, and under the guidance of talented coach Ian Trent, Debbie contributed greatly to capturing 13 NSWAWPA 1st grade premierships as well as seven Australian Club Championships for her club. She was first selected as a member of the NSW team in 1983 and helped the Blues capture 12 national titles from her 16 consecutive national championship appearances (nine as captain). Debbie received her first national cap in 1983 and over the next 18 years accrued a record 243 caps for Australia. She participated in three World Championship campaigns at Madrid (1986), Perth (1991) and Rome (1994), the latter as captain. Debbie also competed in a record eight FINA Women's World Cup tournaments at Sainte Foy (1983), Irvine (1984), Christchurch (1988), Eindhoven (1989), Long Beach (1991), Catania (1993), Sydney (1995) and Winnipeg (1999). Debbie was captain of the Australian team on 74 occasions and was the recipient of no fewer than a record seven FINA and Olympic medals. Amongst numerous awards Debbie Watson was handed the International Olympic Committee's Women and Sport Award (2008) and has been inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame (2008), the Sports Australia Hall of Fame (2006) and the NSW Hall of Champions (2007). She was also the International Women's Water Polo Player of the Year (1993) and received the Prime Ministerial Award for Outstanding Achievements to Australian Water Polo (1992), as well as the AWPI 'Harry Quittner' Medal (1992). Photo - AAWPA Archives.