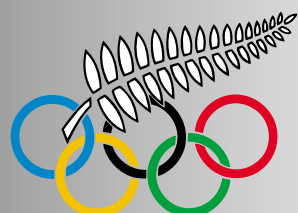


CHRIS NICHOLSON



OLYMPIC MUSEUM
New Zealand Olympic Committee



"I was born in England, we moved to New Zealand when I was a baby, and for us it was an amazing thing to come to a country where there is all the bush walks and beaches and

fantastic things like that that you just don't have in London. My parents used to make it a weekly thing, we'd go out for a bush walk or a walk on the beach, and it was always a long way. I would always get tired and have to struggle through getting back to the car - it was fun too, but within that I developed the character of push through when it gets hard.

I couldn't ride a two-wheeler until I was 11. I just couldn't do it! I actually had to rent my older brother's bike - he charged me 20 cents for 15 minutes to practice on it, *but I wanted to learn*. I thought that skating would be fun. I assumed that if I went to something like a roller skating place everybody could do it and I would be the only one who couldn't and I would make a fool of myself. I didn't want to go there. I was 14 when my younger brother Andrew, informed me that the skating rink was safe and that there weren't too many people there and most of them couldn't skate. That's a sad thing really in society that we should be like that, but we are, you get laughed at if you can't do things. Anyway he told me it was safe - *so we went roller skating!*

I remember getting a B for Phys. Ed at High School when I was 14, but I had a strength, I was aerobically fit, and skating worked for me.

The first time that I went along to ice skating - *I could do it, it was fun!* It was an exciting thing to conquer, and I fell over and hit my head on the ice and went to hospital for stitches, very first time. I'd never seen anything so fast - it was incredible. I purchased a pair of speed skates and eventually I was tapped on the shoulder and advised by Andrew Philp, 'we've been watching you and the national champs are coming up, and do you want to go and race?'



XVII Olympic Winter Games, Lillehammer, Norway, 1994
"Phoning home from Lillehammer in -17°C"
Photo: Private Collection

So I went down to these nationals in Invercargill and I was successful. Everything else was a small step forward, you kind of go from there to a bit better, to a bit better, to a bit better, to world championships, to Olympics.

Train more, you'll get better! I adopted that policy and applied it very much. Somebody had said cycling was good training, so I took that to the extreme and decided that lots of cycling would be good training, and that's how come I got good at cycling.

Of all the sports events I did, the *World Short Track Speedskating Champs, 1993* in China was the highlight beyond anything else by a long way. We got it right, all the way through, every aspect. It was with friends - and it was a world record too."

XVI OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES ALBERTVILLE, FRANCE, 1992

"It was the fairytale thing, like when you read the books on the Olympic Games, you kind of study them at school and there are pictures of spiky mountains, and snow on them and snow on the ground.

OPENING CEREMONY / FLAGBEARER

It wasn't so much an anticlimax for me but as children we didn't watch the Opening Ceremonies, we watched the races.

It didn't actually seem quite right, because growing up on summer Olympics with great big teams and all that, and you get to winter Olympics where there's six people walking behind you because that's the whole team, and the stadium wasn't really big.

GAMES OF THE XXV OLYMPIAD BARCELONA, SPAIN, 1992 (SUMMER OLYMPICS)

In Barcelona the team was automatically going to qualify, but would I make the team? That was the big thing, and that was really exciting to actually finally get in that team, and getting there too. Getting actually named in the Olympic team in Barcelona, that was a very special, special moment.

Being the Best You Can Be Within the In Olympic Spirit

I'd say my fondest memory of the Barcelona Games was the race itself.

The highlight beyond everything else was actually doing the race. Lining up - this was the moment that I had planned for - that's what I'd trained for. Starting the race was the final accomplishment of the whole process.

In The Spirit of Friendship, Unity and Fair Play

I remember I was excited because we raced in the morning of the first day. I was just relieved that I didn't have to train any more and that I had the whole Olympics to just go and watch other events, and I sat down in the dining hall one time and you see another New Zealander that's wearing New Zealand team gear, so you know they're a New Zealander then someone started up a game of touch rugby, but it was kind of through the village part where there's kind of a lot of park benches and obstacles, David Tua came out, and it was... 'who's that, oh that's David Tua!'

XVII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY, 1994

The Opening Ceremony was awesome! Lillehammer as a city was probably the most immersed in the Olympic Games. It was kind of hard to believe that people actually lived in this place, it felt like the thing was just one huge Olympic place. Everywhere you went it was just another stadium.

MESSAGE TO YOUTH

Pride in Participation

Although I didn't get my Olympic Gold Medal, I came close enough! I can now see that as being something of huge value to have done my very best at something and excelled at it. There's a mentality in New Zealand that says *competing* is all that counts. Unless you've tried your hardest you will not get the satisfaction of success. But in the end it's your value as a person that has to underline it all."

Chris Nicholson - Olympian

XVI Olympic Winter Games, Albertville, France 8 - 23 February 1992

Short Track Speed Skating; 1000m, 17th / 27; 5000m relay, 4 / 9 (Olympic Diploma)

XVII Olympic Winter Games, Lillehammer, Norway 12 - 27 February 1994

Short Track Speed Skating; 500m, 29 / 31; 1000m, 28 / 31; 5000m relay, 8 / 8 (Olympic Diploma)



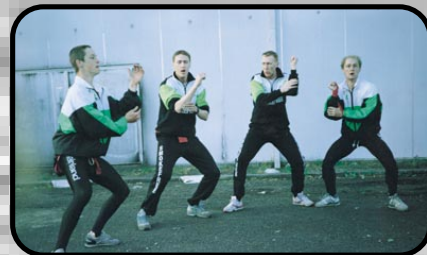
Chris Nicholson
Photo: Private Collection

"On the podium in the cycling Tour of New Caledonia 1988, my first international race."

Photo: Private Collection

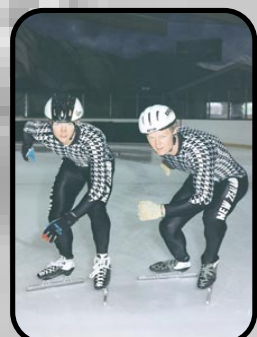


After the awards ceremony of the Champions Trophy (Ice skating) international competition, Heerenveen, Netherlands as build up to Albertville (1992)
L-R: Mike McMillen, Chris Nicholson
Photo: Private Collection



"Haka-training outside Brisbane rink before Team Smith competition New Zealand vs Australia as build up to Albertville."

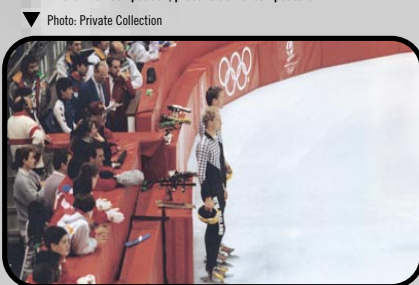
L-R: Andrew Nicholson, Mike McMillen, Tony Smith, Chris Nicholson
Photo: Private Collection



Wearing XVI Olympic Winter Games Albertville, France 1992 Olympic uniforms - preparing for a start as part of build up to the XVII Olympic Winter Games Lillehammer 1994
(L-R) Andrew Nicholson, Chris Nicholson 1993
Photo: Private Collection

XVI Olympic Winter Games, Albertville, France, 1992

Chris Nicholson (on ice / front) and Mike McMillen (on ice / rear) 'Short Track competition, presentation of competitors'



XVI Olympic Winter Games Albertville, France, 1992
New Zealand Olympic Short Track Speed Skating Team
(L-R) Matthew Biggs, Chris Nicholson, Tony Smith, Andrew Nicholson, Mike McMillen
Photo: Private Collection