

INTRODUCTION FOR KERRI POTTHARST

There are few Australians who weren't on the edge of their seats on that historic day in 2000 when Kerri Pottharst and Natalie Cook won Gold at the Sydney Olympics. We cheered every successful shot, watched every point conceded with sinking hearts and were enthralled by a match that has been lauded as one of the most remarkable in Olympic history. And we celebrated as 'our' girls did their country proud and overcame almost insurmountable odds to secure their spot in the record books.

It was an incredible moment in sporting history and it would be easy to forget that behind this amazing victory is a story that is just as incredible. Far from an Olympic fairytale, Kerri Pottharst's journey to the top of the podium was one of unbeatable courage, fierce determination and unparalleled personal strength. In her 22 years as a professional athlete, Kerri overcame countless challenges and potentially devastating injuries that threatened to end her career as she fought to realise her dream of winning Gold at the Olympics.

Kerri knows what can be achieved when you're willing to step outside your comfort zone and find the inner strength to take one step further than other people are willing to go. And because of that she is one of six women in the world who knows what it takes to win Olympic Gold in beach volleyball – a game of strength, strategy and skill.

Since retiring from national and international competition, Kerri now divides her time between her three passions – her family, coaching many to incredible health and wellness, and inspiring people from all walks of life to achieve excellence. Today, you will be able to share in her inspiration, her determination and her courage as you discover the secrets to achieving a Gold medal standard of success.

But before we welcome her to the stage, let's take another look at the match that stopped a nation back on Bondi Beach in 2000 ... (throw to video and Kerri comes up as video finishes)