

# Phelps breaks 2,168-year-old record

With his 13th individual gold medal Michael Phelps has surpassed the record of Leonidas, a runner who competed in the ancient Olympic Games and the only other Olympic athlete to have won 12 solo titles



**Michael Phelps  
of Baltimore**

**2004**

Seals first gold in 400m individual medley (IM). Wins three more solo crowns

**2008**

Five individual golds in freestyle, butterfly, and 200m and 400m IM

**2012**

Wins 100m butterfly and 200m IM before announcing retirement

**2016**

Back in the pool in Rio, with three chances to set all-time record

Sources: IOC, Wire agencies



**Leonidas  
of Rhodes**

**164BCE**

Wins three separate foot races, **stadion**, **diaulos**, and **hoplitodromos**, for first time

**160BCE**

Stadion and diaulos, roughly 200-yard and 400-yard sprints, favour his speed

**156BCE**

Hoplitodromos, performed wearing armour and shield, requires strength and endurance

**152BCE**

Pausanias writes: "*Leonidas, the most famous runner, maintained his speed at its prime for four Olympiads*"

Pictures: Getty Images, Newscom

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