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Elmslie's resolve sees her reach new heights

Pre-Olympic 'hiccups' just spur champion to get gold

SWIMMING: Brittany Elmslie was forced to rediscover her passion for the sport just six weeks out from the London Olympics, her coach has revealed.

Nudgee Brothers Swim club head coach Matt Brown says the Noosa product was pushed to her limits and tempers were frayed during an intense build-up to her debut Games appearance.

However, he gave credit to her ability to compose herself and earn three medals, including gold in the 4x100m freestyle relay.

The 18-year-old was further rewarded on Saturday night, for her breakout 2012 when she was named Discovery of the Year at the Swimming Australia awards dinner.

The 4x100m freestyle team, which also featured fellow Sunshine Coasters Melanie Schlienger, and Alieta Coutts and Cate Campbell, was named winner of Golden Moment of the Year.

Since moving from the Coast to Brisbane to train under Brown almost two years ago, Elmslie has gone from age group champion to an international-level performer.

"Resolve" is a word which frequently comes up when speaking to Brown about Elmslie.

He says she rediscovered it when she first came under his tutelage. He also uses it when describing her performance in London when she thrived under pressure to swim the third leg of the 4x100m freestyle relay and help the Australians earn their only pool gold of the Games.

However, he says there were moments when she was pushed to her threshold and forced to reassess her desire to be an international champion.

"The thing about Brit is she knows who she is and what she wants," Brown said.

"I'll ask her to do something she'll know it's for her own good and she'll go away and do it. She may not like it but she'll know it's in her best interests.

"She's really matured in that area. We had a few hiccups six weeks before the Games.

"But she soon realised where we were going. She tucked the boxes. She wasn't happy but she realised I'm her biggest fan."



RETURNING HOME: Olympic gold medalist, and former Good Shepherd student Brittany Elmslie, is a hit at her old school.

PHOTO: DARREN SMITH