



Raelene Boyle

One of Australia's greatest track and field athletes, Raelene Boyle brought audiences to their feet for over fourteen years of international competition.

Raelene first took the international stage in Mexico City in 1968 winning silver at the age of just 16, a promise of things to come.

In Munich in 1972, she was just beaten to the line in the 100m and 200m sprint by East German Renate Stecher. Four years later in Montreal, things were to take a turn for the worst for Raelene, finishing fourth in the 100m sprint, but being disqualified for two false starts in the 200m. Film of the start would later show that she in fact had not jumped the gun on her first start. In tears, all Boyle could do was watch as the others battled it out for the medals.

Raelene was hoping to make a comeback in 1980 in Moscow, but decided to opt out after bitter controversy over whether the Australian team should have boycott the games or not.

At the Commonwealth Games Raelene produced some inspiring performances, winning seven gold and two silver medals over four Commonwealth Games meets.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Raelene has remained involved with sport in a variety of capacities from being a member of the Victorian State Sports Council to assistant manager Australian World Junior Athletics Team.

In 1996 Raelene was diagnosed with breast cancer, which she managed to beat. Then six weeks before the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and then again in 2001 she battled Ovarian Cancer. After three tough battles, today Raelene remains healthy. She dedicates much of her time raising awareness of these conditions to help raise funds for cancer research. She works closely with the Breast Cancer Network Australia and the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation.

Fact File

Home: Sunshine Coast, QLD
Event: Athletics

Olympic Results:

1968 Mexico City
200m sprint Silver
100m sprint Fourth

1972 Munich
100m sprint Silver
200m sprint Silver

Other Achievements:

1970 Edinburgh Comm'wealth Games
100m sprint Gold
200m sprint Gold
4x100m relay Gold

1974 Christchurch C'wealth Games
100m sprint Gold
200m sprint Gold
4x100m relay Gold

1978 Edmonton Comm'wealth Games
100m sprint Silver

1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games
400m sprint Gold
4x400m relay Silver

Honours:

1974 Awarded an MBE
1974 ABC Sportsman of the Year
1988 Sport Australia Hall of Fame