

= Sam Oldham =

Sam Joshua Oldham (born 17 February 1993) is an English artistic gymnast who represents Great Britain . He was part of the British men 's team at the 2012 Summer Olympics that won bronze in the team competition . He is also a three @-@ time junior European champion and won individual horizontal bar gold at the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics in Singapore .

= = Personal life = =

Sam Oldham was born on 17 February 1993 to Bob and Dawn Oldham . Oldham currently lives in Keyworth , Nottinghamshire , England with his parents and three siblings .

Sam 's first school was Crossdale Drive Primary School in Keyworth . Oldham then attended Rushcliffe School in West Bridgford before leaving the institution at 14 to be home @-@ taught so he could focus on training .

Oldham first started in gymnastics at the age of seven on the recommendation of his teacher , but was also a talented footballer . Oldham played in the Notts County F.C. Centre of Excellence as a forward until the club closed it down . Despite receiving offers from Nottingham Forest F.C. and Derby County F.C. , Oldham chose to focus on gymnastics . Oldham 's father and grandfather were both footballers , and his younger brother currently plays in the Nottingham Forest youth setup .

Oldham is a Manchester United F.C. fan and considers Vitaly Scherbo to be the gymnast he would most like to compete against , for the latter 's performance winning six golds at the 1992 Summer Olympics .

= = Career = =

= = = Junior career = = =

Oldham left Rushcliffe School and moved to Huntingdon at the age of 14 to train with the 2008 Summer Olympics @-@ bound gymnasts , where he lodged with the family of fellow gymnast Cameron MacKenzie . His other training partners included eventual pommel horse bronze medallist Louis Smith . Smith later thanked Oldham for being his training partner leading up to Beijing .

At the European Gymnastics Championships in Lausanne , Switzerland in 2008 , where he was the youngest member of the British team , Oldham broke his wrist during his floor routine . However , he managed to complete his routine one @-@ handed and helped the British team to gold in the junior team event . Late in 2008 , a Castle Donington @-@ based company agreed to sponsor Oldham up to the 2012 Summer Olympics .

Oldham was named to the British team for the 2009 Australian Youth Olympic Festival , where he won team gold . Later that year , he was selected to be in the British delegation to the European Youth Olympic Festival in Tampere , Finland , where he won two golds in the pommel horse and parallel bars events . Oldham was named BBC East Midlands ' Junior Sports Personality of the Year in 2009 for his performances in Tampere and for sweeping all seven golds available at the English national championships .

At the 2010 European Gymnastics Championships in Birmingham , England , Oldham won three gold medals , becoming European junior champion in the team all @-@ around , the horizontal bar , and the individual all @-@ around . By winning the individual all @-@ around , Oldham secured qualification to represent Great Britain at the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics in Singapore .

In Singapore , Oldham qualified second overall for the all @-@ around competition and made the finals in four other events ? the floor , pommel horse , parallel bars , and horizontal bar .

Oldham was in the silver medal position in the all @-@ around final when he suffered a fall from the horizontal bar , his final apparatus , thus finishing fifth . However , he recovered from the setback to win silver in the pommel horse event , missing out on gold by 0 @.@ 25 points . Oldham subsequently followed that by winning gold in the horizontal bar event , on the same apparatus in

which he had suffered his fall during the all @-@ around competition . Despite going first out of the eight finalists , Oldham 's score of 14 @.@ 375 points held out throughout and was enough for gold .

After the Games , Oldham 's coach Paul Hall described Oldham as having a chance of making the British team for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London , while Smith called Oldham is an " amazing talent " and British head gymnastics coach Andre Popov predicted Oldham will " absolutely " become Olympic champion .

Oldham considered trying for the 2010 Commonwealth Games team . However , according to Oldham , this plan was shelved when he was selected to the British senior team for the 2010 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships .

For his performances in 2010 , Oldham was shortlisted for the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year Award , and for Junior Sports person of the Year Award at the Nottinghamshire Sports Awards , the latter of which he won .

= = = Senior career = = =

Oldham was named as Great Britain 's reserve gymnast to participate at the 2010 senior world championships in Rotterdam . He was the youngest member of the British men 's team . The British team qualified for the final and finished seventh in the team all @-@ around , although Oldham did not ultimately take part in the competition . In 2011 , Oldham was included along with Samuel Hunter , Daniel Purvis , Theo Seager , Louis Smith and Kristian Thomas in the British squad travelling to Berlin , Germany for the 2011 European Men 's Artistic Gymnastics Championships from 6 to 10 April , again as the youngest member of the delegation representing Great Britain . Oldham qualified as the second reserve for the parallel bars final and in fourth place for the final on the horizontal bar . He came fourth in the horizontal bar final , which was his first major senior final .

Oldham was to have been part of the British squad at the London Prepares series gymnastics Olympic qualifier in January 2012 , but missed out after breaking his collarbone before the 2011 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in October 2011 , and further injuring himself during that competition . Without Oldham , the British team secured qualification to the gymnastics events at the 2012 Summer Olympics .

Despite his injury setback , Oldham ended the first year of his senior career by winning all @-@ around silver at the British national championships , which doubled as the final selection trial for the Olympic Games . Oldham attributed his performance , which he said was " better than I could ever have hoped for " and was good enough to see him named to the British squad for the Olympics over Daniel Keatings , to the trials being the final chance to impress the Olympic selectors after his injury layoff .

At 19 , Oldham was the youngest member to be named to the British team for gymnastics at the 2012 Summer Olympics , which won a bronze medal in the men 's team all @-@ around final at the North Greenwich Arena on 30 July .

On 19 ? 25 May 2014 , at the 2014 European Championships in Sofia . Oldham along with his teammates (Daniel Keatings , Daniel Purvis , Max Whitlock , Kristian Thomas) won Team Great Britain the silver medal behind Russia with a total score of 262 @.@ 087 points . In event finals , Oldham won the silver medal in high bar (14 @.@ 866) behind 2012 Olympic champion Epke Zonderland .