

2017/18 Overseas Report

Casey Wright



WOW!! what a year it has been. This season I was finally able to fulfil my dream and tick off a goal that had been in my sights for the last 3 years. I represented Australia at the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. Getting to this point was no easy feat and saw me moving half way around the globe to Alaska, so that I would be able to train with some of the best skiers in the USA and World, and ski on the competitive National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) circuit.

It wasn't until I was marching being the Aussie flag at the opening ceremony that everything started to sink in and the reality of what I was about to do hit me. I raced in the classic sprint and 10km skate races, where I finished 61st and 83rd respectively. Unfortunately, much of my season saw me battling illness, and as a result I was not able to compete at my best. As frustrating as this was, this is one the unique aspects of being an athlete. You can train as much and as hard as you can, however, the real test comes when you have to deal with situations not going in the direction you want. I am still very proud of my performances and know that I am capable of skiing much faster.

The Australian contingent was amazing and I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and learn about other winter sports. I also got to meet a few of my hero's (Alisa Camplin, just to drop a name), who I had watched competing at previous Olympics. Going and watching a number of events after I finished racing was a great way to experience the games from the other side of the fence. I watched aerials, short and long track speed skating, hockey and of course all of the other cross-country events.

I am so grateful for the opportunity I was given this year, and I am so, so thankful for everyone who has been a part of my journey. Reaching the top level in any sport is difficult but I think I really hit the nail on the head when I, an Aussie Chick from the Yarra Valley who grew up skiing at Falls Creek and Lake Mountain, reached this level in Cross-Country Skiing. I am truly humbled by all of the support I received from home. I also really appreciated everyone's efforts to try and watch me on TV, whether that was in the opening ceremony or during my races.

My main goal at the 2018 Olympics was to gain as much knowledge and experience as possible to help me mature and become a better skier. I can also put a tick in this box. What I have learnt this season has given me a great insight into what it takes to take my skiing to the next level and I am very excited to see what the next 4 years have in store. Here I come Beijing 2022!

I will be back down under hooning around on skinny skis this August. I am looking forward to catching you all around the Birkie Club house and on the ski trails. Please, feel free to hit me up if you want to go for a ski!

