

Biography

Michael Smith



Michael Smith attended Pinecrest Elementary School, Lakewood Intermediate School, Beaver Brae Secondary School in Kenora, Ontario, and then Central Technical School in Toronto for his final year of high school.

Smith attended the University of Toronto Commerce program during his athletic career. He was coached by Andy Higgins while living in Toronto, Ontario and then by Les Gramantik when he moved to live and train in Calgary, Alberta in 1994.

Smith won a silver medal at the World Junior Track and Field Championships in 1986. At the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, he placed 14th. At the 1990 Commonwealth Games Smith won a gold medal. In 1991, he was the silver medal winner at the World Track and Field Championships, and was the first North American to win the Götzis International Decathlon, which he won again in 1996.

In 1992 at Barcelona, Spain, Smith was the opening ceremonies flag bearer for Canada at the Olympics. Unfortunately during the decathlon Smith pulled a hamstring and was forced to withdraw on the first day of the two-day competition. In 1994, he won gold at the Commonwealth Games for the second time.

Smith was ranked in the top 10 in the world for 10 years in a row from 1989 to 1998 with his highest rankings being #2 in the world in 1991 and #3 in the world in 1995. He holds the Canadian Record in the decathlon with a total of 8626 points set in Gotzis Austria in 1996. Smith still holds the world's best performance for the 3 combined throwing events in decathlon (shot put, discus, and javelin).

The sum of Smith's overall personal bests in the individual disciplines of decathlon totals 9,362 points (the third best ever after Ashton Eaton & Dan O'Brien).

After retiring from the sport of decathlon in 1999 he went on to a career in financial services and wealth management. He also works for CBC Television Sports and CTV Television as a color commentator for track and field events.

Smith now resides in Calgary, Alberta Canada with his wife Angela and daughter where he is currently an Investment Advisor at Peters & Company Ltd.

The son of Bert and Bernice Smith, who still reside in Kenora, Michael has three siblings. His father Bert, who came to Canada from Barbados in 1959 and attended the University of Manitoba is the brother of former West Indies Test cricket player Cameron "Cammie" Smith.

References: This biography was obtained primarily from Wikipedia.