



Giaan Rooney OAM

With her trademark million-dollar smile firmly in place and an Olympic Gold Medal and World Record to her name, Giaan Rooney is in winning form. Giaan has been destined for greatness since her stunning 200m Freestyle victory in 2001 at age 20. This victory was described in *The Australian* as “*not so much of a step as a Beamonisque leap into the future*” (30/7/01).

Giaan burst onto the international scene at the age of 15, winning Gold in the 100m Backstroke at the 1998 Commonwealth Games. She demonstrated her versatility at the Sydney Olympics, finishing the meet in style with two Silver Medals from the relay events.

Giaan showed in her Gold Medal winning 200m Freestyle performance at the 2001 World Championships in Japan, she is every bit a world-class swimmer with willpower to burn. As a testament to her ability she was awarded the Queensland Female Junior Athlete of the Year in 2001.

Arguably Giaan’s greatest achievement to date came as a key member of the 4x100m Medley Relay team at the recent 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. As the lead swimmer Giaan clocked a new Australian 100m Backstroke record, and a little over 3 minutes later became an Olympic Champion and World Record holder as the team smashed the previous record set during the Sydney Olympics by the United States.

Giaan continued her record breaking form at the 2005 Telstra Australian Championships, adding to the 100m backstroke Australian Record she set earlier in the meet with a Commonwealth Record in the 50m backstroke.

Giaan is Australia’s leading female Backstroker of recent times and has enjoyed success equal to her hard work and resolve. There is still much for Giaan to achieve and she is on course for another stunning performance in Beijing in 2008. With her striking looks and dynamic personality Giaan is a savvy media talent and is demand as a guest personality, speaker and ambassador.

Personal Details

D.O.B:
15th November 1982

Home:
Port Melbourne

Coach:
Ian Pope

Pet Event:
100m Backstroke

Australian Team Debut:
1998 Commonwealth Games

Supported Charity:
New Life Care

Outside Interests:
Relaxing with friends, fashion,
bushwalking, motorsport, bike riding

Awards and Accolades:

2005: Face of the Magic Millions
Carnival, Gold Coast

2005: Order of the Medal of Australia

2004: Female Backstroker of the Year

2001: Qld Female Junior Athlete of the
Year