

Nazim Erdem Biography

worldwheelchair.rugby

Biography

Nazim “Naz” Erdem – WWR Hall of Fame Inductee (2018)

Nazim “Naz” Erdem is one of the most respected and enduring figures in the history of wheelchair rugby. With a career spanning nearly two decades and over 300 games for Australia, Naz’s legacy is defined not only by his athletic achievements but also by his humility, leadership, and tireless contributions to the sport both on and off the court.

Naz began playing wheelchair rugby in 1999 and quickly became an integral part of the Australian National Team. As a low pointer, his role was often underappreciated outside the sport, but those in the game knew him as a stabilizing force—a player whose defensive strength and strategic intelligence were essential to his team’s success. His long-standing partnership with fellow Aussie Ryan Scott became one of the most formidable defensive duos in international competition.



Over the course of his career, Naz competed in **five Paralympic Games** and **four World Championships**, collecting an incredible **seven major international medals**:

- **3 Gold**
- **3 Silver**
- **1 Bronze**

He played in six finals and left a lasting impression at every level of the game. Among his many memorable moments, he carried the Paralympic torch through Cardiff ahead of the London 2012 Games and had a brush with pop culture fame when Australian icon Kylie Minogue posed for a photo on his lap—much to his delight.

Naz was inducted into the **World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR) Hall of Fame** in 2018, becoming the **first Australian** ever to receive this honour. The recognition came not only from his performance stats—**312 games for Australia between 1999 and 2017**—but also from his lifelong dedication to growing the sport and supporting others.

Off the court, Naz has continued to contribute to the sport through coaching and mentoring. He remains active in local competition in Australia and works with emerging programs in Southeast Asia. He also serves as a mentor for individuals with new spinal cord injuries through his work with AQA Spire, using his own story to inspire and guide others.

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Throughout his career, Naz played for the love of the game and the camaraderie it fostered. He credits much of his success to the support of his teammates, family, friends, and colleagues. For Naz, the honours and accolades he received were always shared achievements.

Humble, dedicated, and deeply beloved, Naz Erdem embodies everything the WWR Hall of Fame represents. He is not just a champion of the sport—he is a champion for people, for inclusion, and for living life to the fullest.