

= Amber Merritt =

Amber Merritt ( born 17 February 1993 ) is a 4 @. @ 5 @- @ point wheelchair basketball player who plays forward . She represented Australia at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London , where she won a silver medal .

Born in England , Merritt moved to Australia when she was ten years old . She was originally a swimmer , but was recruited into basketball by the Paralympic Hall of Fame coach Frank Ponta in 2007 . She started playing top level club wheelchair basketball in Australia for the Perth Western Stars in the Women 's National Wheelchair Basketball League ( WNWBL ) in 2008 . In 2013 , she captained the team , and it to its first WNWBL championship . She was the league 's top scorer , and the Most Valuable Player 4 pointer in its All Star Five , in 2011 , 2012 and 2013 .

Merritt made her debut with the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team , known as the Gliders , in 2009 . She has played for the Gliders in a number of international series including the 2010 U23 World Championship , 2011 U25 World Championship , 2011 , 2012 and 2013 Osaka Cups , the 2012 BT Paralympic World Cup , and 2012 Gliders and Rollers World Challenge in Sydney .

= = Personal = =

Nicknamed Bambi , Merritt was born on 17 February 1993 in Portsmouth , England , with a club foot . She moved to Perth in Western Australia when she was ten after her parents decided they wanted to see what else the world had to offer , and graduated from high school there in 2010 . As of 2013 , she lives in Wanneroo , Western Australia .

= = Wheelchair basketball = =

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In financial year 2012 / 13 , the Australian Sports Commission gave Merritt a A \$ 20 @, @ 000 grant as part of their Direct Athlete Support ( DAS ) program . She received \$ 17 @, @ 000 in 2011 / 12 and 2010 / 11 and \$ 5 @, @ 571 @. @ 42 in 2009 / 10 .

Wearing jersey number 14 , Merritt started playing top level club wheelchair basketball in Australia for the Perth Western Stars in the Women 's National Wheelchair Basketball League in 2008 . In the second round of that season , the Western Stars defeated the Hills Hornets 52 ? 44 . Playing for the Stars , she scored 10 points in her team 's victory .

In the 2012 season during the first game loss , Merritt scored eight points , had five rebounds , and two assists . In the league 's third game and her team 's second game , a loss to the Dandenong Rangers , she scored 26 points , and had 14 rebounds . In her team 's third game victory against the Sydney Uni Flames , she scored 18 points , while having 10 rebounds . In the Western Stars ' 56 ? 36 semifinal victory against the Sydney Uni Flames , she played an important role . The Western Stars played in the league 's third place match , where she led it in scoring with 34 points as they defeated Sydney 63 ? 54 . She finished the season as the WNWBL Season Top Scorer ,

Merritt was the Western Stars ' captain for the 2013 season , and led the team to its first WNWBL championship , defeating the Sachs Goldcamp Bears in the final 43 ? 40 despite being 11 points down at three @- @ quarter time . She was the league 's top scorer , and the Most Valuable Player 4 pointer in its All Star Five , as she had previously been in 2011 and 2012 .

Merritt made her debut with the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team , known as the Gliders , in 2009 , playing in several different competitions that year including the Japan Friendly Series , Four Nations in Canada and the Under 23 World Championship where her team finished fourth . As the youngest member of the Australian team at the 2010 World Championships , she finished fourth . She competed in the 2011 Asia Oceania Regional Championships , scoring ten points for her team as the third leading scorer in the final game of a competition where her did not

lose a single match . That year , she also represented Australia at the 2011 Under 25 World Championships , where she wore shirt number 7 and was a key blocker for her team . Merritt played in the 2011 Osaka Cup , and the 2012 BT Paralympic World Cup . She competed at the 2012 Gliders and Rollers World Challenge in Sydney , scoring the winning points in the first place match against the Germany women 's national wheelchair basketball team , and was named the women 's MVP for the competition , having averaged 17 @.@ 8 points per game .

Merritt was selected to represent Australia at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in wheelchair basketball . The London Games were her first . In the group stage , the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team at the 2012 Summer Paralympics posted wins against Brazil , Great Britain , and the Netherlands , but lost to the Canada . This was enough to advance the Gliders to the quarter @-@ finals , where they beat Mexico . The Gliders then defeated the United States by a point to set up a final clash with Germany . The Gliders lost 44 ? 58 , and earned a silver medal .

Since the London games , Merritt has participated in the 2013 Osaka Cup , where the Gliders successfully defended the title they had won in 2008 , 2009 , 2010 and 2012 .

= = Statistics = =