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PRECIOUS GOLD FOR MITCHAM



Photo via Getty Images By Maggie Hendricks

Matthew Mitcham "pulled off a stunning final dive in the 10 metre platform, scoring an incredible four perfect 10s, to steal the gold off favourite Chinese diver Luxin Zhou. Mitcham finished with 537.95 points. It was a massive upset defeating the premiere Chinese divers Liang Huo and Luxin Zhou in front of a fierce home crowd," says joemygod.blogspot.com⁽¹⁾.

"Mitcham grabbed the moment and simply wouldn't let go Saturday night, giving Australia its first men's diving gold medal

since 1924 and preventing China from sweeping all eight Olympic diving gold medals. The man who quit diving in 2006 and came back nine months later did it with an impeccably timed final dive in the 10-meter platform event, earning four perfect 10s. The dive, a back 2 1/2 somersault with 1 1/2 twists and a 3.8 degree of difficulty, brought him 112.10 points, **the highest-scoring dive in Olympic history**, officials said. The packed house at the Water Cube, a largely Chinese crowd, had been enjoying a textbook performance from Zhou Luxin, who led going into the sixth and final round by more than 30 points. Mitcham started slowly with a shaky first dive, putting him in ninth place. He was in third after four rounds and moved to second after the fifth. His dive with the greatest degree of difficulty was his final one," reports Lisa Dillman of the latimes.com⁽²⁾.

"Said Mitcham: 'It's absolutely surreal. I never thought that this would be possible. I wasn't even really sure of my medal chances at all. After I did my last dive and I saw I was in first, I'm like, 'That's it, it's a silver medal. I'm so happy with this.' And then I can't believe it. I'm so happy.'

"Not only did he quit diving at one point, but he battled depression and then took a big step, coming out in an interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald* this year. The first thing he did in the mixed zone with print journalists was hug the reporter who handled the story with particular sensitivity. He was asked what this meant to him after his tumultuous last few years. "Everything, absolutely everything I've done has



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been for this,' he said. 'I knew it was a far chance, but I did absolutely everything I could to give myself the best chance of doing it. It's actually happened, and I never thought it would.'"

(1) <http://joemygod.blogspot.com/2008/08/golden-gay-matthew-mitcham-australias.html>

(2) <http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-olydiving24-2008aug24,0,3203179.story>



**Matthew Mitcham, his Mother and partner
Lachlan Fletcher**

HIS ROCK

"He kissed him briefly in the stands and gave him his Olympic bouquet. Later, outside the glowing blue Water Cube, Matthew Mitcham and his partner, Lachlan Fletcher, firmly embraced, both shedding tears. Next it was his mother Vivien's turn to hold her golden boy, and more tears fell," explains **smh.com.au**⁽³⁾.

"Carefully nursing Mitcham's Olympic bouquet, Fletcher spoke of the incredible journey that the diver had taken to the top. Fletcher has been the one constant over the past two years. He was his rock when Mitcham retired in his late teenage years suffering anxiety and depression.

He watched him become a stunt diver at the Sydney Royal Easter show, supported his fight back into the sport and now to win Olympic gold.

"'It's been so up and down,' Fletcher said. 'When I first met him, he was pretty unhappy, he wasn't liking the diving in Brisbane at all, he didn't want to do it, wasn't happy being there. It took a lot for him to retire and stop doing it because it had been his life for so long. He wanted to try and be happy again. He took time to do normal things that people do. Then after five or six months he started to really miss it again and he had the opportunity to dive with Chava [Sobrino, his coach]. He started that and loved it ever since, every second of it, which is great to see him happy all the time.'

"Fletcher said that Mitcham, 20, was concerned that his sexuality would overshadow his diving achievements. But the almost perfectly executed back two-and-a-half somersault with one-and-a-half twists and a 3.8 degree of difficulty, earning 112.10 points, made sure people would be talking about his final dive that gave him gold. The Chinese home crowd gasped as Mitcham nailed the breathtaking dive.

"Mitcham was 30 points behind top Chinese favourite Zhou Luxin before the last attempt. Fletcher said he felt 'stupidly nervous' as Mitcham went for his final dive. Sobrino, who was instrumental in

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reviving Mitcham's career, was gobsmacked by the final dive. 'It was his best dive and that's why we put it at the end,' Sobrino said."

"Mitcham cried and bounced around the pool deck before climbing up to the stands to embrace Fletcher. 'It's going to take a while to sink in,' Mitcham said. 'My cheeks hurt from smiling. My face hurts from the chlorine. My legs are sore from jumping up and down. I'm in pain and I'm tired. But I'm so happy.'"

joemygod.blogspot.com⁽⁴⁾ tells us that "Lachlan was in the crowd last night courtesy of a Johnson & Johnson Olympic sponsorship."

⁽³⁾ <http://www.smh.com.au/news/diving/outandout-champion-celebrates/2008/08/24/1219516264750.html>

⁽⁴⁾ <http://joemygod.blogspot.com/2008/08/golden-gay-matthew-mitcham-australias.html>

HE'S EXTRAORDINARY TO US

sports.yahoo.com⁽⁵⁾ tells us, "To Mitcham, he is just living his life as a gay man and as a diver, and there is nothing extraordinary about that: 'Being gay and diving are completely separate parts of my life. Of course there's going to be crossover because some people have issues, but everyone I dive with has been so supportive.' Though he wants to be known as more than a gay man, the LGBT community is proud of their star. At **OutSports**⁽⁶⁾, a sports Web site that focuses on the gay community, his win is front-page news. The Web site [brought] up a good question -- [would] NBC mention Mitcham's orientation during tonight's broadcast? UPDATE: NBC did not mention Mitcham's orientation, nor did they show his family and partner who were in the stands.



"To Mitcham, that doesn't seem to matter. He has gold, and has reached his goals: 'I'm happy with myself and where I am. I'm very happy with who I am and what I've done.'"

YouTube interview⁽⁷⁾ with Matthew Mitcham after his win.

⁽⁵⁾ http://sports.yahoo.com/olympics/beijing/blog/fourth_place_medal/post/Openly-gay-diver-wins-gold?urn=oly,102974

⁽⁶⁾ <http://www.outsports.com/>

⁽⁷⁾ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tm33-KoxXA>

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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION



The 2008 Democratic National Convention (DNC), August 25 - 28, 2008 in Denver Colorado will conduct its business over the four-day period, the crux of which is the delegates' nomination of the US Democratic presidential candidate, and will adjourn on Thursday, August 28, 2008 at the conclusion of the acceptance speech by the Party's presidential nominee; this from demconvention.com⁽⁸⁾.

"A typical day in the life of a delegate or alternate begins with a state delegation breakfast meeting. At this meeting, delegates will hear from their state's prominent Democratic leaders, as well as from special guests including national political figures and campaign surrogates, then attend caucus meetings and/or training sessions.

"DNC Chairman Governor Howard Dean acts as the Temporary Chair of the 2008 Convention. In the past, the Wednesday of the Convention kicked off the Party's formal presidential nominating process with nominating and seconding speeches for presidential candidates being given. The alphabetical roll call of states and territories by the Convention Secretary is a memorable feature of past Wednesday nights. Sometimes the Party's presumptive vice presidential candidate will also speak on Wednesday.

The final day of the Convention – Thursday – features the nomination of the vice presidential candidate. The Convention concludes with the acceptance speech of the Party's presidential nominee."

Visit our **Election 2008**⁽⁹⁾ thread to discuss more.

⁽⁸⁾ <http://www.demconvention.com/anatomy-of-a-convention>

⁽⁹⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=30234.1245>

OBAMA - BIDEN TICKET

"Sen. Barack Obama moved to deal with two potential weaknesses when he named Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. as his vice presidential running mate Saturday. Biden shores up Obama's inexperience on national security issues and brings to the ticket a politician eager to lead the attack against Republican Sen. John McCain," this from Dan Balz of the **Washington Post**⁽¹⁰⁾.





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"The choice of Biden could produce another benefit for Obama and the Democrats. Biden's opening speech at a joint appearance with Obama on Saturday in Springfield, Ill., not only included tough words about McCain but also underscored his potential to sharpen the campaign's message on the middle-class economic issues that are paramount with the electorate.

"But the voluble Biden is not a risk-free running mate for Obama. Republicans were quick to remind people that during the Democratic nomination battle, Biden described Obama as not ready to be president. More significantly, they also see Biden as a potential gaffe machine likely to distract attention from Obama. That view, stated more gently, was shared privately even by some Democrats on Saturday as they assessed a choice that in almost all other respects drew widespread praise within the party.

"Biden's long service in the Senate also has included time as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, giving him experience in judicial appointments and crime legislation. He has strong ties with organized labor, which does not know Obama nearly as well. Though by now a Washington insider, Biden fits the profile of the kind of voter Obama struggled to attract in his nomination battle against Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. He is a Roman Catholic with working-class roots in the hardscrabble industrial heartland.

"Biden's persona and political personality are in many ways the antithesis of Obama's. Obama speaks with soaring and often inspirational rhetoric; Biden may be windy, but he is also direct, blunt and plain-spoken. Obama may seem aloof; Biden is always in your face. Obama offers high-altitude passion; Biden's is ground-level. Biden proved during the primaries that he is a skilled debater -- another attribute that recommended him to Obama. Voters ultimately do not make their November decisions on the basis of running mates, but the vice presidential debate will be one moment when the choice matters.

"But the real debating Biden will be expected to do will be with McCain. As he made clear on Saturday, he and McCain are friends of long standing, and there is mutual respect between them. But that did not prevent him from leveling a series of attacks against McCain as a creature of President Bush's foreign and domestic policies and a senator of questionable judgment.

⁽¹⁰⁾ <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/23/AR2008082301891.html>

HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS AND HOW EASILY IT CAN BE BROKEN

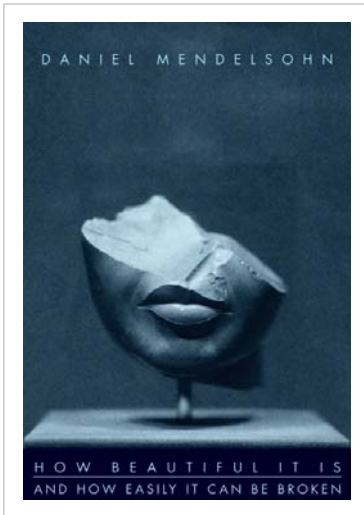
Author Daniel Mendelsohn

"Anyone who has read Daniel Mendelsohn's two previous books, *The Elusive Embrace* and *The Lost*, knows that he can be relied on not to serve up the received wisdom on any topic. Whether he is looking at gay identity - his own and the wider phenomenon - or the tragic history of his family in the Holocaust, Mendelsohn looks searchingly and fearlessly both into the subject and into himself. There is never a sense of deliberate contrariness or determination to be different simply for its own

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sake; what you get is genuine originality and, where necessary, iconoclasm that bear fruit in a fresh look at whatever is under discussion," describes [sfgate.com](http://www.sfgate.com)⁽¹¹⁾.

"These qualities are evident throughout his latest book, *How Beautiful It Is and How Easily It Can Be Broken*, a substantial collection of essays on plays, films, books, operas, literary controversies and other cultural topics. The title comes from the stage directions to Tennessee Williams' great play *The Glass Menagerie* - when you look at a piece of delicately spun glass you think of two things: how beautiful it is and how easily it can be broken. Both of these ideas should be woven into the recurring tune.

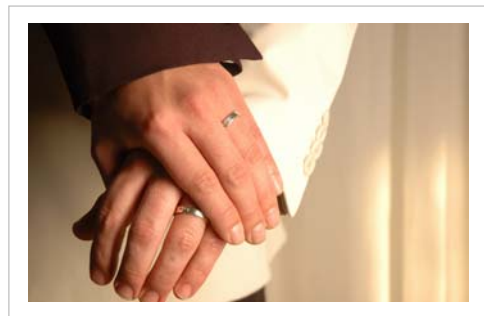
"The astringent beauties of the classical languages - the hard and unyielding grammars, the uncompromising demands of syntax and exigencies of meter, none of which admit of either shoddiness or approximation,' he writes, led him to 'develop a taste for a certain kind of rigor.' When he speaks of Greek or Roman writers, it is with the authority of a scholar. But he can yoke together Euripides and Williams to the benefit of both, and more breathtakingly still, without in any way cheapening or falsely aggrandizing either, 'Medea' and 'Desperate Housewives.' His sweep as a cultural critic is as impressive as his depth. And 'that certain type of rigor' is evident as he analyzes the movie *Brokeback Mountain*, acknowledging the universality of its message as he deplores that quality being used to obfuscate and diminish its gay specificity."

⁽¹¹⁾ <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/17/RVRO1232GV.DTL&feed=rss.books>

GROUP SEEKS RETURN OF MASSACHUSETTS OUT-OF-STATE GAY MARRIAGE BAN

365gay⁽¹²⁾ reports that, "A conservative group is attempting to force a ballot issue on the repeal of a law used to prevent out-of-state gays from marrying in the Bay State. Same-sex couples have been free to marry in Massachusetts since 2004, but only if they were residents of the state.

"Then-Gov. Mitt Romney (R) dusted off a 1913 law that said marriage licenses could not be issued to couples whose weddings would not be recognized in their home states, and threatened to charge local

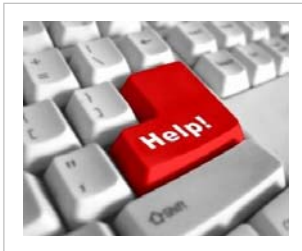


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clerks if they issued marriage licenses to out-of-state, same-sex couples. Last month, current Gov. Deval Patrick (D) signed legislation repealing the law. Mass Resistance spokesperson Brian Camenker told the Associated Press that lawmakers and Patrick bowed to the will of the 'gay lobby' by approving the repeal of the 1913 law.

"The repeal effort is considered unlikely to succeed. Patrick has a high approval rating and polls indicated most Massachusetts voters are comfortable with same-sex marriage. An attempt to put a measure on the ballot to ban same-sex marriage altogether in the state failed to win support in the legislature last year."

⁽¹²⁾ <http://www.365gay.com/news/group-seeks-return-of-mass-out-of-state-gay-marriage-ban/>



**** IMPORTANT FORUM ANNOUNCEMENT ~
SLOW-DOWNS ****

The forum is experiencing slow-down issues again and members are being asked to purge their PMs. **Please keep the number of PMs in your 'In' and 'Out' boxes combined at no more than a couple dozen PMs.**

The tech team asks that all members significantly reduce their number of PMs as soon as possible.

For instructions on how to save your PMs, click **HERE**⁽¹³⁾.

Thanks to everyone for helping with this effort.

⁽¹³⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=10125.msg1328734#msg1328734>

Forum Footnotes

TDS ON PDF

Click here for a copy of **TDS on PDF**⁽¹⁴⁾ - much thanks to andreavera for creating these for us.

⁽¹⁴⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/brokeback/PDF/>

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CANDLES LIT IN HIS HONOR

To light a candle for Heath, choose any unlit candle at **Gratefulness.org**⁽¹⁵⁾, then there are a series of screens that allow you to personalize the candle and leave a message if you choose. Each candle lasts 48 hours.

⁽¹⁵⁾ <http://www.gratefulness.org/candles/candles.cfm?l=eng&gi=heath>

FUN QUESTION OF THE WEEK

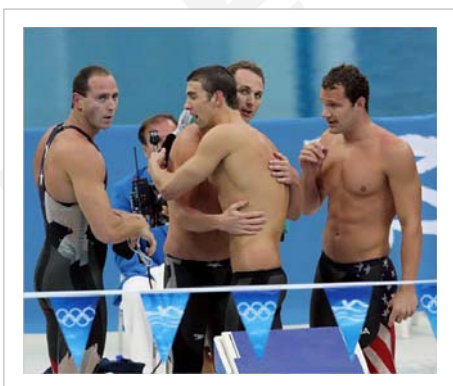
This week's Question: In the 1956 closing Olympic ceremonies, it was the first time athletes entered the stadium in in this fashion - how did they enter?

Let us know the answer on the **response thread**⁽¹⁶⁾.

Last Week: What do Jake Gyllenhaal and Dara Torres, the 41-year-old Olympic swimming phenom, have in common?

The answer: They both attended Harvard-Westlake School, as did Sally Ride and actors Shirley Temple, Candice Bergen and Maggie Gyllenhaal.

⁽¹⁶⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=8377.new#new>



Join the Discussion in the **Beijing Olympics - NO EARLY SPOILERS**⁽¹⁷⁾ thread where Rosewood posts in part:

"The Olympics, I think, gives us a chance to see and appreciate the real affection men can have for each other apart from sex and whatever else anyone cares to call it. Spur of the moment affection between men has always fascinated me, possibly because I'm not a man.

But in some way that I can't quite explain, I've always felt



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that affection between men is different from affection between women. Men in sport usually appear to be in a another world at the moment of their displays of affection. Spontaneous and caught up in the emotions of the moment, they block out anyone else. Know what I mean? This is a world that women just cannot comprehend or be a part of. Not even women athletes.

I'm a sports fan, so I watch baseball, football and whatnot when I can. And it's hit me that in this, as well as probably other Olympics, displays of affection between men have been carefully edited. Just today I watched two of the Serbian water polo players clutch each other's heads in defeat, face to face, and the camera quickly cut away. I've noticed this other times as well. They've tried hard to edit out even the hint that two men might actually be caught up in the moment and display - what? A kiss? A too close hug? A moment of real human affection? God forbid."

⁽¹⁷⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=30835.msg1392236;topicseen#msg1392236>

FROM PHOTO CAPTIONING FUN 3

By royandronnie

The REAL reason they never went back to Brokeback:



"Damn RV campers! This place has gone to hell in a handbasket since '63!"

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well."

~ Pierre de Coubertin (founder of modern Olympic Games) ~

Contributors: KittyHawk, Killersmom, BrokenOkie, BayCityJohn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you have ideas about initiating a gathering, go to **Start Your Own Threads** and get the ball rolling to plan a get-together near you.

A WEEKEND IN SWEDEN October 3-5, 2008

<http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=30527.0>

4TH ANNUAL BROKIE REUNION - ARIZONA SPRING FLING

April 17-19, 2009

<http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=29613.0>

Let us know of any events you'd like listed here.

The Daily Sheet is a production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum at
www.davecullen.com/forum

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We count on you to send us your news items, questions, and nominations for posts of the day.

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