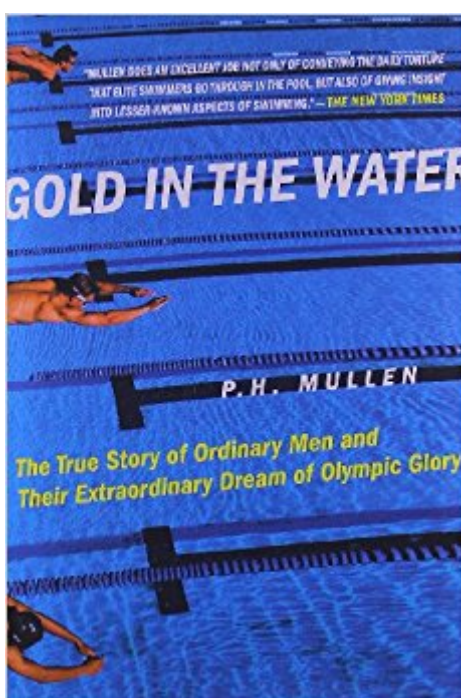


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# Gold In The Water: The True Story Of Ordinary Men And Their Extraordinary Dream Of Olympic Glory



## Synopsis

In California, a team of talented young men begin pursuing the most elusive dream in sports, the Olympic Games. The pressure steadily increases as two best friends (a mentor and his protégé) reach the top of the world rankings and unexpectedly find themselves direct competitors. Their teammates include an emerging star methodically plotting to retrace his father's path to Olympic glory, as well as a super-extraordinary athlete desperate to walk away from it all. Led by one of the most passionate coaches in sports, a brilliant and explosive strategist on a personal quest for redemption, this team of dark horses and Olympic favorites works through escalating rivalries, joyous triumphs, and heartbreaking setbacks. Author P. H. Mullen chronicles their journey to the 2000 Olympic Games and presents one of the most powerful and moving sports books ever written. Boldly sweeping in literary power and pace, this startling book will permanently change how you view the Olympic athlete. It is a fascinating world of suspense and emotion where human desire for excellence rules over all, and where there are no second chances for glory. But above all, *Gold in the Water* is a triumph of the human spirit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Olympic fans undoubtedly remember the wonderful performances of the U.S. swimmers at the 2000 Olympics in Australia. What viewers may not fully understand is the grueling training endured by a larger group of swimmers who trained for other meets leading up to the trials and Olympic competition. Mullen, a sports writer and competitive swimmer, focuses on the Santa Clara Swim Club, two athletes Tom Wilkens and Kurt Grote and their coach, Dick Jochums. The author provides

an intimate look at the physical training along with the emotional and psychological roller-coaster ride for the swimmers as they try to make the Olympic team. As coach, Jochums also endures serious hardships, including bankruptcy of the swim club and accusations of financial misconduct. Mullen skillfully details exactly what the swimmers are feeling (e.g., "Now Wilkins was furious.... He was in the best shape of his life, he'd just swum in the world's fastest pool, and his time was more than 1.5 second slower than his best. He needed to find an outlet for his fury...." Sports fans and anyone who has trained for competition will find this book enjoyable. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** When we watched the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, we saw athletes in their prime, ready to take on their biggest challenge. But how did they get there? What kind of training was required? What toll did this preparation take on the athletes' personal lives? What's at stake at the Olympics, and how will defeat affect the person who has dedicated nearly his or her whole life to the dream of Olympic gold? This book chronicles the U.S. swimming team's journey to the 2000 Olympics, and we soon discover that although the training started in January 1998, the dreaming began a whole lot earlier. Like the best sports books, this one spends a lot of time with the athletes, letting us see them not just as performers but also as people. What motivates someone to structure his whole life toward a single goal, a goal the athlete knows may never be achieved? And what comes after the Olympics? Mullen answers all these questions in the words and actions of the young athletes he portrays. Although the book concentrates on swimming and swimmers, its exploration of "big" themes--dedication, the pursuit of success, and the possibility of failure--makes it applicable to all athletes (indeed, to all young people) grappling with how to direct their lives. A superb sports book. David Pitt Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Interesting book looking into the lives of several swimmers and how they trained for the Olympics. After reading this book, these athletes are just ordinary people facing the same demons as they live life.

My 13 year old swimmer, loved this book. He couldn't put it down, finished it while riding in the car to meets and practice in about a week.

This was a great book and I would recommend that any swimmer reads this book. The book is

about a swimming club hoping to produce some champions for the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The book follows four individual swimmers and their coach. How they cope with the highs and lows and disappointments of swimming. To many Olympic books concentrate on the Gold medalist. This book tells the story of the try hard and want to be champions.

Being a former swim coach and knowing some of the characters, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. For a subject I deem hard to write about, P.H. Mullen is a gifted writer and I hope he continues to write more books. Mullen's style is quite interesting and riveting. I would recommend this book to anyone having the slightest interest in Olympic swimming. I also recommend this book to athletes regardless of their level of ability or sport of choice. Athletes can gain a lot about coping with fear, lack of self confidence and visualizing their goals.

Interesting story about some of the USA swimming team stars and what they sacrificed and the time they put in in order to compete in the Sydney Olympics. Gives you an appreciation for athletes of this caliber and how greatness or not is found in 1/100s of a second. Good book, worth reading.

Holy smokes is this a good book! Several of my swimming pals recommended it and I cannot fathom why it took me so long to finally crack it. Once I finished the book, I felt as if I lost a dear friend. Do yourself a favor - regardless of your taste for swimming - read this book. You'll thank me for the recommendation.

This book was such an eye opener - learning how much of their lives swimmers have to invest to make it to national competition level and, specifically, the Olympics. How many of us watch the Olympics every 4 years and wonder if we could've ever reached that level of competition? Well, after reading this, I know I could and would not. But the book is well written and I enjoyed reading it - author did a great job of making an entertaining and interesting read while exposing some real characters of the swimming world.

A little too dense sometimes. You have to be very familiarized with people in the swimming business and academies to go through.

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