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Katie Ledecky: Unbeatable in Budapest as well?

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No wonder that Katie Ledecky chose a sport related to water when she was a young girl: her uncle, Jon Ledecky was a big ice hockey fan and became owner of four-time Stanley Cup winner New York Islanders, but the little Katie preferred 'real, liquid' water to ice, becoming a swimmer just as her brother and her mother.

She proved to be, however, much more talented than her relatives, and after winning plenty of youth trophies, she broke a couple of American records during her high school career. In 2012 at age 15 she made the Olympic team by placing first in the 800-meter freestyle with a time of 8:19.78, which was over two seconds ahead of second-place finisher, five-time world champion Kate Ziegler.

'I knew if I put my mind to it, I could do it. I wasn't intimidated at all.' - she said after the Olympic Trials in Omaha. At 15 years, 4 months, and 10 days, she was the youngest American participant at the 2012 Olympic Games.

In London Ledecky won by 4.13 seconds in the final of the 800-meter freestyle, and just missed the world record by 0.53 seconds. Her gold was the first international medal of her career, earning her the 2012 Best Female Performance of the Year and Breakout Performer of the Year at the Golden Goggle Awards. In addition, she broke Janet Evans' American record of 8:16.22 that had stood since 1989.

Ledecky, who turns 20 this March, has almost been unbeatable since then. At age 16 she was a top favourite at the 2013 FINA World Championships, and won four gold medals (400, 800, 1500 m freestyle and 4x200 m freestyle) with two world records in addition. Two years

later in Kazan she performed even better, adding the gold medal of the 200 m freestyle to her tally and breaking three more world records. She became the first female swimmer to win four individual gold medals at a single edition of the long course World Championships.

At the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro she became the most successful US female athlete in any sport at a single Games by winning four gold and one silver medal.

Ledecky has got 33 different honors and awards in total, and she can be one of the biggest stars of the women's swimming events at the 2017 FINA World Championships, too.

KATIE LEDECKY

Born: Washington D.C.(USA), March 17, 1997

Medal record:

5-time Olympic champion (2012 London, 800 m freestyle; 2016 Rio de Janeiro, 200, 400 and 800 m freestyle, 4x200 m freestyle); Olympic silver medallist (2016 Rio de Janeiro, 4x100m freestyle)

9-time world champion (2013 Barcelona, 400, 800, 1500 m freestyle, 4x200 m freestyle; 2015 Kazan 200, 400, 800, 1500 m freestyle, 4x200 m freestyle)

5-time Pan Pacific champion (2014 Gold Coast, 200, 400, 800, 1500 m freestyle, 4x200 m freestyle)