

## **ATHLETE PROFILE**

**Name:** Will Afonczenko

**DOB:** (25/10/1998)

**Club:** Notorious Martial Arts

**Career Highlight:** Winning G2 New Zealand Open

**Weight Division:** -63kg

### **ABOUT YOURSELF:**

I grew up in a country town called Romsey and started Taekwondo at a young age. Originally I went to a traditional club which focussed on self defence and poomsae but then soon moved to a more sparring based club as that was my focus. Since then, I have not stopped loving my sport.

At the end of year 11 I moved to a sport orientated school to train under my coach Ryan Carneli, which was a big transition into becoming an elite athlete. It was great to be able to get through year 12 and not worry about being underprepared for competitions as I always had a busy training schedule.

A big highlight of my sporting career is when I competed at the 2017 Universiade in Taipei as it was my first multi-sport event. Not only was the competition amazing, I also had the opportunity to fight an Olympic silver medalist which was great experience. I also won my first gold medal at a G class event in 2017 which earned me a world ranking of #40 at the time. Since then, I have travelled to countless countries training in competing in hope of one day winning a medal for my country at the Olympics.

### **WHEN DID YOU START TAEKWONDO AND WHY:**

When I was about 5 years old at a local club. I started out because both my dad and brother did it.

### **OTHER SPORTS PLAYED:**

- Skateboarding
- Futsal

### **AMBITION**

- Olympic Medal
- Ranked top 3 in the world

## **WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT TAEKWONDO:**

The complexity of the sport is ridiculous. They're so many different aspects that make a great fighter and they are different in every single athlete. It may not be very spectator friendly but as an athlete myself, it's amazing to watch and appreciate the skills each different player may have, whether it be speed, power, flexibility or timing.

## **SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ME:**

I take photos of food for a living

## **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:**

- Instagram: @willafonczenko
- Facebook: @willafon98

## **TOP 5 CAREER RESULTS -**

- G2 New Zealand Open: GOLD
- National Championships: GOLD x 5
- G4 Oceania Championships: Bronze
- G1 Oceania Club Championships: Silver
- G2 Presidents Cup: Bronze