



CATHY CARR WEST

On a September, 1972 afternoon in Munich, Germany, Cathy Carr West won not one but two Olympic Gold Medals, setting not one but two world swim records.

Cathy not only is the Duke City's first Olympic Gold Medalist to be selected, but is also the second woman to be inducted into the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame.

The 1972 Highland High graduate and daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Carr, MD, became the instant darling of Albuquerque and New Mexico in the '72 Olympics when she set a new world's mark in the 100-meter breaststroke (1:13.58) to cop her first 'gold' and then came back to swim in the breaststroke in the 400-meter medley relay for the U.S., as the quartet established another world's mark (4:20.0) enroute to another 'gold' in what writers say was one of the greatest days in U.S. aquatic history.

Mrs. West's career started in the 9th grade at Highland, with her first headline coming two years later when she was named 1970 N.M. AAU Athlete of the Year after being world-ranked in the 100-meter breaststroke, and repeated her world ranking in 1971.

In 1972 at the Trials in Chicago, Cathy set an Olympic record in the 100-meter breaststroke, copped a fourth in the 200-meter and qualified for the trip to Munich, and after her gold-plated performances at the Olympics returned to enroll at UNM.

In 1972 she was named N.M. AAU Athlete of the Year and became a member of the National AAU All-American swim team. Six months later she was named "Co-Athlete of the Year" at the initial banquet of the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame. Also, in 1973 she was ranked No.1 in the entire world in the 100-meter breaststroke, No. 4 in the world in the 200-meter breaststroke and No. 12 in the 200-meter individual medley.

In 1973 she was named captain of the U.S. Women's Swim Team for the World University Games at Moscow and was selected the U.S. flag bearer for the opening ceremonies.

Cathy, who married U of Cal-Davis mathematics instructor Richard West in 1976, transferred to Cal-Davis in 1974, and continued her aquatic career in both Pacific Coast Conference and ALAW competition. Mrs. West, who is still world ranked among the top ten in the 100-meter breaststroke is currently a substitute teacher at Cal-Davis.