

Laureus World Sports Academy

AUSTRALIAN LEGEND STEVE WAUGH NAMED NEWEST MEMBER OF LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS ACADEMY

- 'I am excited at working with these great athletes' – says Steve Waugh
- Australia's greatest cricket captain becomes 41st member of Laureus Academy
- 'He is a tireless worker for good' – says Laureus Academy member Dawn Fraser
- Waugh joins Ian Botham & Kapil Dev in launch of tsunami aid project in Sri Lanka

SYDNEY, December 2, 2005 – Steve Waugh, Australia's most successful cricket captain, has been named the newest member of the Laureus World Sports Academy. He becomes the 41st member of the Laureus Academy, a unique collection of the world's legendary sportsmen and sportswomen.

In his time as captain, Waugh fashioned Australia into arguably the greatest cricket team of all time. A batsman who mixed mental courage with natural ability, it was Waugh's contribution as a captain that has seen him become a giant of the game. Waugh played 168 times for Australia, winning 41 of the 57 matches in which he captained the side.

Edwin Moses, Chairman of the Laureus World Sports Academy, said: "This is a very important day for the Laureus World Sports Academy and we are delighted to welcome Steve Waugh as a new Academy member. Steve was a tremendous competitor at the highest level who established a team which has virtually dominated cricket for a generation, a remarkable achievement in any sport. I am delighted that he has accepted our invitation to join the Academy and I know that he will be an energetic worker for the causes that Laureus supports."

Laureus Academy member Dawn Fraser, Australia's greatest woman swimmer, welcomed Waugh to the Laureus Academy at the official announcement in Sydney. She said: "I am delighted to welcome a second Australian to the Laureus Academy, but more than that I am welcoming a tireless worker for good. Steve is a great human being not just because of his status as a great sportsman, but because of the work he has done over the years through his own foundation for underprivileged and sick children in India and Australia. I cannot think of anyone better to become a member of the Laureus Academy."

Steve Waugh said: "It is an honour to be invited to join the Laureus World Sports Academy and I am already excited at the prospect of working with these amazing athletes. The Sport for Good Foundation has already done incredible work, and I plan to get involved as much as possible. I believe high-profile, influential people have a moral responsibility to become involved with charities for the disadvantaged. That's what the Laureus Academy members do, and why I take so much pleasure in being asked to join them on their mission. The more you help people the more you grow as a person and in return you're helping someone else. It's a win-win situation."

Waugh, who was 40 in June, will be in action almost immediately as he travels to Sri Lanka to join former England cricket all-rounder Ian Botham and former Indian captain Kapil Dev as they launch a new project in Seenigama, Sri Lanka, to aid victims of last December's tsunami disaster.

The Laureus Sport for Good Foundation currently supports 38 projects worldwide, with at least one on every continent; a number which is growing each year. Its work focuses on helping young people overcome challenging social issues including poverty, homelessness, war, violence, drug abuse, discrimination and AIDS. More than 130,000 children have been helped by Laureus since its inception.

At the heart of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation is the Laureus World Sports Academy, a dedicated team of 41 legendary sportsmen and sportswomen, who have all volunteered their services in this cause, acting as global ambassadors, visiting projects to encourage young people to participate in sport and to draw public attention to the problems which afflict our society today.

The members of the Laureus World Sports Academy are: Giacomo Agostini, Severiano Ballesteros, Franz Beckenbauer, Boris Becker, Ian Botham, Sergey Bubka, Sir Bobby Charlton, Lord Sebastian Coe, Nadia Comaneci, Yaping Deng, Kapil Dev, David Douillet, Emerson Fittipaldi, Sean Fitzpatrick, Dawn Fraser, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Tony Hawk, Miguel Indurain, Michael Johnson, Michael Jordan, Kip Keino, Franz Klammer, Dan Marino, John McEnroe, Edwin Moses (Chairman), Nawal El Moutawakel, Robby Naish, Ilie Nastase, Martina Navratilova, Jack Nicklaus, Pelé, Gary Player, Morné du Plessis, Hugo Porta, Vivian Richards, Mark Spitz, Daley Thompson, Alberto Tomba, Steve Waugh, Katarina Witt and Yasuhiro Yamashita.

Steve Waugh retired in January 2004 as the most successful captain in the history of Test cricket, with 41 wins in 57 Tests. In his career, he scored 10,927 Test runs at an average of 51.06, including 32 centuries, at the time putting him second in the all-time list of century makers. His highest Test score was 200 against the West Indies at Sabina Park in April 1995. The team which he created won successive World Cups in 1999 and 2003.

In his last match a record final day crowd of more than 27,000 at the Sydney Cricket Ground roared their appreciation all the way to the end of the amazing contest between Australia and India and for nearly an hour beyond as Waugh was chaired round the ground by his team-mates at the end of his 168th and final Test match.

Recognition of Waugh's achievements has also come through the Laureus World Sports Awards. Three times in five years the Laureus Media Selection Panel nominated Australia for the Laureus World Team of the Year Award and in 2002, following their world record winning run of 16 Test matches, Australia were awarded the Laureus statuette by the members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, of which Steve Waugh has now become a member.

Over the years, Waugh has also shown that he believes in using sport as a means to help the deprived and the underprivileged and he has backed those beliefs in India in a determined and practical way at Nivedita Bhavan, a home built to house the children of lepers in Udayan, Kolkota (Calcutta). He has been helping Udayan since an aid group took him there in 1998, making regular visits and helping to raise funds. The Steve Waugh Charitable Trust (India) also supports the D.F. Blind School whose programmes aim to build self-sufficiency for the visually impaired by providing education, rehabilitation and integration.

In Australia, the Steve Waugh Foundation provides support for young people, up to the age of 25, who suffer from chronic and rare illnesses. The Foundation particularly helps disabled, neglected, abused children, and street kids and youngsters from educationally, economically and/or emotionally disadvantaged backgrounds.

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