

SPORTING LEGENDS: SIR STEVE REDGRAVE

SPORT: ROWING

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1979 - 2000

Sir Stephen Geoffrey Redgrave, CBE, or less formally Steve Redgrave, (born 23 March 1962 in Marlow, England), is a British rower who won a gold medal at five consecutive Olympic Games from 1984 to 2000, as well as an additional bronze medal in 1988.



As the only Briton ever to achieve this feat, he is widely considered to be Britain's greatest Olympian. Only four other Olympians achieved the same: Pál Kovács, Aladár Gerevich, Reiner Klimke and Birgit Fischer. Redgrave also won a bronze medal with Holmes in the coxed pairs in 1988. He has won nine Rowing World Championship gold medals.

His feats in the last four years of his career are even more outstanding if it is taken into account that Redgrave has been suffering from ulcerative colitis and, since 1997, diabetes causing unforeseeable bouts of fatigue when rowing.

In 1989/90 he was a member of the British bobsleigh team.

In 2000, he won his fifth consecutive Olympic Gold Medal, and retired as one of the greatest rowers of all time and became the BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

He made an MBE in 1987, CBE in 1997 and knighted in 2001.

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Redgrave's Olympic Rowing Achievements May Never Be Equalled Or Bettered

Achievements

Olympic Medals: 5 Gold, 1 Bronze

World Championship Medals: 9 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze

Junior World Championship Medals: 1 Silver

Olympic Games

2000 - Gold, Coxless Four (with Matthew Pinsent, Tim Foster, James Cracknell)

1996 - Gold, Coxless Pair (with Matthew Pinsent)

1992 - Gold, Coxless Pair (with Matthew Pinsent)

1988 - Gold, Coxless Pair (with Andy Holmes)

1988 - Bronze, Coxed Pair (with Andy Holmes)

1984 - Gold, Coxed Four (with Martin Cross, Adrian Ellison, Andy Holmes, Richard Budgett).

World Championships

1999 - Gold, Coxless Four (with James Cracknell, Ed Coode, Matthew Pinsent)

1998 - Gold, Coxless Four (with James Cracknell, Tim Foster, Matthew Pinsent)

1997 - Gold, Coxless Four (with James Cracknell, Tim Foster, Matthew Pinsent)

1995 - Gold, Coxless Pair (with Matthew Pinsent)

1994 - Gold, Coxless Pair (with Matthew Pinsent)

1993 - Gold, Coxless Pair (with Matthew Pinsent)

1991 - Gold, Coxless Pair (with Matthew Pinsent)

1990 - Bronze, Coxless Pair (with Matthew Pinsent)

1989 - Silver, Coxless Pairs (with Simon Berrisford)

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Redgrave possessed great technique, strength and stamina.

World Championships

- 1987 - Gold, Coxless Pairs (with Andy Holmes)
- 1987 - Silver, Coxed Pairs (with Andy Holmes)
- 1986 - Gold, Coxed Pairs (with Andy Holmes)
- 1985 - 12th, Single Sculls
- 1983 - Single Sculls
- 1982 - 6th, Quadruple Scull
- 1981 - 8th, Quadruple Scull

World Junior Championships

- 1980 - Silver, Double Sculls
- 1979 - Single Sculls

After winning the Olympic Gold Medal in 1996, Redgrave, when asked if he would be competing in Sydney four years hence, said, live on British television:

"Anyone who sees me go anywhere near a boat again, ever, you've got my permission to shoot me." (He reversed his decision in 1997).

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Scott Burton's Final Thought

Sir Steve Redgrave has achieved legendary status via a horde of amazing and legendary achievements.

For most people, winning one Olympic Gold Medal is enough to define their entire sporting career, but to do this for five consecutive Olympics, that is something special.

Of course, credit must be given to the rowers who teamed up with Redgrave to assist in his success. He became the eventual poster boy of British rowing, but all of his successes were a team effort.

Blessed with good height and long levers, Redgrave was destined to be a great rower. His aerobic engine was also fantastic, but it has to be said that he worked hard for all of his success.

That is the key message that underlies Redgrave's career; like anything worth having in life, if you want to be a 5-time Olympic Champion, you have to work for it.



The ice-cold competitive stare of a 5-time Olympic Champion!