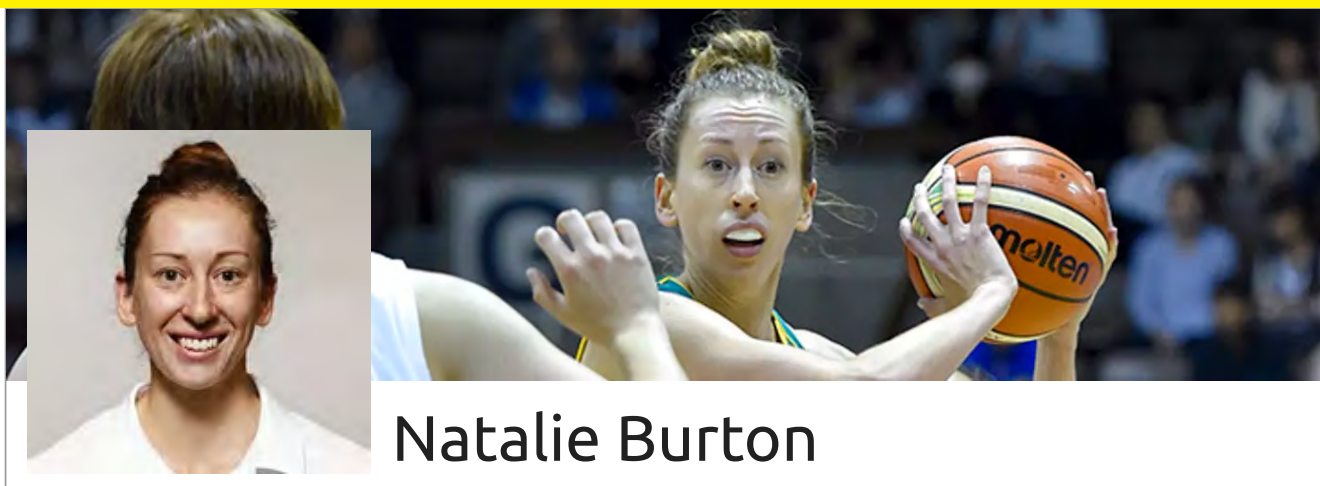




## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Natalie Burton

### Athlete Biography

27-year-old Nat Burton will get her chance to compete at her first Olympic Games at Rio. The 194cm centre has been a regular in the side since making her national team debut in 2013 and will be hoping to push her team to a historic gold.

Burton made the move to the US in 2008 where she joined West Virginia University in the Big East Conference. She played 31 games in her first season and after four years at the college would eventually finish with the second highest field goal percentage in school history.

She had some time away from the game before playing for the West Coast Waves in the 2012/13 WNBL season. Soon after she secured her first national team appearance and went on to win bronze at the 2013 Summer University Games.

Burton helped the team claim the 2013 Oceania Championship and won bronze with the team at the 2014 World Championships.

She joined the Melbourne Boomers for the 2014/15 season and currently plays for the Perth Lynx. She started in both of Australia's matches against New Zealand as they won the 2015 Oceania Championships to qualify for their ninth consecutive Olympic Games.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

### Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball  
**Event/s** Basketball Women  
**Age** 27

**Status** Selected  
**Height** 194

Patrick Mills

Erin Phillips

Laura Hodges

## Career Highlights

- Winning 2014 World Championships bronze
- Winning the Oceania Championships in 2013 & 2015
- Being selected to compete at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

## Education

- **Primary** Carine Senior High School (WA, Australia)
- **Secondary** West Virginia University (WV, USA)
- **Tertiary** Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Majoring in Finance - West Virginia University (2008-2012)

## Training

- **Primary Training Base** Perth

## Q&A

**Superstition/s** I always eat a banana before every game

**Favourite food** Roast Lamb

**Favourite holiday destination** Santorini

**Favourite music** All sorts

**Personal Motto** "Be kind, work hard, stay humble, smile often"

**Star Sign** Aries**I would spend my last \$10 on** Food! Specifically dessert**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Gymnastics**First Olympic Memory?** No distinct memory but I always remember sitting down as a family to watch swimming events and just being in awe of the athletes and feeling so nervous and excited for them**Most Influential person in your career/life** My parents and my sisters who stand by my side with smiles and support no matter what. I feel unstoppable when they are in the crowd watching me**Why this sport?** I've played basketball my whole life and I love it when everyone performs their role and backs their teammates up to help the team succeed



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



### Athlete Biography

Cambage made her national team debut against China at just 17 and ever since has become one of the side's most dominant players. She played for the WNBL's Dandenong Rangers and AIS before winning the MVP award as she led the Bulleen Boomers to the Championship title in the 2010-11 season.

She led the Australian side in scoring at the 2010 World Championships and was selected as the second pick in the 2011 WNBA Draft by the Tulsa Shock. She impressed in her rookie season making the WNBA All-Rookie Team.

Cambage made her Olympic debut at the London 2012 Games and was only behind Lauren Jackson in scoring after tallying 13.6 points along with 5.6 rebounds per game. She provided one of the highlights of the competition when she became the first woman to dunk in Olympic competition in Australia's bronze-medal clash with Russia in which they prevailed 83-74.

Having not returned to the WNBA following London she has since lined up for Chinese sides Zhejiang, Beijing and Shanghai. Cambage has dominated in the CBA averaging 30 points and 11 rebounds in her time there.

After limited time in the green and gold due to injuries, Cambage returned to the Australian side for a series of camps and pre-Games European tour in which she was one of the team's leading scorers and rebounders.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 203

**Age** 24

**Lives** Melbourne, VIC, Australia

**Status** Selected

**Nickname** Lizzie

**Weight** 98

**Born** London , England

## Olympic Information

- 2012 London - 3rd

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)

## Career Highlights

- Selected as the 2nd pick in the 2011 WNBA Draft by the Tulsa Shock.
- Winning bronze at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

## Education

- **Primary** St Macartans Primary School (VIC, Australia)
- **Secondary** Padua College (VIC, Australia)

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce (2013 - current)
- **Primary Training Base** Melbourne, Australia

## Q&A

**Favourite food** Everything

**Favourite holiday destination** Bali

**Favourite music** Hip Hop, R&B and House

**Dream car** A flying car

**Personal Motto** This too shall pass.

**Star Sign** Leo

**I would spend my last \$10 on** Food

**Tattoos/Piercings** "This too shall pass" on my ribs and wings on my ankles for the Greek God Hermes who looks after athletes and travelers

**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Swimming



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Cayla George

### Athlete Biography

Having first gotten her chance at the Australian Institute of Sport over a decade ago, 193 cm centre Cayla George will make her Olympic debut at Rio.

George took up a scholarship at the AIS in 2005 and in 2007 she won the WNBL Rookie of the Year award. She played in the Australian U21 side in 2006, and then at both the U19 and U21 World Championships in 2007. She was one of the side's best at the U21 event as she helped the side secure a silver medal. She made her senior team debut in 2008.

George played at the Summer University Games in 2011 before helping the Australian side to the 2011 Oceania Championships title that helped the team qualify for the London 2012 Games. She headed overseas in 2012 where she would play two seasons in France.

She returned to win the WNBL title with the Townsville Fire in the 2014/15 season before they went back-to-back in the 2015/16 season. Between these victories she headed to the Phoenix Mercury to get her first taste of WNBA competition.

George helped the side win the Rio 2016 test event earlier in the year and will be hoping to achieve similar success at her first Games.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

### Fast Facts

<b>Sport</b> Basketball	<b>Status</b> Selected
<b>Event/s</b> Basketball Women	<b>Height</b> 192
<b>Weight</b> 90	<b>Age</b> 27
<b>Born</b> Mount Barker, SA, Australia	<b>Lives</b> Townsville, QLD, Australia

## Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)
- 1st – 2016 WNBL Championships: Playing for Townsville Fire vs Perth Lynx (Townsville & Perth)
- 1st – Rio 2016 test event (Rio, Brazil)
- 1st – 2015 WNBL Championships: Playing for Townsville Fire vs Bendigo Spirit (Townsville & Bendigo)
- 3rd – 2014 World Championships (Turkey)

## Career Highlights

- Winning bronze at the 2014 World Championships
- Winning the WNBL Championship in 2015 and 2016 with the Townsville Fire
- Getting selected to compete at my first Olympic Games in Rio.

## Education

- **Primary** St Marks Lutheran Primary School (Mount Barker, SA) Reception-Year 6, Kedron State School (Kedron, QLD) Grade 6-7
- **Secondary** Cabra Dominican College (Adelaide, SA) Year 8- Year 11, Lake Ginnenderra College (Belconnen, ACT) Year 12

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce (2013 - current)
- **Club** Townsville Fire (WNBL), Australia
- **Institute/Academy** AIS



- **Primary Training Base** Townsville, Australia
  - **Secondary Training Base** Canberra, Australia
- 

## Q&A

**Favourite food** Chocolate

**Favourite holiday destination** Fiji

**Favourite music** Hip hop, RnB, Soul, Reggae, Pop

**Dream car** Black Range Rover

**Personal Motto** You couldn't climb the mountain if it were smooth!

**Star Sign** Taurus

**Tattoos/Piercings** Ears Pierced Tattoo on right foot (sister's names) Tattoo on left upper leg (Bible Scripture)

**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Beach Volleyball

**Most Inspiring Olympic Performance?** Cathy Freeman Gold Medal (Sydney 2000)

**Most Influential person in your career/life** Mum

**Why this sport?** Being tall helps and I enjoy the game.

---



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Laura Hodges

### Athlete Biography

After competing in the Athens 2004, Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Games, Laura Hodges is off to her fourth straight Olympic Games at Rio as she looks to join Lauren Jackson and Kristi Harrower as Australia's only four-time Olympic basketball medallists.

Having won the WNBL Rookie of the Year award in 2001 and represented Australia at Junior World Championship level, Hodges competed for the national side at the 2002 World Championships where they finished with the bronze medal.

She won her first Olympic silver medal in Athens in 2004 and signed her first overseas contract to play for the Connecticut Sun in the WNBA in 2005 having played in the WNBL since 1999. She played for three seasons in the WNBA.

Hodges won both Commonwealth Games and World Championship gold in 2006 in what was one of the most successful years for the Australian side before going on to win another Olympic silver medal in 2008. She played her first season in Italy in 2006 and would line up for Taranto, Parma and Bracco Geas in a six year stint that finished up just before the London 2012 Games.

Hodges added a bronze to her swag of Olympic medals in London. She has since played for the Adelaide Lightning where she earned WNBL All-Star Five selection in 2013. Hodges will bring a wealth of experience to the Australian side as they go in search of their first gold Olympic gold medal in Rio.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 189

**Age** 32

**Lives** Adelaide, SA, Australia

**Status** Selected

**Nickname** Laurs

**Weight** 78

**Born** Adelaide, SA, Australia

## Olympic Information

- 2012 London - 3rd (basketball) 2008 Beijing – 2nd (basketball) 2004 Athens – 2nd (basketball)

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)
- 1st – 2015 Oceania Championships (Melbourne & Tauranga, New Zealand)
- 3rd – 2014 World Championships (Turkey)
- 1st – 2013 Oceania Championships (Canberra & Auckland, New Zealand)

## Career Highlights

- Becoming World Champions with the Opals at the 2006 Worlds in Brazil
- Winning a silver medal with the Opals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics
- Winning a Silver Medal with the Opals at the 2004 Athens Olympics

## Education

- **Primary** Clapham Primary School (SA, Australia)
- **Secondary** Urrbrae Agricultural High School (SA, Australia)

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce (2013 - current)
- **Club** Tango Bourges Basket, Bourges, France
- **Institute/Academy** Centre of Excellence, Basketball Australia

- **Primary Training Base** Bourges, France
- **Secondary Training Base** Adelaide, Australia

## Q&A

**Superstition/s** Always need to brush my teeth just before I go to my games. Not very exciting but it certainly has become routine now.

**Favourite food** Cadbury Chocolate

**Favourite holiday destination** Lizard Island, North Queensland, Australia

**Favourite music** Most Top 40 Pop songs of the time.. But hard to go past Johnny Farnham

**Dream car** Audi SQ5

**Personal Motto** I believe my greatest asset is not my physical ability but my mental strength.

**Star Sign** Sagittarius

**I would spend my last \$10 on** Cadbury Chocolate

**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Swimming

**Most Inspiring Olympic Performance?** Cathy Freeman winning the 400m gold medal at the Sydney 2000 Games.

**First Olympic Memory?** The Awesome Foursome winning gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics

**Most Influential person in your career/life** It is too hard to pick one particular person so I will have to say my family because they always encouraged me as a child to try new things.

**Why this sport?** My sisters started to play basketball and I always wanted to do what they did so I followed in their footsteps.



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Rachel Jarry

### Athlete Biography

A rapid rise through the ranks saw Rachel Jarry get the chance to live out her Olympic dream at the London Games where she helped the team secure bronze. She'll get her chance to help Australia win their first ever basketball Olympic gold medal at Rio.

Recognising Jarry's talent as a youngster, the Australian Institute of Sport signed her up at the end of 2007 at the age of 15. She averaged over 11 points and 5 rebounds in her debut season for the AIS team in the WNBL.

She moved to the Bulleen Boomers and after two years with the club announced herself as one of the leading players in the nation. In the space of 12 months, the Melbourne native helped the Boomers win the 2011 grand final, debuted for the senior national team and went 18th overall in the WNBA draft to the Atlanta Dream before being traded to the Minnesota Lynx.

She scored 4.2 points and grabbed 2.8 rebounds a game in a little over 16 minutes a game at the London 2012 Games. The following year she made her WNBA debut for the Lynx who went on to become 2013 WNBA Champions before she impressed at the 2014 World Cup as Australia's fourth highest scorer as the side finished with bronze.

After six years with Bulleen she signed with the South East Queensland Stars in 2015. She averaged 14.2 points and 5.8 rebounds across the 26 match 2015/16 season as the Stars bowed out in the second round of the finals. Jarry got a taste of what the 2016 Games will be like in August after she helped Australia win the Rio test event.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 187

**Age** 24

**Lives** Melbourne, VIC, Australia

**Status** Selected

**Nickname** Jaffa

**Weight** 77

**Born** Melbourne, VIC, Australia

## Olympic Information

- 2012 London - 3rd

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)
- 1st – Rio 2016 test event (Rio, Brazil)
- 1st – 2015 Oceania Championships (Melbourne & Tauranga, New Zealand)
- 3rd – 2014 World Championships (Turkey)
- 1st – 2013 Oceania Championships (Canberra & Auckland, New Zealand)

## Career Highlights

- Winning bronze at the London 2012 Olympic Games.
- Winning bronze at the 2014 World Championships.
- Competing at the 2013 WNBA Championships.

## Education

- **Primary** Wembley Primary School (VIC, Australia)
- **Secondary** Williamstown High School (VIC, Australia)
- **Tertiary** Bachelor of Sports Coaching & Sports Management - Australian College of Physical Education (2015 - current)

## Training

- **Club** Basket Lattes, France

## Q&A

**Favourite food** Mexican

**Favourite holiday destination** Tawonga

**Favourite music** RnB

**Personal Motto** Perfect practice makes perfect

**Star Sign** Sagittarius

**I would spend my last \$10 on** Chocolate

**Tattoos/Piercings** I'm a clean skin

**First Olympic Memory?** Watching the Australian women's basketball team win their first medal at the Atlanta Olympics

**Most Influential person in your career/life** Parents



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Tessa Lavey

### Athlete Biography

Born and raised in Swan Hill, Lavey began playing basketball when she was eight before given a scholarship at the AIS in 2009 where she played her first three seasons in the WNBL.

After a season with the Canberra Capitals and two with the Bendigo Spirit, where she won the WNBL Championship with in 2014, she moved on to current side the Perth Lynx.

Lavey was named the inaugural captain of the Lynx side and enjoyed her best season to date in 2015-16. Lavey scored just over 10 points to go with three assists and three rebounds as she led her side to the grand final series which they went on to lose to the Townsville Fire.

She made her international debut at the 2014 World Championships where was a solid back up to the side's more experienced point guards as the Australian side won bronze.

The 5'8' speedster was one of Australia's finest as they won the 2015 Oceania Championships to qualify for the Rio Olympic Games. Starting for the side, Lavey averaged 8.5 points, 8 rebounds and 6 assists across the two matches.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

### Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Status** Selected



**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 172

**Age** 23

**Born** Swan Hill, WA, Australia

**Lives** Perth, WA, Australia

## Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)
- 1st – Rio 2016 test event (Rio, Brazil)
- 1st – 2015 Oceania Championships (Melbourne & Tauranga, New Zealand)
- 3rd – 2014 World Championships (Turkey)



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Leilani Mitchell

### Athlete Biography

Born to an Australian mother and an American father, Leilani Mitchell was born and raised in the US. After playing her first game in the WNBL in 2013 she became an Australian citizen in 2014 and is now heading to her first Olympic Games at Rio.

Following a strong college career which saw her play for the University of Idaho and the University of Utah the 5"5' point guard was selected as the 25th pick of the 2008 WNBA draft by Phoenix. Days later she was traded to the New York Liberty whom which she played with up until 2013, winning the WNBA's Most Improved Player of the Year award in 2010.

Having also had stints in France and Croatia, Mitchell headed to Australia in 2013 to play for the Dandenong Rangers and have the opportunity to get her Australian citizenship. She first lined up for the Australian side in 2014 and later that year would help the team claim World Championship bronze.

She has since lined up for the Sydney Uni Flames and the Adelaide Lightning while also currently playing for the Phoenix Mercury. She was recognised as the WNBL's best point guard in both 2014 and 2016 after being selected in the All-Star five.

Mitchell has become an integral part of the success of the national team proving her worth at both the Rio 2016 test event and pre-Games European tour.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 165

**Age** 31

**Lives** Newcastle, NSW, Australia

**Status** Selected

**Nickname** Lei

**Weight** 60

**Born** Richland, United States

David Andersen

Matthew Dellavedova

Cayla George

## Career Highlights

- Being selected to play for Australia at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
- Winning bronze with Australia at the 2014 World Championships.

## Education

- **Primary** Kennewick High School- WA, USA
- **Tertiary** University of Utah - Human Development and Family Studies

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce (2014 - current)
- **Club** Adelaide Lightning (WNBL) Australia
- **Primary Training Base** Adelaide, Australia
- **Secondary Training Base** Phoenix, USA



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



Erin Phillips

### Athlete Biography

One of the last players cut from the London 2012 squad, Erin Phillips will get another chance to help Australia to claim a historic gold medal at Rio after winning silver with the team at the Beijing Games.

Having made her national debut at just 19, Phillips soon broke into the Australian senior team where she was a part of the side's that won World Championship and Commonwealth Games gold in 2006. In the same year she played her first season in the WNBA with the Connecticut Sun.

After winning Beijing silver, the 5"8 guard headed to Europe playing in Israel and Poland, where she won three straight titles between 2010-12. She began playing for the Indian Fever with whom she won a WNBA title with in 2012.

She'd go on to become a WNBA champion for the second time alongside Australian teammate Penny Taylor at the Phoenix Mercury in 2014. Phillips has since played for the LA Sparks and the Dallas Wings in the US.

The Melbourne native was the third highest scorer for the Australian team at the 2014 World Cup as the Aussie side claimed third. She scored 8.7 points as well as 4 rebounds and 4 assists for the side.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 173

**Age** 31

**Lives** West Lakes, SA, Australia

**Status** Selected

**Nickname** Vic

**Weight** 70

**Born** Carlton, VIC, Australia

## Olympic Information

- 2008 Beijing - 2nd

## Recent Performances

- 1st – Rio 2016 test event (Rio, Brazil)
- 3rd – 2014 World Championships (Turkey)

## Career Highlights

- Winning silver with the Australian basketball team in Beijing.
- Winning both World Championships and Commonwealth Games gold in 2006.
- Getting the chance to play at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

## Education

- **Primary** West Lakes Shore Primary (SA, Australia)
- **Secondary** Seaton High School (SA, Australia)

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce (2013- current)
- **Club** Los Angeles Sparks (WNBA) USA
- **Primary Training Base** Los Angeles, USA
- **Secondary Training Base** West Adelaide Bearcats Stadium Port Adelaide

## Q&A

**Superstition/s** I don't have superstitions, I just like to stick to routines but I keep things very simple.

**Favourite food** Thai

**Favourite holiday destination** Hawaii but I would love to go to Thailand.

**Favourite music** 60's, 70's and 80's classic hits

**Dream car** A ute or truck.

**Personal Motto** Believe in yourself, work your butt off, never give up AND HAVE FUN!

**Star Sign** Taurus

**I would spend my last \$10 on** Latte, mint kit kat

**Tattoos/Piercings** 6 Tattoos.

**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Soccer

**Most Inspiring Olympic Performance?** Hicham El Guerrouj at the 2004 Olympic Games

**Most Influential person in your career/life** Tracy Phillips

**Why this sport?** It's a great game which can take you all over the world



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



**Katie Rae Ebzery**

### Athlete Biography

With over a decade of experience playing in the WNBL where she has racked up over 200 games, Katie Rae-Ebzery will get her first chance at Olympic competition at Rio.

She started out at the AIS in 2005 before playing a season for the Dandenong Rangers. Following her stint with the team she walked away from the sport. Having not touched a ball for six months she began to miss the sport she had loved so much and joined the Sydney Uni Flames for the 2010/11 season and has been there ever since.

Having won two World University Games bronze medals in 2011 and 2013 she also finished third in the FIBA 3X3 Women's World Championship in 2012.

Ebzery made her debut on the side's 2015 European tour before the 26-year-old helped Australia qualify for the Rio Olympics as the Aussie side defeated New Zealand in the two match 2015 Oceania Championships.

Following the 2016 Olympic Games Ebzery will take up her first international contract playing with Dynamo Moscow in Russia.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

### Fast Facts

<b>Sport</b> Basketball	<b>Status</b> Selected
<b>Event/s</b> Basketball Women	<b>Age</b> 26
<b>Born</b> Waratah, NSW, Australia	<b>Lives</b> Australia

## Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)
- 1st – Rio 2016 test event (Rio, Brazil)
- 1st – 2015 Oceania Championships (Melbourne & Tauranga, New Zealand)
- 3rd – 2013 Summer Universiade (Kazan, Russia)

## Career Highlights

- Winning the 2015 Oceania Championships to qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
- World University Games - Bronze medals 2011 & 2013
- Getting selected to compete at Rio 2016

## Education

- **Primary** St Paul's Primary School (NSW, Australia )
- **Secondary** St Mary's Highschool (NSW, Australia)
- **Tertiary** Bachelor Education/Secondary/Human Movement and Health Education at The University of Sydney

## Training

- **Coach** Shannon Seabohm (2014 - current), Brendan Joyce (2013- current)
- **Club** Sydney University Flames, Australia
- **Primary Training Base** Sydney, Australia



## Q&A

**Superstition/s** Always strap my left ankle before my right

**Favourite food** Spaghetti Bolognese

**Favourite holiday destination** Italy

**Favourite music** Hip Hop & RnB

**Dream car** Range Rover Sport

**Personal Motto** I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying (Michael Jordan)

**Star Sign** Capricorn

**I would spend my last \$10 on** Food

**Tattoos/Piercings** Star Sign (behind ear)

**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Beach Volleyball

**Most Inspiring Olympic Performance?** Cathy Freeman winning gold at the Sydney 2000 Olympics

**First Olympic Memory?** Sydney Olympics

**Most Influential person in your career/life** My mum

**Why this sport?** Because everyone can do everything on the court.



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Stephanie Talbot

### Athlete Biography

Born in Katherine in the Northern Territory, Talbot began playing basketball in primary school and at just 22 will get her opportunity to make her Olympic debut at Rio.

Having been noticed playing in junior national tournaments Talbot was awarded a scholarship at the AIS before securing her first professional contract with the Adelaide Lightning. She got limited game time in the 2011/12 season but a year later became a starter and would become the Rookie of the Year.

The shooting forward played a key role in Australia finishing on the podium at the 2013 U19 World Championships. She starred in the bronze medal match against Spain where she scored 22 points and had nine rebounds to confirm her spot in the All-Tournament Team.

Recognising her raw talent, she was drafted 33rd overall in the 2014 WNBA draft by three-time Champions Phoenix Mercury who is also home to fellow Australians Penny Taylor and Leilani Mitchell. She has yet to play for the team.

She returned to Canberra for the 2014/15 season where she averaged 13.3 points, eight rebounds and three assists per game. Her rise up the ranks saw her claim her national team debut midway through 2015 and she helped Australia qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games by winning the 2015 Oceania Championships.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Age** 22

**Lives** Kadina, SA, Australia

**Status** Selected

**Height** 185

**Born** Katherine, NT, Australia

## Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)
- 1st – Rio 2016 test event (Rio, Brazil)
- 1st – 2015 Oceania Championships (Melbourne & Tauranga, New Zealand)

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce (2013 - current)
- **Club** Canberra Capitals (WNBL) Australia
- **Primary Training Base** Canberra, Australia



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Penny Taylor

### Athlete Biography

One of the nation's greatest ever basketball products, Penny Taylor will return to Olympic competition for her third Games at Rio after missing out on the London 2012 Games due to injury.

Having secured her first professional contract with the Dandenong Rangers 18 years ago, Taylor has had a decorated career that has seen her win titles in Australia, USA, Italy, Russia, Turkey, as well as in China. Still playing at an exceptional level, she currently lines up for the Phoenix Mercury in the WNBA.

Taylor made her Games debut in 2004 after just missing out on selection for Sydney 2000. She won a silver medal with the side at her debut Games before going on to be named the Most Valuable Player at the 2006 World Championships where Australia were crowned World champions.

A severe ankle injury to Taylor in the quarter-finals at the Beijing 2008 Games was a devastating set-back to the Australian side as they eventually went down to the United States in the gold medal match.

She defied the odds to come back from multiple injuries that cruelled her chances of playing at the London 2012 Games and then kept her out of a large part of the 2013 WNBA season. She would prove crucial on her return to the Mercury's 2014 championship winning side which was her third with the team. In an eventful year she also captained the Australian side to the bronze medal at the 2014 World Championships.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

### Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 185

**Age** 35

**Lives** Melbourne, VIC, Australia

**Status** Selected

**Nickname** PFT

**Weight** 72

**Born** Melbourne, VIC, Australia

## Olympic Information

- 2008 Beijing - 2nd 2004 Athens - 2nd

## Recent Performances

- 3rd – 2014 World Championships (Turkey)
- Won 3-0 – 2014 WNBA Finals: Playing for Phoenix Mercury vs Chicago Sky (Phoenix & Chicago, USA)

## Career Highlights

- World Championships 2002-bronze, 2006-gold (MVP), 2010-5th, 2012-bronze.
- WNBA championship 2007,2009,2014 with Phoenix Mercury
- Played professionally in Australia, Italy, Russia, Turkey and USA Played womens Euroleague 2002-2012

## Education

- **Secondary** Upwey High School, Lake Ginninderra College (ACT, Australia)

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce
- **Club** Phoenix Mercury, Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- **Primary Training Base** Phoenix, USA

## Q&A

**Favourite food** Vegan

**Favourite holiday destination** Hawaii

**Dream car** Tesla model S

**Star Sign** Gemini

**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Beach Volleyball



## Official Home of the 2016 Australian Olympic Team



# Marianna Tolo

### Athlete Biography

After being one of the last two cut from the side for the London 2012 Games and an injury scare midway through 2015 almost derailed her Rio 2016 campaign, Marianna Tolo has overcome plenty of adversity to make her Olympic Games debut.

After two seasons with the AIS, Tolo moved to the Canberra Capitals in 2008, winning championships with the side in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons. She left the club in 2012 to play in France, joining Pays d'Aix Basket 13 for a season. She moved on to CJM Bourges Basket whom she went on to play three seasons with.

Tolo had her best tournament to date at the 2014 World Championships when she was Australia's leading scorer having put up 12.2 points per game while leading the tournament in shooting percentage, connecting on 56% of her shots from the field.

Midway through her first season in the WNBA the 6"5' centre was progressing well until injury struck. Averaging 4.9 points per game and 3 rebounds per game, Tolo tore her ACL in late August 2015 setting her up for a race against the clock to make the Rio Games.

Tolo returned to Australia, had a knee reconstruction and began intensive rehab as she looked to keep her Olympic dream alive. Tolo played her first game in the green and gold in early June against China and would go on to make the Australian Team for Rio.

All copy on this page is copyright © Australian Olympic Committee. Do not reproduce without permission.

Basketball

## Fast Facts

**Sport** Basketball

**Event/s** Basketball Women

**Height** 195

**Age** 27

**Status** Selected

**Nickname** Tolo

**Weight** 86

**Born** Mackay, QLD, Australia

## Olympic Information

- Rio 2016 will be Olympic debut

## Recent Performances

- 5 wins & 3 losses - European Tour (Italy & France)
- 3rd – 2014 World Championships (Turkey)
- 1st – 2013 Oceania Championships (Canberra & Auckland, New Zealand)

## Career Highlights

- Competing in the World Championships in Czech Republic, 2010.
- Winning bronze at the 2014 World Championships in Turkey.
- Being selected to represent Australia at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

## Education

- **Primary** St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (QLD, Australia)
- **Secondary** Holy Spirit College (QLD, Australia); Lake Ginninderra College (ACT, Australia)
- **Tertiary** Bachelor of Sports, Coaching and Exercise Science - University of Canberra

## Training

- **Coach** Brendan Joyce (2013 - current)
- **Club** Canberra Capitals (WNBL) Australia
- **Primary Training Base** Canberra, Australia



## Q&A

**Favourite food** Peach chicken - Mum's recipe

**Favourite holiday destination** Favorite overseas destination I have visited is Venice, Italy. In Australia, my favorite would have to be the Northern Territory, especially Mataranka.

**Favourite music** Bruno Mars

**Dream car** Jeep

**Personal Motto** Live with no regrets

**Star Sign** Cancer

**I would spend my last \$10 on** Waterproof mascara or a scratchie

**If I could try another Olympic sport it would be** Gymnastics