

The most decorated Olympian is coming out of retirement, the first step toward possibly swimming at the 2016 Rio Games

■ Born: June 30, 1985 Birthplace: Baltimore, Maryland

- Career: 39 world records since 2001 – more than any other swimmer. Tally of 57 gold, 11 silver, and 3 bronze medals across Olympic, World and Pan Pacific Championships
- 2004: Wins six gold and two bronze medals at Athens Olympics
- 2008: Wins eight golds at Beijing Games record number at single Olympics. Sets seven world records
- **2009-11:** Captures total of 13 world championship medals, including five golds in Rome (2009) and four golds in Shanghai (2011)
- 2012: Quits after winning 18th Olympic gold at London Games
- Apr 24-26, 2014: Phelps returns to competitive swimming at Arena Grand Prix in Mesa, Arizona

Picture: Getty Images

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