

SARAH SAUVEY PROUD TO BE GREAT BRITAIN'S FIRST AND ONLY SKI CROSS OLYMPIAN



Ski Cross is making its debut Olympic appearance in Vancouver 2010, and Great Britain is going to be represented at the games by our top Ski Cross athlete Sarah Sauvey.

Ski Cross is a thrilling winter sport for athletes and spectators alike. Four athletes compete head to head in an elimination style format on a technically demanding downhill course consisting of man-made and natural rollers, jumps, "kickers", high banked turns, corner jumps, and tabletops at speeds in excess of 70 km/h. The trick is only the first two competitors to cross the finish line move on to the following round until the final heat determines the winner. Even though contact is frowned upon you can imagine things get quite heated out there on course. This combination of terrain and format are guaranteed to produce epic thrills and spills making ski cross the perfect spectator sport.

"I am so pleased to be representing GB at the Winter Olympics in this inaugural event. I am the only athlete to have made the Olympic Selection and whilst it's been incredibly hard work, my perseverance has paid off."

Sarah lives 6 months of the year in Europe. Fareham, Hampshire being her home when in the UK. Sarah also spends 6 months of the year in Melbourne, Australia, where she was born and she is studying a degree in Multimedia (Business Marketing). She also works 2 part time jobs. Sarah's parents are both English, her father John growing up in Plymouth and her mother Ann in Stanford-Le-Hope. Sarah's two eldest brothers Nicholas and Timothy, were born in Cambridge and shortly after Sarah's father John accepted a job in Melbourne where Sarah's other brother Sebastian and herself were born.

Sarah is an extremely persistent individual. She has overcome a serious medical problem resulting in major open vascular surgery in 2006 where she was cut from her sternum beyond her belly button, her arcuate ligament was incised and her nerve ganglion removed from her aorta. Sarah is a hard worker, motivating herself to train as well as working at a hospital for a number of years to get the money to pay to compete and train for ski cross. Sarah leaves home and her long term boyfriend Andrew for long seasons often spending huge amounts of time on her own on the road. Sarah had no support until October 2009 when TASS came on board with support, being that vital ingredient she needed to succeed, and Sarah was able to start working with a coach in December 2009 just months before the Olympic Games and after years of teaching herself.

"It feels such an honour to have earned a place at the Olympics for GB. I will always be the first ski cross athlete to have represented GB at the Olympic Games in Ski Cross and that feels pretty special, that can never be taken away from me, nor can anybody ever do it again. I am making my mark in history"

“I have worked towards this goal since I was twelve years old. I have had my fair share of things go wrong over the years, but each hurdle only makes the good seem even sweeter. It is hard to find the words to explain just how much it means to me, to know I will be competing in the 2010 Winter Olympics”

Sarah had a great result in Alpe D’Huez this season at the World Cup on the 14th January. Sarah qualified 27th placing herself right in the mix with the top girls, really showing her potential in the lead up to the Games. Sarah was named as a member of Team GB on the 27th January.

“This season has been the hardest 6 weeks of my life. The stress, the ups, the downs, the not knowing, the travel, the good competitions, the competitions where the stress could be seen in the way I skied, it was really a difficult time. We had back to back World Cup events from the end of December through to the 25th January to attain qualification for the 2010 Olympics and I am just so happy I have managed to get here.”

“Ski Cross is my passion, I have been skiing for 23 years, and competing in ski cross for 5, and it has all been towards the ultimate goal of Olympic representation. I love the adrenalin the sport produces, the competitiveness, the craziness and the friends I have made along the journey”

You will find more information, photos and video of Sarah on her website www.sarahsauvey.com

The best way to contact Sarah is by email as she is generally on the road. Phone and media interviews can then be arranged.

Email: sarahansauvey@yahoo.com.au

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Sarah competing in the World Cup Ski Cross in St Johann in Tirol, Austria 4th January 2010