

Iguder and Kenya's Thomas Pkemei Longosiwa. There was a time when Farah would have been swallowed up by men such as these, but not now. The Briton pressed harder on the accelerator and found more speed, his face showing his effort and sheer desperation to get to the finish line first. The nearer it came, the less serious their gold medal challenge appeared.

Even before he crossed the line, to a standing ovation from the Stadium crowd, Farah's unforgettable celebrations had begun. His hands first crossed and then stretched wide as his mouth opened and the reality hit home. He had run the last mile in four minutes and the last lap in 52.94 seconds, contributing to an overall time of 13:41.66. Ethiopian Dejen Gebremeskel took silver with 13:41.98 and Longosiwa of Kenya bronze with 13:42.36.



**Left:** Determination. Mo Farah runs through the pain on his way to winning his second gold medal of the London 2012 Olympic Games in the 5,000m final.

### 110m Hurdles gold falls to USA

Top-ranked American Aries Merritt won the 110m Hurdles in what was a competition littered with injuries and falls. Among the casualties were the Chinese superstar and Athens 2004 champion Xiang Lui, who succumbed to an Achilles tendon injury just as he had done at Beijing 2008. The final also saw world record holder Dayron Robles pull up injured.

'The greatest feat in the history of British athletics.'

Brendan Foster, 10,000m Olympic bronze medallist at Montreal 1976, acknowledges the scale of Mo Farah's achievement

One day like this. Mo Farah's face says it all as he completes an historic double to win the men's Olympic 5,000m ahead of Dejen Gebremeskel of Ethiopia and Thomas Longosiwa of Kenya on the final night of track action in the Olympic Stadium.



missed a collective heartbeat as Hoy seemed momentarily to be under pressure. He never lost control, however, skilfully judging power and pace to edge away and take the Olympic title with a remarkable time of 10.306. Maximilian Levy of Germany won silver, and bronze medals were awarded to both Dutch veteran Teun Mulder and Simon Van Velthooven of New Zealand, who finished equal third.

Then came the celebrations for the nice guy of British sport, a consistently modest and admirable ambassador for cycling. He rode off the Olympic track for the final time through a guard of honour of his coaching staff as the world's elite cyclists applauded and cheered. The moment was shared by Hoy's mother, who had hidden her face in her hands for most of the race, and father, who unfurled the familiar family flag proclaiming 'Chris Hoy – The Real McHoy'. Thousands of fans in the Velodrome, as well as those watching on the big screen in the Olympic Park and on television at

**Below:** Applying the burners. Cycling icon Chris Hoy crosses the line first in the Keirin on the final day of Track Cycling in the Velodrome.

**Below right:** Welcome to the Pleasuredome. Chris Hoy celebrates an emotional victory in the Keirin and his sixth gold medal at the Olympic Games, a record for a British athlete.

home, shared the emotion as Hoy shed tears during the National Anthem.

Yet it was not the final farewell to Hoy. The 36-year-old Scot thanked his wife and family, backroom coaching staff and fans, confirming that this was the finale to his Olympic career. He would, however, aim to retire from competition at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in two years time.

**'I'm in shock. This is surreal. It is what I always wanted – to win gold in front of my home crowd. This is the perfect end to my Olympic career.'**

**Sir Chris Hoy, gold medallist in the Keirin and Team Sprint**



# Wheelchair Rugby



Catch me if you can. Australia's Wheelchair Rugby star Ryley Batt dodges the advancing Canadian side during their gold medal match. Batt was named Man of the Match at the end of the final.

## Classification

Every player is assigned a point value – there are seven classes, from 0.5 to 3.5 – based on their physical function. The lower the number, the more severe the impairment. The total for the four players on the court at any time must not exceed 8; for each female player a team fields on court, the points maximum increases by 0.5.



**'This has been a huge competition for Wheelchair Rugby. I played at Sydney 2000 and it has become hugely popular since. It has possibly even bypassed Wheelchair Basketball now.'**

**Brad Dubberley, Coach of the gold medal-winning Australian Wheelchair Rugby team**

## Batt stars as Australia take Wheelchair Rugby gold

The eagerly anticipated Wheelchair Rugby final saw an impressive performance by Ryley Batt secure the gold medal for Australia, who defeated Canada 66–51. The 23-year-old, named Man of the Match after the final on the last day of the Paralympic Games, ended the competition having scored a remarkable 161 points in the five matches he played.

The sport, originally called murderball and well known for its crashes and spills, did not disappoint at London 2012, attracting sell-out crowds to the Basketball Arena. However, the Paralympic Games matches proved that there was more to the game than that, with the crowds also coming to appreciate the level of skill involved.

Batt, from Port Macquarie in New South Wales, opened the scoring after only 30 seconds. He led from the front as Australia scored freely and displayed a defensive capability that stopped Canada doing the same. Numerous times Batt made his presence felt with defensive blocks and interceptions, as well as feeding telling passes to teammates Chris Bond and Naz Erdem. His speed on the court was often dazzling, as was his ability to spin on a sixpence to avoid trouble and so thwart Canada's attempts to find a way through.

Australia piled on the points through the second quarter as Canada, bronze medallists at Beijing 2008 and the team responsible for putting the USA, the defending champions, out of the final, found Batt too hot to handle.