



HIGHEST PLACING OLYMPIAN IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

## ELOISE WELLINGS: OLYMPIAN | HUMANITARIAN | MOTHER

LONG DISTANCE RUNNER, ELOISE WELLINGS, MADE HISTORY DURING HER OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN IN RIO FINISHING 10TH IN THE WOMEN'S 10,000M, THE BEST FINISH EVER BY AN AUSTRALIAN ATHLETE IN THE EVENT.

WITH A TIME OF 31:14.94 IN A WORLD-RECORD SETTING RACE, ELOISE NOT ONLY ETCHED HER NAME INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY BOOKS BUT ALSO ACHIEVED A PERSONAL BEST, SMASHING HER PREVIOUS TIME BY 27-SECONDS. JUST DAYS AFTER HER STELLAR PERFORMANCE IN THE 10,000M, ELOISE COMPETED IN THE WOMEN'S 5,000M FINISHING 6TH IN HER HEAT AND QUALIFYING FOR THE OLYMPIC FINAL. ALONG WITH FELLOW AUSTRALIANS GENEVIEVE LACAZE AND MADELINE HILLS, ELOISE BECAME THE FIRST FEMALE AUSTRALIAN TO COMPETE IN THE OLYMPIC 5,000M FINAL, FINISHING 9TH OVERALL.

HAVING SUFFERED 11 STRESS FRACTURES IN THE FIRST 10 YEARS OF HER CAREER, CAUSED BY AN ONGOING EATING DISORDER THAT LED TO HER MISSING THREE CONSECUTIVE OLYMPIC GAMES INCLUDING SYDNEY, ATHENS AND BEIJING, ELOISE BEAT ALL THE ODDS WITH HER INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENTS IN RIO NOT ONLY HIGHLIGHTING HER RESILIENCE, DETERMINATION AND PERSEVERANCE BUT ALSO HER GENUINE LOVE FOR RUNNING.

"I REALLY LOVE THE SPORT AND ALTHOUGH THEY WERE VERY CHALLENGING TIMES I DEFINITELY DON'T REGRET ANYTHING. IT WAS THROUGH INJURY THAT I MET JULIUS ACHON, A UGANDAN OLYMPIAN AND FORMER CHILD SOLDIER, AND WITH HIM THAT I STARTED THE LOVE MERCY FOUNDATION. IT'S THE WOMEN THAT WE WORK WITH IN NORTHERN UGANDA THAT ARE NOW MY PRIMARY MOTIVATION FOR RUNNING. I'M GOING TO DO ALL I CAN TO MAKE IT TO TOYKO BUT HOPEFULLY BY THEN I'LL ALSO BE THE AMBASSADOR OF 20,000 WOMEN IN LOVE MERCY'S CENTS FOR SEEDS PROGRAM WHICH IS CHANGING LIVES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF SEED LOANS. IT'S THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I NOW RUN FOR LOVE THAT MAKES MY WHOLE JOURNEY SEEM WORTH IT".