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*Incorporating Olympic Communicators
Under licence from the Australian Olympic Committee*

Michael Milton OAM

Australia's Fastest Skier

Skiing was a big part of life before Michael Milton contracted bone cancer at the age of nine and had his left leg amputated. Returning to the snow just one year later, he adapted to one ski and two outriggers.

Michael first represented Australia at the 1988 Winter Games in Innsbruck but won his first gold medal in the slalom at the 1992 Games in Albertville -- Australia's first gold medal in Winter Olympic and Paralympic history. Won gold in the giant slalom, silver in the slalom and bronze in both the super-G and downhill at the 1994 Lillehammer Paralympics.

Michael retired after the 1996 world championships in Lech, where he won gold in the giant slalom, silver in the slalom, bronze in the super-G. Returned to competition in 2000, winning three gold and a silver at that year's world championships and carrying the torch in the opening ceremony of the Sydney Paralympics later that year.

He made history at the 2002 Winter Paralympics at Salt Lake City, winning four gold medals for Australia and becoming the first competitor in his amputee class to make a clean sweep of all eligible events. Michael triumphed in the downhill, the super-G, the giant slalom and slalom before being honoured at the Games' closing ceremony.

Michael was brought out on stage in the Olympic Medals Plaza and named as one of three athletes to be elected to the International Paralympic Committee's athletes' commission.

World Sportsperson of the Year with Disability at the The Laureus World Sports Awards in Monte Carlo, Monaco in May 2003 was one of his many career highlights.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ Prince Alfred Old Collegians Association Australian Open Speed Skiing Record of 213.65km/hr, April 2006.
- ◆ World Speed Skiing Record (for a skier with one leg) for four consecutive years 2003-2006.
- ◆ 2007 ACT Australian of the Year.
- ◆ First person with a disability to ski at over 200km/hr.
- ◆ Completed the Kokoda Track in PNG and hiked to the summit of Africa's highest mountain – Mt Kilimanjaro at 5895m.
- ◆ Australia's first winter gold medallist, Olympic or Paralympic, in 1992.
- ◆ Australian record, LC3 class, 3000m pursuit (track cycling).
- ◆ 2007 ACTAS scholarship holder (cycling).
- ◆ 2nd last torch bearer at the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney in front of 110,000 people.
- ◆ 11 Paralympic medals, inc 6 gold.
- ◆ A clean sweep of alpine events at the 2002 Paralympic Games – a record four gold medals and the culmination of a ten-year goal.
- ◆ 2002 Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability.
- ◆ Proud recipient of the 2004 Dawn Fraser Award at the annual Australian Sports Awards.

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As Michael says, *“I don’t like Words like ‘brave’, ‘courageous’, ‘inspirational’ and phrases like ‘overcoming obstacles’ in connection with my disability. Having one leg is not an obstacle – it’s no big deal, it’s just part of who I am. If I am inspirational to others, I hope it’s because of what I do and the fact that I’m not afraid to test my limits. For the record, I can open a door on my own.”*

Michael Milton is back in the race for Beijing after beating cancer a second time.

One of Australia’s most popular athletes, Milton was diagnosed in July 2007 with Oesophageal Cancer almost 25 years to the day since he was diagnosed with bone cancer as a nine-year-old. Milton had chemotherapy and radiotherapy followed by extensive surgery at the end of September.

Just four months later he competed in the Australian Track Cycling Championships, winning both the 1km Time Trial and the 3000m Pursuit. More remarkable than that, his times for both races matched those he set at the same event 12 months before.

Although he admits he’s an outside chance, Milton is focussed on qualifying for the Australian Paralympic Cycling Team that will compete in Beijing in September 2008. If he is selected, he will be one of a handful of athletes in the world to compete at both a summer and winter Paralympic or Olympic Games.

Michael’s new goals : Be well again. Stay well. Grow old. Put in a good performance at the Australian Track Champs. Qualify for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. Go speed skiing again... maybe in 2009.

Michael is Australia’s first Winter Paralympic medallist.

CLIENT COMMENTS:

“Michael’s presentation was fantastic. He has a great story to tell and does so with wit. His ‘matter of fact’ style was appreciated by our audience.”

“Excellent speaker, entertaining and inspiring with great humour.”

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