

Olympic Athletes

Jeremiah Brown



Commitment, Perseverance

Jeremiah Brown is an athlete who has turned his love of sports into a unique profession - **helping other athletes cope with the aftermath of a life in sports.**

Jeremiah played hockey while a student at high school in Cobourg, but **didn't become a famous star** here. Likewise, at McMaster University in Hamilton, where he decided to learn how to play football. He did eventually earn a position on the Marauders Varsity Team as offensive linesman, but shoulder injuries and subsequent surgery ended his competitive football days.

His chance to shine began the day he first saw on TV the Canadian Men's Eight Rowing Team win Gold at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. That day, Jeremiah set himself the **“impossible” goal of winning Gold** at the 2012 Olympics in London England, just 4 short years away.

He thought rowing would be easy to learn and that he would teach himself how to row! How wrong he was! He borrowed a single scull for his first rowing venture and headed for Rice Lake. His first mistake was putting on the oar locks backwards causing him to **fall in the lake after a mere 10 strokes**. Undaunted and determined he got himself back into the boat and tried again. He would experience many such dunkings into the water on the road to the 2012 Olympics.

After graduating from McMaster with a degree in Commerce, Jeremiah got a job at the TD Bank in Victoria, B.C and sought out national rowing coach, Doug White. Coach White saw the **steely determination in the young athlete** and began training him. Jeremiah joined the Canadian National Team training full time in January 2011 with renowned coach Mike Spracklen.



Jeremiah expressed his feelings for this very tough coach this way:

Mike was a polarizing figure...I felt a lot of rage towards him (yes, RAGE) at various times in the two years leading up to the Olympics...Mike was the only person around who had coached athletes to Olympic medals...he was my ticket to the podium.

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