

EVENT-BY-EVENT PREVIEW

Women's Swimming 100 METER BUTTERFLY

BY JOHN LOHN

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Defending Champion: Petria Thomas, AUS, 57.72

World Record Holder: Inge de Bruijn, NED, 56.61 (2000)

Most Titles: United States (5): Shelley Mann (1956), Carolyn Schuler (1960), Sharon Stouder (1964), Mary T. Meagher (1984), Amy Van Dyken (1996)

Notable: While she was light years ahead of her time in the 200 butterfly, Mary T. Meagher was also ahead of the curve in the 100 fly. At the L.A. Olympics in 1984, her prelim time of 59.05 was the second fastest in history at that time. She won in 59.26, equaling the fourth fastest performance all-time, but slower than her 57.93 world record, set in 1981.

MEDAL CONTENDERS

Libby Trickett, Australia: The two-lap butterfly is one of three individual events Trickett hopes to win this summer. She is the reigning world champion and came within 2-tenths of the world record at the Aussie Trials in March with a 56.81. Look for Trickett to challenge the world record and to be one of the outstanding female performers in Beijing, battling for headlines with American Katie Hoff. Not only is Trickett the favorite to win the 100 fly, but she's also the No. 1 choice in the 50 and 100 freestyles, and is a member of Australia's favored 400 free and 400 medley relays.

Jessicah Schipper, Australia: While her best performances have come in the 200 fly, Schipper is no stranger to major success in the 100. She is the reigning silver medalist from Worlds and has been 57-low during her career, with a 2008 best of 57.31. She'll play a big role in the gold-medal chase and in Australia's attempt to grab

the top two positions.

Christine Magnuson, USA: Through all three rounds at the U.S. Trials, Magnuson was the dominant performer in the 100 fly, taking control of her races and not allowing her rivals to chase her down. She had a superb college season at the University of Tennessee and clocked a best time of 57.50 during Trials, the third-fastest time this year. A similar outing will have the first-time Olympian knocking on the door to a medal.

Jemma Lowe, Great Britain: The British have received a spark in a number of events, and one of those lighting a match has been Lowe. At the British Trials, she clocked 57.78, but she'll need to cut a few more tenths off that time if she plans to win a medal.

Elaine Breeden, USA: One of a handful of American athletes to have a breakout showing at Trials, Breeden qualified in both butterfly events. She might be better suited for a medal run in the longer distance, but with a best of 58.03, dropping into the 57-range is possible.

Other Challengers: It's worth keeping track of France's Alena Popchanka,



ABOVE » Libby Trickett, AUS

sixth at last year's Worlds. Also watch Great Britain's **Francesca Halsall**, the ever-evolving teenager who has been 58.16 in April. From Japan, **Yuko Nakanishi** and **Yuka Kato** have the ability to advance to the championship final. Poland's **Otylia Jędrzejczak** was the silver medalist at the 2004 Games in Athens, although she hasn't put much emphasis on the 100 fly this year. From the Netherlands, watch for **Inge Dekker** (58.13)—the fourth-place finisher at Worlds in 2007—and **Chantal Groot** (58.56), who was a last-minute replacement for **Marleen Veldhuis** (58.13). ♦