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Dan Hicks and Rowdy Gaines

NBC Broadcast Call of Jason Lezak's Olympic 4x.100 Freestyle Relay

The Split



Broadcast 11 August 2008 on NBC from Beijing, China

AUTHENTICITY CERTIFIED: Text version below transcribed directly from audio

Dan Hicks: France has taken the lead up there in lane 5 over the United States. Alain Bernard awaits as the anchor guy. And Jason Lezak is going to have to make up some ground on Alain Bernard, who stands six-feet-five [6'5"] and can absolutely fly.



Rowdy Gaines: I just don't think they can do it, Dan. I mean, Jason Lezak has been there. How many times in his career has he anchored this free relay and [the] medley relay? But I just don't think he can do it. He's trying to ride that wave as much as possible....



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Hicks: Bernard is pulling away from him.

Gaines: Look at the world record line.

Hicks: Lezak, a three time Olympian -- the world record is just absolutely going to be shattered here. The United States is trying to hang on to second. They should get the silver medal. Australia is in bronze territory right now --



Hicks: But Lezak is closing a little bit on Bernard! Can the veteran chase him down and pull off a shocker here?!

Gaines: Well there's no doubt that he's tightening it up!

Hicks: Bernard is losing some ground!!



Hicks: Here comes Lezak!!! UNBELIEVABLE AT THE END! HE'S DONE IT! THE U.S. HAS DONE IT!



Gaines: HE DID IT!

Hicks: A new world record!

Gaines: HE DID IT! HE DID IT!

Gaines: Phelps's hopes alive! 46.06 split for Lezak! What a clutch, fast swim when they needed it! Who's talkin' now?¹ [camera pans French team] Stunned!!

Gaines: I think they need to use another word, other than "smash." Wow! That might be the most incredible relay split I've ever seen in my entire life. 46 flat! Not only was that the fastest in history -- it BLEW AWAY the fastest in history.

¹In a news conference prior to the start of the Games, Bernard stated: "The Americans? We're [the French team] going to SMASH them. That's what we came here for." [emphasis added]