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Diana Nyad Xtreme Dream 103 miles. Cuba to Florida. Summer 2012

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America's Greatest Olympian Won't be in London

Posted by Xtreme Dream Team on Jul 23, 2012 in Blog | 4 comments

photo via [OfficialDaraTorres on Facebook](#)

On the eve of the Games, excited to follow the magical moments of Olympic glory, it is poignant to realize that the greatest athlete of our time, the greatest Olympian of our time, will not sprint off the blocks in London.

We will of course thrill to follow the unique genius of Michael Phelps, along with a number of greats in various disciplines, in London. But, for my money, it is sprinter extraordinaire [Dara Torres](#) who deserves the "incomparable" moniker among all active Olympians on the planet.

Yet Dara finished 4th, just an eyelash out of the qualifying few, at the Trials and will sadly not grace us with her magnificent, elongated, smooth perfection in the 50-meter freestyle in London.

We can, and do, and should marvel at dominant Olympic performances, as well as numbers of gold medals won by one athlete at one Games, but the longevity of Torres, from her 1984 Games debut as a tender 17-year-old to her 12th medal twenty-four long years later, as a 41-year-old mother....is simply mind-blowing.

Throw in the fact that Torres retired after her third Games and we universally agree that her appearance in Atlanta in '96 would have been a foregone conclusion. Then throw in another missed Games when she retired again to have her daughter during the 2004 Games. When we do the simple math, she has competed in 5 Olympics but would have no doubt made 7 Teams.

And still, at the crazy-old age of 45...FOR A SPRINTER....Dara proved to be 4th best in all the United States in her attempt for yet another coveted Summer Games miracle.

Like many of you, I'm a certified Olympics junkie. Sure, it starts with Swimming and Track & Field. But I watch it all.

The Equestrian events, the epee fencing, the rowing down the fabled Thames, gymnastics, indoor and beach volleyball, tennis, table tennis, badminton.....all of it.

Archives

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Diana's Tweets



- Thank you [@FINISswim](#) for all of your support of the [#XtremeDream](#). I can't thank you guys enough!
<http://t.co/bO2pDFsh> 06:25:04 PM August 25, 2012 from [HootSuite](#)
- Boatside, Candace watched Diana swim for 51 hrs. Days later "I'm still swaying but you could look at that as being on a roll." ^MR 02:38:47 PM August 25, 2012 from [HootSuite](#)
- Have a look at the swim page, a visual record of the swim <http://t.co/ksNTaeAL> 04:45:02 AM August 25, 2012 from [HootSuite](#)
- Check out this wonderful article all the way from the UK by a journalist for the The Guardian <http://t.co/5RS0Zd0B> ^jr [#XtremeDream](#) 12:45:05 AM August 25, 2012 from [HootSuite](#)
- RT [@secretdeodorant](#): Fearless! RT [@LizzyShuffle](#): Just made the switch 2 Secret Deodorant if they stand behind Diananyad I stand behind them!

But I will dearly miss the sinewy muscles, the gleaming smile, the grand Olympian spirit of Dara Torres over the next few weeks.

11:22:02 PM August 24, 2012 from
HootSuite

Thank you, Dara, for all the champion moments you've given us. If only you were going to lead the way

[2 captures](#)

27 Aug 2012

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2011 2012 2013
About this capture

4 Comments



betsy collins

Amen,sister

July 23, 2012

Reply



Barbara Burke

Ditto what Betsy Collins said!

July 23, 2012

Reply



Ian

I love your writing style, absolutely captivating. You teach respect 😊 Thanks for writing this inspirational story!

July 23, 2012

Reply



Joanne

Amen, also.

July 24, 2012

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Diana Nyad's Xtreme Dream

"Diana is more than a swimmer. She's a beacon of hope to us all that we can dream big, live life large, and look back at all of it with no regrets whatsoever."

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- It's Mind Time
- A letter from Bonnie to the Handler Team

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- Hadar on It's a GO!
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