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## Record-Smashers: Swimmer Or Swimsuit?

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**(CBS)** If the person next to you doesn't know the name Michael Phelps by now, they might just be from another planet.

With three gold medals already in hand, Phelps' dream remains, as yet, unrealized - winning eight golds in one Olympics. That would beat the record seven gold medals won by Mark Spitz in 1972 that no one thought would ever fall. Not bad for a kid who took up swimming to escape being teased about his big ears.

But some say this year's swimming competition is rigged for record-smashing with what one critic called technological doping, reports **CBS News correspondent Barry Petersen**.

Start with the new Speedo full body suits:

"It literally feels like a rocket coming off the wall," said Phelps in a team interview. "The water just runs off the suit."

More than 50 records have been busted at pre-Olympic meets around the world since they were introduced in February. The suits aren't sewn. They're welded ultrasonically, creating a seamless surface that mimics shark skin. Some even claim it increases buoyancy.

Speedo offered the \$600 dollar suits to all Olympic swimmers to level the playing field.

Then there's the pool.

In past Olympics, they were about six feet deep. The Chinese built their pools nine feet deep - more depth cuts down water resistance on the surface.

They also added extra lanes on the outside of the eight normally used for competition. And they put gutters on the edge, which eases wave action and helps swimmers go faster.

Pool designers are not surprised.

"The water is a lot smoother," said Kevin McGrath, CEO of Myrtha Pools. "There's no turbulence and it just lets all the swimmers giddy up and go."

It's no wonder that eight Olympic records have been wiped out so far.

"There are so many world records that are being broken today that there should be a world record for world records broken," said Gary Hall, a former U.S. Olympic swimmer.

And if Phelps pulls it off, he may soon be able to say "Show me the money." Winning eight medals would earn him a cool million dollar bonus from his sponsor, which means he's on the verge of everyone's ultimate dream - fame *and* fortune.

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