



Rowan Crothers OAM

- ◆ 2x Paralympic Gold Medallist;
- ◆ Five times World Champion;
- ◆ Fastest Swimmer in the World with a disability;



Enquiries: FrontRow Group john@frontrowgroup.com.au +61 412 630 948

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Rowan Crothers' is a multiple Paralympic Champion. The fastest freestyler with a disability in the World! But its not the only side to this ultra-competitive athlete. When he's not tracing the black line in a pool, he's taking on the world in esports - a second career he put on hold to pursue his Tokyo 2020 dreams.

Rowan emerged from the pool at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre in Japan with his arms outstretched and a shocked look on his face. After more than a decade of daily training, he'd done it. He'd reached a goal he set for himself at 10 years old, sitting alongside his mom watching the TV: a gold medal in the Paralympic Games.

The victor in the Men's 50m Freestyle S10 event climbed atop one of the pool's lane dividers, screaming towards the cameras in celebration as his parents watched from home in Australia.

The celebration showcased the competitive side of Crothers – the fierce, relentless determination to overcome any demanding obstacle. The next second, as the pool divider gave way and Crothers tumbled backward into the pool with a toothy grin, the other side of his personality shined. A “gentle giant,” one of his friends said of the 23-year-old. The kind and humorous boy always thinking about the person next to him, now in the imposing frame of a 6-foot-5 man.

One of Rowan's biggest passions in life is advocacy for people who are different - whether it's disability, gender, age, race, or that kid who doesn't fit in at school. With esports it doesn't matter if you're different in any way; everyone can play. And regardless of your background, you can be successful if you work hard enough.

So its back in the pool with Paris 2024 Paralympics beckoning. But expect to see him honing his competitive skills behind the screen all the way as he forges ahead in two distinct yet complementary areas.

Location: Brisbane, Australia



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