

Colin V. Coates

Colin Coates has a long and distinguished history in the sport of short track and speed skating. To this day, Colin is well respected and sought after by international skating members and the Olympic family.

His career began in 1959 when he started in short track. As a junior he won the Victorian and Australian Championships on three occasions, and also won a senior title as a junior. He won an Australian Senior Championship.

A dedicated athlete (and a bit of a larrikin), Coates was then selected to represent Australia at his first Olympic Winter Games in 1968 in Grenoble, France.

From the time he was selected to represent his country, he trained daily for months at St Moritz Ice Rink in St Kilda skating around 100 laps every morning before starting work as a plumber. In the afternoon he went cycling from his home in Elwood to Frankston and back. Weekends you could see him riding his bike to Portsea and back or to Lorne where he stayed the weekend and cycled back to Melbourne.

After competing at his first Olympic Winter Games, he was hooked on long track and pursued his skating career avidly, enduring many hardships in his pursuit of his goals. There were many successes throughout his skating career.

His last appearance was at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, Calgary, where he competed in the 10,000m setting a new Australian record 14.41:88. Controversial though his appearance may have been, it was a pinnacle of success for Colin, with a congratulatory cable from the then Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke stating "Congratulations – We're proud to be Australian, you have done Australia proud"

Colin Coates was the first person ever to compete at six consecutive Olympic Games. This in itself is inspirational. A precedent had been started - Olympic athletes are aspiring to attain that same achievement.

Colin was awarded the AOC Award of Merit in the mid 1970's.

Coaching

Completed courses in Norway, Holland, USA and Canada.

Australian Olympic coach for long track 1980, 1984, 1988.

Appointed Coach by South Australian Institute of Sport for speed skating from 1983 – 1989

Appointed by AAIRC to conduct Coaching Clinics Australia wide in 1976

Conducted Coaching Clinics in New Zealand.

Appointed speed skating coach for Canada in 1977 (position not taken up)

Appointed Team Manager/coach 2006 Australia – for World Short Track Speed Skating Championships USA

Appointed Coach speed skating French Team 2008.

Has coached Short Track in the Netherlands and Australia at World Championships, years 1978,79, 80, 81,83, Coach - Mike Richmond 500M World Short Track record, and to place in the top 10 at the Olympic Winter Games and World Championships.

Coach – Danny Kah to place in the top 10 at the Olympic Winter Games and World Championships

Results:

Olympic Winter Games Innsbruck Austria – 6th 10,000M, 8th 1500M, 10th 5,000M, 11th 1,000M, 25th 500M

World Championships All Round –Placing in the top 16 on 9 occasions, and finishing in fourth place twice.

Australian Championships – Australian Junior Champion 3 times. Australian Senior Champion

Colin was never beaten in any pursuit race (used for Australian selection) over 500M, 1000M, 1500M, 3000M or 5000M.

A remarkable athlete with the highest credentials and a very worthy candidate for the AIR Hall of Fame.