

## GUAYAQUIL 1982

After the triumph of Enzo's Berazot guys at the Spanish Soccer Championships the Italian Sport begins to feel an euphoric climate. Only 18 days after the Fourth FINA World Championships begin in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and will end the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. But unfortunately the Ecuadorian Championships will be the worse for the Italian Team: only one bronze medal won by Giovanni Franceschi in the 200 m medley and only two in the finals. The water polo "Settebello", first up to that moment is stroked out at the first game and arrives only in 9<sup>th</sup> position. The attending nations are 52 for a total of 848 athletes. Two of them will have the glory, honors and gold medals: the German 18 years old Michael Gross, born in Frankfurt nicknamed "*the Albatross*" for his wide arms opening. Michael won 2 gold medals one in 200 m freestyle the other for the 200 m butterfly, one silver medal for the 100 m butterfly and two bronze medals for the 4x200 m freestyle and the other for the 4x100 medley. The other wonder boy has been the American Greg Louganis, 22 years old from San Diego, one of the greatest divers in history. Greg was already gold medalist in Berlin for the 10 m diving, but now he competes with both disciplines, from the 3 m platform and from the 10 m platform, winning over all. For twelve years, from the 1976 to the 1988, Greg Louganis remains the best diver gaining 4 gold medals at the Olympics and five at the Championships. His victories contributed in leading the USA as most medaled nation, followed by East Germany and the Soviet Union.