

= Swimming at the 2008 Summer Olympics ? Men 's 100 metre butterfly =

The men 's 100 metre butterfly event at the 2008 Olympic Games took place on 14 ? 16 August at the Beijing National Aquatics Center in Beijing , China .

U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps set a new Olympic record of 50 @. @ 58 to defend his title in the event , edging out Serbia 's Milorad ?avi? (50 @. @ 59) by one hundredth of a second (0 @. @ 01) . He also earned his seventh Olympic gold at a single Games , tying Mark Spitz 's 1972 record for the most gold medals . Australia 's Andrew Lauterstein earned a bronze in 51 @. @ 12 , finishing in a close race against world record holder Ian Crocker by the slimmest margin . Phelps ' triumph occurred after ?avi? had remarked that it would be better for the sport if Phelps was defeated . Phelps ' margin of triumph was so close that the Serbian team filed a protest , but after officials reviewed the video , the International Swimming Federation (FINA) announced that Phelps did touch the wall first and his victory would be upheld .

Kenya 's Jason Dunford finished fifth with a time of 51 @. @ 47 , and was followed in the sixth spot by Japan 's Takuro Fujii , in an Asian record of 51 @. @ 50 . Ukraine 's Andriy Serdinov (51 @. @ 59) , the bronze medalist in Athens four years earlier , and Papua New Guinea 's Ryan Pini , gold medalist at the 2006 Commonwealth Games , (51 @. @ 86) closed out the field . Dunford and Pini also made history as the first swimmer for their respective nation to reach an Olympic final .

Out of six individual events from his Olympic program , Phelps did not break the current world record in a final , finishing 0 @. @ 18 of a second behind Crocker 's time of 50 @. @ 40 , set in 2005 . In the entire event , other records were established , the Olympic record , five continental records , and several national records .

= = Preview = =

Due to a combination of the venue , Beijing National Aquatics Center (better known as the Water Cube) , which was claimed to be built to increase the speed of the swimmers , and the recently introduced LZR Racer swim suits , which had been proven to give the swimmer a lower time by 1 @. @ 9 to 2 @. @ 2 % , some analysts were predicting that many fast times and world records would be set in all the swimming events .

As with almost every event that he entered in at the 2008 Summer Olympics , Michael Phelps was the favorite to win the men 's 100 metre butterfly . Since winning the gold medal at the previous Games , in Athens , Phelps had demonstrated his superiority in this event , by also becoming world champion at the Melbourne 2007 World Championships , and achieving victory at the United States Olympic Trials . Therefore , the 100 metre butterfly was one of the eight Olympic events where Phelps was attempting to win a gold medal .

Going into the event , Phelps ' compatriot Ian Crocker was seen as the swimmer with the best chance of beating Phelps . Crocker beat Phelps ' 100 metre butterfly world record in 2003 , and had since lowered it twice : once at the 2004 United States Olympic trials , and then at the 2005 World Championships in Montreal . Before the Olympics , Crocker and Phelps held the seventeen fastest times ever in the event . In 2004 , Crocker was the favorite in the men 's 100 metre butterfly , but lost to Phelps by four one @- @ hundredths of a second . This victory gave Phelps the right to swim in the final of the 4 x 100 metre medley relay , however he gave up the spot to Crocker , and took his turn in the semifinals . Although holding the world record , Crocker had lost the last four times that he was up against Phelps in the 100 metre butterfly , including the 2008 United States Olympic Trials . Some thought that Crocker was not in the same shape that he was when he broke the world record , including Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) analyst Byron MacDonald who said that " If he 's (Crocker) going to beat Phelps in Beijing , Crocker has to get close to his world record time of 50 @. @ 40 . He just hasn 't shown it [he] can do it this year " .

Another threat to Phelps ' goal was Serbia 's Milorad ?avi? . In Athens 2004 , ?avi? was leading in a semifinal of the 100 metre butterfly , but right after his final turn , his suit opened at the neck and sucked in water , causing ?avi? to finish last with a time of 53 @. @ 12 seconds . At the 2008 European Championships , ?avi? won the men 's 50 metre butterfly and was the heavy favorite to

win at twice that distance , but was suspended for wearing a " Kosovo is Serbia " T @-@ shirt on the medal podium . American swimmer Gary Hall , Jr. told The New York Times that although " Mike (Phelps) has been saying he ' s going to win the 100 fly at the Olympics for the last year " , he thought that ?avi? would be the winner .

Other possible medal contenders included Andriy Serdinov of Ukraine , who had won the Olympic bronze medal in 2004 , and Venezuelan Albert Subirats , a bronze medalist at the 2007 World Championships and seen as a potential spoiler , if he could match or improve on his 51 @.@ 82 time , in Beijing .

= = Competition = =

= = = Heats = = =

The heats began on August 14 , at 19 : 57 local time (CST or UTC + 8) . There were nine preliminary heats , but all sixteen qualifiers came from the last five heats . Only three swimmers participated in the first heat , which was won by Andrejs Duda of Latvia with a time of 55 @.@ 20 seconds . Heats 2 , 3 , and 4 were won by Shaune Fraser (Cayman Islands) , Rimvydas ?al?ius (Lithuania) , and Jakob Schioett Andkjaer (Denmark) , respectively . Salcius , Jeremy Knowles (Bahamas) , and Alon Mandel (Israel) all broke their countries ' previous records , while in heat 4 , Andkjaer , Michal Rubá?ek of the Czech Republic , Sotirios Pastras of Greece , and Ioan Stefan Gherghel of Romania also set new national records . South African Lyndon Ferns was the first swimmer to qualify for the semifinals , winning heat 5 with a time of 52 @.@ 04 seconds , while national records were broken by Mario Todorovi? (Croatia) , Simão Morgado (Portugal) , and Douglas Lennox @-@ Silva (Puerto Rico) . Sergii Breus (Ukraine) and Shi Feng (China) , finished first and second in heat 6 , with times of 51 @.@ 82 and 51 @.@ 87 seconds , respectively , that allowed them to reach the semifinals . Five of the eight swimmers in heat 7 advanced as well , including Jason Dunford (Kenya) , Andrew Lauterstein (Australia) , Takuro Fujii (Japan) , Frédérick Bousquet (France) , and Ryan Pini (Papua New Guinea) . Dunford , with a 51 @.@ 14 time , set a new Olympic record , beating Phelps ' previous record of 51 @.@ 25 seconds , achieved in the final of the 100 metre butterfly in Athens ; he also set new African and Kenyan records . Andrew Lauterstein 's 51 @.@ 37 time was a new Oceanic and Australian best . Takuro Fujii set a Japanese and an Asian record with his 51 @.@ 50 time . The swimmers qualifying from heat 8 were Albert Subirats Altes (Venezuela) , Corney Swanepoel (New Zealand) , and Ian Crocker (United States) . Records broken in this heat included the South American and Venezuelan records (by Altes) , and the New Zealand record (by Swanepoel) . Heat 9 was the fastest one , with Milorad ?avi? (Serbia) , Michael Phelps (United States) , Andrii Serdinov (Ukraine) , Peter Manko? (Slovenia) , and Kaio de Almeida (Brazil) all earning spots in the next round . ?avi? , the heat 's winner with a 50 @.@ 76 time , beat the Olympic record set by Dunford two heats earlier , thus also setting a new European and Serbian record . Serdinov and Manko? also managed to break their national records .

= = = Semifinals = = =

The semifinals were held on August 15 and started at 11 : 26 CST . The first semifinal was won by Michael Phelps with a time of 50 @.@ 97 seconds . Other three swimmers qualified from this semifinal : Andrew Lauterstein (51 @.@ 27 seconds) , Jason Dunford (51 @.@ 33 seconds) , and Ryan Pini (51 @.@ 62 seconds) . Surprisingly , Albert Subirats Altes , the bronze medalist at the 2007 World Championships , failed to qualify , after finishing in the sixth place . Also missing the cut was the host nation 's representative Shi Feng , Segii Breus , and Kaio de Almeida . The second semifinal was won in 50 @.@ 92 seconds by Milorad ?avi? , once again . The remaining three qualifiers were Ian Crocker (51 @.@ 27 seconds) , Andriy Serdinov (51 @.@ 41 seconds) , and Takuro Fujii (51 @.@ 59 seconds) . New time bests set in the semifinals included the Oceanic and

Australian records (set by Lauterstein) , and the Chinese record (set by Shi) .

== = Final = = =

The final took place on August 16 , at 10 : 10 CST . Before the race , Milorad ?avi? made headlines by saying in an interview that it would be better for swimming if he beat Phelps . Phelps ' coach Bob Bowman used the quote to provide motivation to his protégé . In an interview , Phelps said that doubters like ?avi? " fires me up more than anything , I always welcome comments . It definitely motivates me even more . " Almost immediately after the race started , ?avi? took the lead with Phelps getting off to a slow start . At the turn , ?avi? was first , followed by Ian Crocker , while Phelps made the split in seventh place , just 0 @.@ 62 seconds behind ?avi? . As the two approached the finish , ?avi? tried to coast to the wall on one last stroke , while Phelps , who had misjudged the end , took an extra half @-@ stroke , causing both competitors to touch the wall at almost exactly the same time . It turned out that Phelps had actually finished one one @-@ hundredth of a second ahead of ?avi? , with a time of 50 @.@ 58 seconds . Phelps even admitted that , at first , he thought the extra stroke he took had cost him the gold medal , until he looked at the scoreboard displaying the results . Andrew Lauterstein won the bronze medal , also beating Crocker by one one @-@ hundredth of a second .

Several records were broken at the final . For the first time at the 2008 Summer Olympics , Phelps did not break the current world record in a final , finishing eighteen one @-@ hundredths of a second behind team @-@ mate Crocker 's 50 @.@ 40 @-@ second world record from 2005 ; he did though set a new Olympic record . Three continental records were broken in the final , with Fujii setting a new Asian record , ?avi? a new European record , and Lauterstein a new Oceanic record . Although he finished last , swimmer Ryan Pini made history as the first swimmer from Papua New Guinea to swim in an Olympic final , and even received a call from the prime minister Michael Somare congratulating him . Most notably though , Phelps won his seventh gold medal at these Games , tying Mark Spitz 's record for most gold medals won at a single Olympic Games . For being able to emulate Spitz 's record , Speedo , a sponsor of Michael Phelps , awarded him a US \$ 1 million bonus , which had already been offered to him at the 2004 Summer Olympics , under the same conditions . After the final , the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) arranged a joint interview with Phelps and Spitz , where Spitz praised Phelps ' effort , telling him that " what you did tonight was epic " and even though at one point , Phelps was more than half a second behind ?avi? , Spitz " never thought for one moment you (Phelps) were out of that race . "

== = = Protest = = = =

Almost immediately after the end of the race , the Serbian team filed a protest claiming that ?avi? touched the wall first but did not use enough force to trigger the timing sensor . Officials of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) watched the video in slow motion , and announced that Phelps ' victory would be upheld . Ben Ekumbo , a FINA referee announced that " It 's very clear that the Serbian swimmer touched second after Michael Phelps . " Although Serbia conceded their protest , not everyone was convinced that Phelps had won the gold medal ; Branislav Jevti? , Serbia 's deputy chef de mission for all sports , was quoted as saying " in my opinion , it 's not right , but we must follow the rules . Everybody saw what happened . " In one interview following the race , ?avi? said " I am completely happy with where I am " , while in another he revealed that he expects that " people will be bringing this up for years and saying you (?avi?) won that race . If we got to do this again , I would win it " . While the result is still controversial , a high speed photograph shows Phelps touching the wall , while ?avi? is still a short distance away . In April 2015 , Spitz said that he had been sent an email posted by Omega which stated that Phelps had lost the 100m butterfly final .

== = Records = = =

Prior to this competition , the existing world and Olympic records were as follows .

The following records were established during the competition :

= = Results = =

= = = Heats = = =

= = = Semifinals = = =

= = = = Semifinal 1 = = = =

= = = = Semifinal 2 = = = =

= = = Final = = =