

PETER MONTGOMERY

UNIVERSITIES (NSW)



Peter Montgomery played in an unprecedented 441 international water polo matches during his era and captained Australia on 167 occasions. 'Monty' became the first Australian to represent at four Olympic games at Munich (1972), Montreal (1976) and Moscow (1980) as vice-captain, and then Los Angeles (1984) as captain. Under his leadership in Los Angeles, Australia reached its highest status in world water polo, finishing a creditable fifth after a prolonged and intensive build-up program. Monty also played in four World Championships from their inception in Belgrade (1973), Cali (1975), Berlin (1978) and Guayaquil (1982) the latter as captain, and he also captained the Australian team at their first appearance in a FINA World Cup at Long Beach in California, USA (1981). At a State level he represented for 16 continuous years and had the distinction of captaining NSW to eight successive undefeated championships from 1977 to 1984. In a superb club career, he joined Universities and helped win their inaugural NSWAWPA 1st grade premiership in 1968 followed by another 13 titles under his leadership. He also led Universities to no fewer than nine Australian Club Championship titles as captain/coach from 1975 through to 1988. In addition, he organised three Universities Club World Tours in 1974, 1977 and 1981. Monty possessed exceptional leadership qualities and had an excellent tactical appreciation of the game. His play was characterised by strong and speedy swimming, an accurate shot with sound defence and a natural instinct to assess the immediate requirements. Devoted to water polo, he was voted into the NSW Sporting Hall of Fame, was a founder of the Australian Amateur Water Polo Association in 1982 and acted as Honorary Treasurer until 1992, and is the current Patron of AWPI. Monty was also appointed Hon. Secretary of the FINA Technical Water Polo Committee in 1984. He has been a member of the Executive Board of the Australian Olympic Committee since 1985 and Vice-President since 2001. He has also been an Assistant Chef de Mission of the Australian Olympic team at Atlanta (1996), Sydney (2000), Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008). Monty was elected the foundation President of the World Olympians Association based in Lausanne, Switzerland from 1995 to 1999, which is the representative body for all Olympians, and has been presented with an IOC Olympic Order in Silver. Along with John Coates, Peter Montgomery was also awarded the IOC Womens and Sports Award for securing the inclusion of women's water polo into the Olympic Games. Photo - AAWPA Archives.