

= Mary Wayte =

Mary Wayte Bradburne (born March 25 , 1965) , née Mary Alice Wayte , is an American former competition swimmer , two @-@ time Olympic gold medalist , and television sports commentator . During her international swimming career , Wayte won eight medals in major international championships , including four golds .

= = Early years = =

Wayte was born and raised on Mercer Island , Washington , where she swam for the Chinook Aquatic Club . As a 16 @-@ year @-@ old high school sophomore , Wayte won three gold medals in the 200 @-@ meter freestyle , the 200 @-@ meter backstroke and the 800 @-@ meter freestyle relay at the 1981 National Sport Festival . She won eight Washington state high school swimming titles in five different events while attending Mercer Island High School .

= = College swimming career = =

Wayte accepted an athletic scholarship to attend 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 1983 to 1987 . As a Gator swimmer , she won two individual NCAA national titles in the 100 @-@ yard freestyle and the 400 @-@ yard individual medley in 1985 . With Gator teammates Laureeen Welting , Kathy Treible , Tracy Caulkins , Dara Torres and Paige Zemina , she was a member of the Gators ' NCAA championship relay teams in the 400 @-@ yard and 800 @-@ yard freestyle relays for three consecutive years (1984 , 1985 , 1986) , anchoring five of the six relays . In total , she won eight NCAA championships in those three years . She also won eleven individual Southeastern Conference (SEC) championships and was a member of ten SEC championship relay teams . Wayte was the SEC Swimmer of the Year in 1985 , and received a total of twenty @-@ six All @-@ American honors in her four years as a collegiate swimmer .

= = International swimming career = =

From 1981 to 1988 , Wayte was a member of the U.S. national swim team , competing in major international championships in Japan (1981 , 1985) , France (1982) , the Netherlands (1982) , Venezuela (1983) , Monaco (1985) , Spain (1986) and South Korea (1988) . At the 1983 Pan American Games in Caracas , Venezuela , she won a gold medal as a member of the winning U.S. 4 x 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay team , and the silver medal in the 200 @-@ meter freestyle event .

At the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles , Wayte won her first Olympic gold medal in the women 's 200 @-@ meter freestyle event by defeating her American rival and former world record @-@ holder Cynthia Woodhead . Her winning 200 @-@ meter time of 1 : 59 @.@ 23 was her career best to date , overcoming Woodhead 's early lead in the final 50 meters . She earned her second Olympic gold medal by swimming in the preliminary heat for the winning U.S. women 's 4 x 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay team .

Four years later , when Seoul , South Korea hosted the 1988 Summer Olympics , she swam the freestyle leg for the silver medal @-@ winning U.S. team in the women 's 4 x 100 @-@ meter medley relay with teammates Beth Barr (backstroke) , Tracey McFarlane (breaststroke) , and Janel Jorgensen (butterfly) . The U.S. women 's medley relay team was fraught with last @-@ minute drama , as several previously selected swimmers dropped out to focus on individual events , or were replaced because they had performed below expectations , only hours before the event final . In the event final , the U.S. medley relay team included women with no history of competing together , no relay exchange practice , and no coach ; the East German favorites taunted the Americans before the race . Wayte would later characterize the race as one of her proudest

moments . She also captured a bronze medal with the third @-@ place U.S. women 's 4 x 100 @-@ meter freestyle relay team that included Mitzi Kremer , Dara Torres and Laura Walker . Individually , she finished fourth in the women 's 200 @-@ meter freestyle ; she was also a medal contender in the women 's 200 @-@ meter individual medley , but was disqualified when the judges ruled she used an illegal butterfly kick on the breaststroke leg of the medley .

= = Life after swimming = =

Wayte graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor 's degree in telecommunications in 1989 . She retired from competition swimming following the 1988 Olympics , and worked as a fund @-@ raiser for the International Swimming Hall of Fame . She became a celebrity promoter and endorsed products and services on behalf of Alamo Rent a Car , the National Spa and Pool Institute , and Speedo . She later worked as a television broadcaster for the Sports Channel network , covering NCAA and international swimming competitions and interviewing fans at NBA games . For the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona , Spain , Wayte worked as NBC 's women 's swimming color commentator , and later covered the NCAA women 's swimming championships for ESPN . She also served on the U.S. Olympic Committee 's athletes advisory council .

Wayte was inducted into the University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame as a " Gator Great " in 1998 , the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2000 , and the Pacific Northwest Swimming Hall of Fame in 2004 . The community swimming pool where she formerly trained in Mercer Island , Washington was renamed " Mary Wayte Pool . "

Wayte married business executive Jim Bradburne in 1995 , and they have two daughters . She currently lives in Seattle , Washington , and works in corporate communications for Cisco Systems . Wayte participates in Swim Across America , a charitable organization that enlists former Olympic swimmers to raise funds for cancer research .