

= Tracy Caulkins =

Tracy Anne Stockwell , OAM , (born January 11 , 1963) , née Tracy Anne Caulkins , is an American former competition swimmer , three @-@ time Olympic gold medalist , five @-@ time world champion , and former world record @-@ holder in three events .

Caulkins was noted for her versatility and ability in all four major competitive swimming strokes : the butterfly , breaststroke , backstroke and freestyle . Caulkins won forty @-@ eight national championships and set American records in all four strokes over a range of distances as well as in the individual medley (IM) events , which combine all four strokes over the course of a single race . Her versatility brought Caulkins many titles and awards , and as a result she is considered one of the greatest swimmers of all time . By the time she retired from competitive swimming in 1984 , Caulkins had set five world records and sixty @-@ three American records (more than any other American swimmer , male or female) .

= = Early years = =

Caulkins was born in Winona , Minnesota in 1963 . She swam for the Westside Victory Swim club and later the Nashville Aquatic Club (NAC) in Nashville , Tennessee , where she was trained by future University of Texas and U.S. Olympic coach Paul Bergen . For her high school education , she attended the all @-@ girls Harpeth Hall School in Nashville . Caulkins ' older sister Amy was also a competition swimmer and water polo player .

= = Olympic desire = =

As a 9 @-@ year @-@ old , Caulkins had been training as a swimmer for a little over a year when she watched the 1972 Munich Olympics on television , and decided that she wanted to swim in the Olympics and win a gold medal . In a 1997 interview , Caulkins credited her Olympic dream as her inspiration and motivation .

Thirteen @-@ year @-@ old Caulkins competed in her first U.S. national swimming championships in 1976 . A year later , she returned to the 1977 U.S. Short @-@ Course Championships to set U.S. records in the 200 @-@ yard and 400 @-@ yard individual medley events . She set a third U.S. record while finishing second behind Canadian swimmer Robin Corsiglia in the 100 @-@ yard breaststroke .

At the age of 15 , Caulkins won five gold medals and a silver medal at the 1978 World Championships in West Berlin . She won the 200 @-@ meter individual medley , the 400 @-@ meter individual medley , and the 200 @-@ meter butterfly , and was a member of the winning U.S. teams in the 4 × 100 @-@ meter medley relay , and the 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay . In the process , she set four world records and one American record . Largely as a result of her performance in Berlin , Caulkins won the 1978 James E. Sullivan Award , given by the Amateur Athletic Union in recognition of the most outstanding American amateur athlete of the year . At 15 years old , she was the youngest @-@ ever recipient of the Sullivan Award .

She followed her World Championship success with a series of dominating finishes in U.S. competition . At the 1979 U.S. Short @-@ Course Championships in East Los Angeles , California , she set five U.S. records in the 100 @-@ yard breaststroke , 500 @-@ yard freestyle , the 400 @-@ yard individual medley , the 200 @-@ yard individual medley , and the 100 @-@ yard freestyle on the first leg of the 400 @-@ yard relay . She also helped her club team , Nashville Aquatic , win the 400 @-@ yard medley relay and place second in the 800 @-@ yard freestyle relay . Despite setting the new records , however , she was not at her physical best ; she was suffering from the after @-@ effects of a viral infection . Three months later , she won four gold medals and two silvers at the 1979 Pan American Games in San Juan , Puerto Rico .

Following her gold @-@ medal performance at the 1978 World Championship , Caulkins was expected to win multiple medals at the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow , Russia , and qualified to compete in five individual events at the U.S. Olympic Trials , and likely would have been selected as

a member of one of the relay teams as well . However , the U.S. Olympic team boycotted the 1980 Games at the behest of U.S. President Jimmy Carter , following the Soviet Union 's 1979 invasion of Afghanistan . Caulkins ' dream of Olympic gold was deferred by war and politics , so she quietly looked ahead to 1984 .

As an 18 @-@ year @-@ old high school senior , she set four American short @-@ course records at the 1981 U.S. Short @-@ Course Championships in Cambridge , Massachusetts . In each of the four events , she bettered her own previously @-@ set American record : the 100 @-@ yard breaststroke , 200 @-@ yard backstroke , the 200 @-@ yard individual medley , and the 400 @-@ yard individual medley .

Over the next three years , Caulkins maintained her training regimen while attending the University of Florida in Gainesville , Florida , where she swam for coach Randy Reese 's Florida Gators swimming and diving team in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) competition from 1982 to 1984 . Caulkins followed her older sister Amy to the University of Florida , where Amy was already an established member of the Florida Gators swim team . With Caulkins leading the way as a freshman , the Gators won the NCAA team championship in 1982 ; the Gators finished second in 1983 and third in 1984 . Individually , in three years as a Gator swimmer , she won sixteen NCAA championships and twelve Southeastern Conference (SEC) individual titles , and received twenty @-@ one All @-@ American honors . She was the SEC 's Female Swimmer of the Year in 1983 and 1984 , and was recognized as the SEC 's Female Athlete of the Year in 1984 . She was the recipient of the Honda Sports Award for Swimming and Diving for three consecutive years , recognizing her as the outstanding college female swimmer of the year .

At the 1982 U.S. Short @-@ Course Championships in Gainesville , the 19 @-@ year @-@ old again won national championships in the 200 @-@ yard backstroke , 400 @-@ yard individual medley , the 200 @-@ yard individual medley , and the 100 @-@ yard breaststroke . With thirty @-@ nine national championships to date , Caulkins surpassed the legendary Johnny Weissmuller 's record total of thirty @-@ six .

Even as she continued to win against fellow Americans in 1982 and 1983 , however , she was slumping and falling behind her international competition . She set no new international records , and was increasingly frustrated with her own performances . At the 1982 World Championships in Guayaquil , Ecuador , she finished a distant third in both the 200 @-@ meter and 400 @-@ meter individual medley events against her East German competition , and failed to place in the third event in which she was entered . At the 1983 U.S. Long @-@ Course Championships in Fresno , California , she finished five seconds slower than her own American record in the 400 @-@ meter individual medley and finished second behind Mary T. Meagher in the 200 @-@ meter butterfly . At the 1983 Pan American Games in Caracas , Venezuela , held later the same month , she likewise won her two signature events in the 200 @-@ meter and 400 @-@ meter individual medley , but did not approach her own personal bests .

Afterward , Caulkins rededicated herself to coach Randy Reese 's rigorous training methods . In an international invitational meet of 26 nations held in Austin , Texas in January 1984 , she defeated her East German rivals in both individual medley events . At the NCAA national championships later that spring , she won four individual titles in the 200- and 400 @-@ yard individual medleys , 100 @-@ yard breaststroke , and 200 @-@ yard butterfly , and was a member of the Gators ' winning relay teams in the 4 x 100 @-@ yard and 4 x 200 @-@ yard freestyle events . She set new NCAA records in three events , and a new American record in the 200 @-@ yard individual medley .

At the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles , California , Caulkins served as the captain of the U.S. women 's swim team , and finally realized her childhood dream of winning an Olympic gold medal . On July 29 , she won her first gold medal in the 400 @-@ meter individual medley , beating Australian Suzie Landells by over nine seconds . On August 3 , she won her second gold medal in the 200 @-@ meter individual medley with an Olympic record time of 2 : 12 @-@ 64 , besting fellow American Nancy Hogshead by over two and a half seconds . And later that same day , she won her third gold medal by swimming the breaststroke leg as a member of the winning U.S. team in the 400 @-@ meter medley relay , together with teammates Theresa Andrews (backstroke) , Mary T. Meagher (butterfly) , and Nancy Hogshead (freestyle) . She also finished fourth in the 100 @-@

meter breaststroke , one second behind winner Petra van Staveren .

Caulkins ended her competition swimming career having set five world records and sixty @-@ three American records , and having won forty @-@ eight national championship titles .

= = Life after competition swimming = =

In the aftermath of the 1984 Olympics , the 21 @-@ year @-@ old Caulkins decided to forgo her senior year of NCAA eligibility at the University of Florida to focus on completing her degree requirements , and announced her retirement from competition swimming . She graduated from Florida with her bachelor 's degree in broadcasting in 1985 , and was inducted into the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame as a " Gator Great . " Caulkins was inducted into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame in 1983 , the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1990 , and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 .

She married Mark Stockwell , an Olympic gold medal swimmer from Australia and a fellow University of Florida alumnus , and has lived in Australia since shortly after graduating from the University of Florida . They live in Queensland , Australia with their five children .

Caulkins is now an American @-@ Australian dual citizen . In 2008 , she was recognized , under her married name , Tracy Anne Stockwell , " For service to sport as an administrator and proponent of sporting opportunities for women " with the Medal of the Order of Australia by the Australian government . After receiving the medal , the American transplant described herself as " one proud Australian . "

= = World records = =

Women 's 200 @-@ meter individual medley

Women 's 400 @-@ meter individual medley

Women 's 4 × 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay

Note : All record times and locations are sourced to USA Swimming 's list of world records .