

# Margaret Holland

Behind any skater is a Coach or Mentor who has helped them achieve.

Behind any skater who has represented Australia there is a large group of people who are part of their success. Sport in some way is like an iceberg with the successful athlete visible to all, but beneath them are many people who make up the sport and have been instrumental in their achievements.

First it is all the skaters that they have raced and who have challenged them to skate faster. Second there is the administration that has provided the structure for them to progress through the different levels of the sport. Finally we have the Coach, the one person so close to the athlete that they stand in their shadow, not always seen but always there.

Whenever an athlete achieves there are so many reasons given for their success, they are talented, they are lucky, they trained hard, but rarely does anyone but the athlete realise a large part of their success is due to their Coach.

The Coach is there at all the training sessions, early in the morning, late at night. Long after training is finished they are still working looking to the next training session, the next race, for the training technique that will unlock the potential that they know exists in their athlete.

They are there in the good times and the bad, they celebrate the success and can feel responsible for the failures.

They have to be a teacher, a friend, a critic, a confidant, a training partner, and a Coach. They are rarely judged on their efforts but by the success of their athlete. If the athlete is successful then they stay in the shadow, if the athlete fails, then everyone wants to blame the Coach, who is suddenly visible to all. All the Coach can do at that moment to pick up their athlete put back the pieces that the loss has created and get them ready for the next competition.

The Coach and Athlete are well and truly part of a team.

Maggie Holland was a Melbourne skater who was trained by Colin Hickey along with Pam Cavanagh and Porcha Finnegan. She followed the skater's path and travelled to Europe for 2 years to skate Long Track in the early 70s.

Maggie came to Sydney in the late 70s and coached at Canterbury Ice Rink. Maggie became the National Short Track Coach in 1990 until 1996. During her tenure as National Coach the Men's 5000m Relay Team achieved:

1992 1st 5000m Relay World Championships Sydney Australia

1993 3rd 5000m Relay World Championships Beijing China

1994 3rd 5000m Relay Winter Olympic Game Lillehammer Norway (Australia's first Winter Olympic Medal)

1994 5000m Relay World Championships Guildford UK

Maggie has coached, Club Champions, State Champions, Australian Champions, Olympic Champions, she continues to coach today as the Sydney Arrows Coach.

Maggie is being inducted into the AIR Hall of Fame for being an integral part of the 5000m Men's Relay Team along with her lifelong commitment to Coaching.