Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2198

Cooper, Priya

(1974 -)

Born	19741002, Perth Western Australia Australia
Occupation	Paralympian, Swimmer

Summary

Priya Cooper was born with Cerebral Palsy and began swimming at a young age for therapy. In 1991, whilst swimming at a school carnival, Priya was selected to represent Wheelchair Sports Western Australia at the 1991 National Wheelchair Games, winning 9 gold medals. Priya debuted internationally at the 1992 Paralympics in Barcelona, winning three gold medals and two silver medals and breaking two world records. Her performances earnt Priya an Order of Australia Medal. She went on to further success at Paralympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000.

In 1995, Cooper was named the Paralympian of the Year, in 1999 she was acknowledged as Young Australian of the Year (Sport) edging out Pat Rafter and Ian Thorpe, who were both finalists.

Events

2000 - 2000
1 Gold, 3 Bronze.

1992 - 1992
3 Gold, 2 Silver. 2 World Records, 3 Paralympic Records. Chosen to carry Australian flag to Closing Ceremony.

1996 - 1996
Selected as Female Australian Team Captain. 5 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze. 3 World Records, 5 Paralympic Records. Selected to carry Australian flag to Closing Ceremony.

Published resources

Resource
Athlete Profiles, Wheelchair Sports Western Australia,
http://www.wheelchairsportswa.org.au/2/51/3/Priya_Cooper.pm

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html

Archival resources

National Sport Information Centre
Priya Cooper File

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