

= Swimming at the 1980 Summer Olympics ? Men 's 4 × 100 metre medley relay =

The men 's 4 × 100 metre medley relay event at the 1980 Summer Olympics was held in Moscow , Soviet Union on 24 July 1980 in the Olympiski Sports Complex . A total of 13 teams participated in the event . These were split over two heats held in the morning of that day , and the eight fastest teams qualified for the finals held in the evening of the same day .

The United States , the winner of all previous editions of this event , was boycotting the games in response to the Soviet war in Afghanistan . As a result , the Soviet Union , Great Britain , and Sweden were expected to win . Australia 's Quietly Confident Quartet , however , composed of backstroke Mark Kerry , breaststroke Peter Evans , butterflyer Mark Tonelli , and freestyler Neil Brooks , surprisingly won the final in 3 : 45 @.@ 70 . They were followed by the silver medalists Soviet Union , 0 @.@ 22 seconds in arrears , and the bronze medalists Great Britain , as favorites Sweden had been disqualified in the heats . This was the only time a team other than United States won the gold medal in the event .

= = Preview = =

The 1980 Summer Olympic Games were notable for a large number of boycotting countries as a result of the host country invading Afghanistan in 1979 . As a result , several medal favorites for the men 's 4 × 100 metre medley relay race were absent . The most notable absence was the United States , who had won the event every time since its inception at the 1960 Games , invariably by large margins , and would go on to win the event at all subsequent Games . Furthermore , they had also obtained the gold medal at the previous World Championships , just two years before the Olympiad . This , together with the boycott of the silver and bronze medallists from the previous edition , West Germany ? who won the silver medal also at the World Championships ? and Canada respectively , meant that the field had opened .

Sweden , Great Britain , and the Soviet Union were the most heavily favoured teams . Another ten National Olympic Committees were able to send teams to Moscow : Angola , Australia , Brazil , Bulgaria , East Germany , France , Hungary , Netherlands , Spain , and Vietnam . Favorites Soviet Union boasted the silver medalists in the 100 m finals hosted several days earlier in backstroke and breaststroke (Viktor Kuznetsov and Arsens Miskarovs respectively) , while their butterflyer (Yevgeny Seregin) and freestyler (Sergey Kopliakov) had come fifth and fourth in their respective 100 m events . The British team included the 100 m breaststroke gold medallist (Duncan Goodhew) , and fifth @-@ place finisher in the 100 m backstroke (Gary Abraham) . Sweden 's butterflyer (Pär Arvidsson) and backstroke (Bengt Baron) had won their respective 100 m events , and their freestyle swimmer (Per Holmertz) had come second in the 100 m , while their lowest ranked swimmer , the breaststroke (Peter Berggren) , had come ninth in the 100 m event .

The Australians were regarded as an outside chance for a medal , but were not seen as the main threats , as they were ranked seventh coming into the Olympics out of the 13 competing countries . In the five times the event had been contested , Australia had only won a silver in the inaugural race in Rome , and a bronze medal in Tokyo in 1964 . On paper , Australia 's team appeared much weaker than those of the other favorites : Peter Evans was the only individual medalist in the distance , claiming bronze in the 100 m breaststroke , while Neil Brooks , the freestyler , and Mark Kerry , the backstroke , had been eliminated in their respective semifinals , and Mark Tonelli was swimming as a makeshift butterflyer .

= = Competition = =

= = = Heats = = =

The medley relay was scheduled in the Olympiski Sports Complex for Thursday , 24 July , the fifth day of swimming competition , with heats from 11 am , and the final from 9 pm . In the morning

Sweden was disqualified in the first heat , while Australia and the Soviet Union competed in the second heat . With their superior depth , the home team was able to rest their entire first @-@ choice quartet in the heats , while Australia was only willing to rest Kerry , with Glenn Patching swimming the backstroke leg in his place . The hosts led the Australians from the start and extended their margin over each of the first three legs . Brooks reclaimed 1 @.@ 34 s on the freestyle leg , but the Australians fell 0 @.@ 13 s short to come second in their heat . Nevertheless , the Australians qualified in second place overall , as they and the Soviets were almost 2 s faster than the third @-@ placed Hungarians . In any case , the home team , despite resting all of their first @-@ choice quartet , were still faster than the Australians , who had rested only one . The winners of the first heat , Great Britain , had obtained a time slower than even the fourth @-@ place finisher of the second heat , East Germany , and slower than the Soviets ' by almost 3 seconds .

= = = Final = = =

The Australian Evans took the opportunity to attempt to regain the psychological ascendancy from the Briton Goodhew , confronting him privately and stating that " we will win it " , before noting that Goodhew was astounded by his posturing . Tonelli , the eldest swimmer in the Australian quartet at the age of 23 , convened the team as its de facto leader , and asked his team @-@ mates to commit to swimming their legs in a certain time ; Kerry vowed to swim the backstroke in 57 s , Evans the breaststroke in 63 s flat , Tonelli the butterfly in 54 s and Brooks promised to anchor the team in 49 @.@ 8 s , even though he had never gone faster than 51 s in his career . Tonelli named the foursome as the Quietly Confident Quartet , and they exhibited a silent assurance as they lined up for the race . Whereas most of the other teams were " psyching up " in the marshalling area , the Australians were remaining light @-@ hearted , convinced that they could perform in the final .

Kerry led off the Australian team in a faster time than he had clocked in the individual event , but it was still two seconds slower than his personal best time . Kerry finished in a time of 57 @.@ 87 s , leaving Australia in fourth place at the end of the first leg . Kuznetsov gave the Soviets the lead with a leadoff leg of 56 @.@ 81 s with Hungary and Great Britain in second and third place . France was last to reach the 100 m mark , posting a time of 58 @.@ 84 s . Evans then swam a personal best of 63 @.@ 01 s , the fastest split among the breaststrokers by 0 @.@ 63 s . His leg moved Australia into second place at the halfway mark , just 0 @.@ 45 s behind the hosts and roughly half a second ahead of the British and the Hungarians . The remainder of the teams had been dropped , with a two @-@ second gap back to the fifth @-@ placed East Germans . Tonelli then swam his leg in 54 @.@ 94 s , almost two seconds faster than he had done over the distance . Tonelli began to lose ground in the last 50 m and was a body length behind until a late surge brought him to within a metre by the end of his leg . Tonelli 's butterfly leg was such that if he had swum the same time in the individual event , he would have claimed the silver medal . Although he lost 0 @.@ 36 s to Seregin , he had minimised his loss and Australia were within 0 @.@ 81 s going into the final leg . Furthermore , the Australians were now more than a second clear of the third placed Great Britain .

Brooks then made a powerful , well @-@ timed dive and surfaced almost even with his Soviet counterpart Kopliakov . He had drawn level halfway through his leg and made a superior turn to take the lead as they headed home . The Soviet freestyler pulled level with 25 m to go before Brooks sprinted away again to seal an Australian victory by 0 @.@ 22 s . He did not breathe in the last ten metres , and claimed to be laughing for the final five metres , confident that his opponent could not pass him . Brooks had finished his leg in 49 @.@ 86 s as he had vowed to his team mates . In doing so , he recorded the fastest freestyle split in the relay , even faster than the individual 100 m freestyle gold medallist , Jörg Woithe of East Germany .

= = Aftermath = =

The time of 3 m 45 @.@ 70 s sealed Australia 's first ever win in a medley relay at the Olympics , for men or women , and it still remains the only time that the United States did not win the men 's event . After the race , the team made a celebratory dive into the water and performed a poolside

interview . Tonelli remarked that " I was totally stunned . After all the hassle , and my being the athletes ' mouthpiece , we 'd come through and done it " . Australia 's women 's captain Lisa Forrest hailed the win as " a gold medal that should never have been " . Evans said of the relay , " It was unbelievable , but it was all so logical . I was so deliriously happy that I couldn 't stop talking , " as Brooks dedicated his win to his mother , who had died from cancer the previous Christmas .

The quartet had been under significant political pressure from the Government of Australia to boycott the 1980 Games , but under media pressure and criticism , the Prime Minister did eventually send a congratulatory telegram . In 2000 , Evans quipped that " We 're the Vietnam vets of the Olympic movement " .

Upon returning to Australia , Evans and Brooks were raucously received in their hometown of Perth . They were denied a civic reception by the Lord Mayor Perth because of his stance on Afghanistan , but the Lord Mayor of Fremantle hosted one instead . Evans also received congratulations from Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser . After being greeted as a hero , Brooks considered retiring as he felt that his gold had diminished his hunger for further success .

The quartet did not compete again as a unit following the Moscow Olympics , as Tonelli retired from swimming immediately after the Games . Australia came third in the 1984 Olympics in the medley relay as the Americans returned to the Olympic fold , with only Evans and Kerry of the original four swimming in the final , while Brooks swam in the heats . Evans and Kerry both retired after the 1984 Olympics , and after Brooks retired in 1986 , the last of the Quietly Confident Quartet had departed the Australian swimming scene .

= = Results = =

= = = Heats = = =

= = = Final = = =

= = = General = = =

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