Michael Phelps celebrates his win by 0.01 seconds over Serbia's Milorad Cavic in the 100-meter butterfly.

**Phelps flies into history**

That's all Phelps needed. He didn't have to be the fastest. Just first.

Phelps swam into history with a magnificent finish Saturday, tying with Mark Spitz with his seventh gold medal by the narrowest of margins in the 100-meter butterfly.

He got his hands on the wall a hundredth of a second ahead of Cavic — a finish so close the Serbians filed a protest and swimming's governing body had to review the tape down to the 10,000th of a second.

"I was starting to hurt a little but with probably the last 10 meters," Phelps said. "That was my last individual race, so I was just trying to finish as strong as I could." Phelps' time was 50.58 seconds; the only time in these Olympics that he won an event without breaking the world record.

Not to worry. The 23-year-old from Baltimore has now pulled even with the greatest of Olympic records, matching Spitz's performance in the 1972 Munich Games. "One word: epic," Spitz told The Associated Press from Detroit. "It goes to show you that not only is this guy the greatest swimmer of all time and the greatest Olympian of all time, he's maybe the greatest athlete of all time. He's the greatest racer who ever walked the planet."

Call it the Great Stall of China — and it's not done yet.

Phelps will return on Sunday to swim in his final event of these games, taking the butterfly leg of the 400-meter medley relay. The Americans will be heavily favored to give him his eighth gold, leaving Spitz behind.

Phelps slipped his hands on the water and let out a scream after the astounding finish. The crowd at the Water Cube

**Yankees designate Sexson for assignment**

Praise graduate cut for second time this season

The Associated Press

For the second time in about a month, Richie Sexson finds himself without a job in baseball.

In a mini-shakeup Friday, the New York Yankees designated the backup first baseman for assignment.

Sexson, a graduate of Prairie High School, was released by the Seattle Mariners on July 10 after 3½ largely frustrating seasons with the club.

Sexson hit .218 with 11 home runs and 30 RBI for Seattle this season.

He signed with the Yankees on July 18 and went 7 for 28 (250) with a grand slam and six RBI for the Yankees.

"I believe Richie still has good baseball in him. But I believe Richie's an everyday player and I think it was tough what we were asking him to do," Girardi said.

The team also sent outfielder Melky Cabrera to Triple-A.

To replace Sexson and Cabrera, the Yankees recalled outfielder Brett Gardner and shortstop Cody Ransom from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. They also placed pitcher Dan Gieno on the disabled list.

**Bumpus up the depth chart**

Injuries open door for ex-Washington State receiver

By DANNY O'NEIL

KIRKLAND — Michael Bumpus

Bumpus up the depth chart

"He's opened some eyes," said Keith Gilbertson, Seattle's wide receivers coach. "He's in the competition.

No one needs to tell Bumpus his mother Ronnie. She may be two states away in Culver City, Calif., but she's followed him through every step of his football journey.

"I think he's going to be a really good player," she said. "I know he can play well.

"I'm a little scared," she added, "because I know they're playing in the NFL."
**MOTOR SPORTS**

**NASCAR SPRINT CUP 3M PERFORMANCE 400**

After Friday qualifying; race Sunday At Miller Motor Sports Park Brooklyn, Mich.

**Lap length:** 2 miles

[Entries in parentheses]


**Friday Qualifying Results**


**Saturday Results**


**Pole Award**

* (1) Tony Stewart

**NOTE:**

**Tuesday's Fastest**


**Saturday Qualifying Results**


**Pole Award**

* (1) Tony Stewart

**NOTE:**

**Saturday's Fastest**