

PARA EQUESTRIAN

Marion Campbell Milne

Campaign for the 2012 London Olympic Games



Grade 1B Para Dressage Rider

Name: Marion Milne

Current Age: 25 years

Disability: T 11, T 12 Paraplegics

Para Equestrian Dressage Grade: IB

Functional Disability Profile: 10b

PARA DRESSAGE

Dressage competitions for riders with disabilities started in Scandinavia and in Great Britain in the 1970s. In 1987 the first dressage World Championship was held in Sweden, and we first took part in the Paralympic Games in 1996. The judgment of a rider's ability is the function of the competition. Therefore the purpose of the competition is to reward skill. The main difference between able bodied (Dressage) and Para dressage is the tests are written according to the rider's disability.

History of my disability:

I started riding at the age of 10 and went on to compete in able bodied Dressage and Show Jumping. In 2003 I was shot in an attempted hijacking while I was at work in Kempton Park. One of three bullets went through my liver, both my lungs and my spine at T11; T12 level, leaving me paralysed from hip level down. Five months and five major operations later, I came out of hospital. A week later, I got back onto my faithful horse 'Sparkling Reality'. From there, I had to re-learn to ride. I had been out of hospital for six months when I competed at my first Para Dressage Championships....

Motivation to compete at the London 2012 Paralympics:

My history of achievements speaks for themselves. I overcame tremendous odds to get back into the saddle. Through my performance over the last seven years and my dedication to the Para Equestrian Sport, I have earned my position on the Team for London.

In a Team atmosphere, I offer support in every possible way, making me a good Team Player.

Riding achievements:

2004: Won 2 Gold Medals at the Para Dressage Championships in KZN

2005: Won 3 Gold Medals at the Para Dressage Championships in KZN

2006: Won 2 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal at the Para Dressage Championships in Bloemfontein

2007: Won 3 Gold Medals at the Para Dressage Championships in Gauteng

Competed at the World Equestrian Games in Hartpury UK, as an Individual Entry, placing 10th

Qualified for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games

- 2008:** Won 3 Gold Medals and 3 Silver Medals at the Para Dressage Championships in KZN
Represented South Africa at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, finishing 13th
- 2009:** Got three 1st places at the Para Dressage Championships in Cape Town
Qualified for the World Equestrian Games in the USA 2010 and for the London Paralympics in 2012
- 2010:** Got three 1st places at the Para Dressage Championships in Gauteng
Qualified for the World Equestrian Games in the USA and for the London Paralympics in 2012
Represented South Africa in the World Equestrian Games in the USA, finishing 13th and obtained qualifying marks to represent South Africa at the London Paralympics in 2012
- 2011:** Recognised for the Talent Identification and Development Program

Previous achievements:

- 2004** - South African National Championships – (1st 1st)
- 2005** - South African National Championships – (1st 1st)
- 2006** - South African National Championships – (1st, 1st, 2nd)
- 2007** - South African National Championships – (1st, 1st, 1st)
- Para Dressage World Championships UK – (10th)
- 2008** - South African National Championships – (3 x 1st and 3 x 2nd)
- Beijing Paralympic Games – (10th)
- 2009** - FEI / SA Para dressage championships – (1st, 1st)
- 2010** - FEI qualifier GHS Midrand – (1st, 1st, 1st)
- World Equestrian Games Kentucky USA

Other National Events:

Linbro Park Equestrian Centre 2009:

- 68.80% - Grade IB Test 10 (2010)
- 70.00% - Grade IB Test 13 (2010)

Linbro Park Equestrian Centre 2010:

- 62.00% - Grade 1B Individual Championship Test (2010)
- 66.75% - Grade 1B Musical Kur (2010)

Gauteng Horse Society Warm Up Championships 2009:

- 71.82% - Grade IB Team Test (2010)
- 63.04% - Grade IB Individual Championship Test (2010)

Gauteng Horse Society SANEF QUALIFIER 2010:

- 67.27% - Grade IB Team Test (2010)
- 70.43% - Grade IB Individual Championship Test (2010)

International Events:

SA Para Dressage Championships 2009 (CPEDI3*):

- 62.35% - Grade IB Team Test (2006)
- 59.68% - Grade IB Individual Championship Test (2006)
- 60.27% - Grade IB Freestyle to Music (2006)

Gauteng Horse Society Para Dressage Championships 2010 (CPEDI3*):

- 66.36% - Grade IB Team Test (2010)
- 69.42% - Grade IB Individual Championship Test (2010)
- 53.58% - Grade IB Freestyle to Music (2010)

WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES KENTUCKY USA (2010)

- 64.69% - Grade IB Team Test (2010)
- 63.13% - Grade IB Individual Championship Test (2010)
- 63.05% - Grade IB Freestyle to Music (2010)

Main Goals:

- To compete in able bodied competitions at National level
- To find a well suited horse to compete on at the 2012 Paralympics and to compete on the chosen horse at International level as much as possible before the 2012 Paralympics.
- To place within the top 5 at the London Paralympics.