

Neroli Fairhall



Neroli Susan Fairhall was born in 1944 in New Zealand. Neroli enjoyed sports her whole life. When she was young, she loved horses and was an excellent rider.

When Neroli was in her 20s, she had a motorcycle accident. She became paralyzed and could no longer walk. She would spend the rest of her life using a wheelchair to move around.

After her accident, Neroli wanted to continue to participate in sports. She competed in wheelchair racing, the shot and the discus. Then Neroli found a sport she really liked: archery. She worked very hard to be a good archer. Soon, she was one of the best archers in the world.

Neroli won many New Zealand national championships. She participated in many international competitions over the years and won many medals. In 1982 she won a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games. Neroli made history by participating in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. She was the first athlete in a wheelchair to compete in the Olympic Games.

After she retired from competing, she continued to coach archery. Neroli died in 2006. She is remembered for her enthusiasm for archery, her generosity in helping other people and her determination in overcoming the obstacles in her life.

What Do You Think?

Neroli Fairhall shot her arrows sitting down, while many archers shoot standing up. What are some other positions for shooting arrows? Which one do you think is best and why?
