

= Ashleigh Southern =

Ashleigh Southern (born 22 October 1992 in Ingham , Queensland) is an Australian water polo player . She is currently a student at Brisbane North Institute of TAFE and is studying criminal justice . In water polo , she is a centre forward or outside shooter who has represented Australia on the junior and senior national teams . She won a gold medal at the 2009 Youth Olympic Festival , a silver medal at the 2010 FINA Women 's Water Polo World Cup , a bronze medal at the 2011 FINE World League and a bronze medal at the 2011 FINA Junior World Championships . She has been selected for the 2012 Summer Olympics Australia women 's national water polo team . She plays club water polo for the Brisbane Barracudas , where she won a league championship in 2010 .

= = Personal = =

Southern was born on 22 October 1992 in Ingham , Queensland . She is 188 cm (6 ft 2 in) tall , and is right handed . Southern has attended Cardwell State School and Gilroy Santa Maria College . She lives in Cardwell , Queensland and attends the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE , where she is studying for a Diploma of Justice . Southern has a brother who has represented Australia on the junior national team . In late 2011 , she had an elbow injury .

= = Water polo = =

Southern plays in the centre forward or outside shooter position , She has worn number 4 , but prefers to wear the number 10 cap . Southern first represented Queensland on a state level in water polo as a ten @-@ year @-@ old on the state 's U14 team . Southern started playing water polo in Townsville when she was eleven years old . As a young player , she traveled between Cardwell and Townsville in order to play . While competing for a school team , she was selected to participate in a development camp . She won a water polo scholarship from the Queensland Academy of Sport in 2010 , and currently holds a water polo scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport . In 2008 , Southern competed in the Women 's International Series . Her arm has been described as lethal , and better than most women players by Greg McFadden , the coach of the national team . She is characterised by the Brisbane Courier Mail as being the " Happy Gilmore " of the national team .

= = = Club team = = =

Southern plays club water polo for the Brisbane Barracudas in the National Water Polo League , where she wears cap number 10 . Southern was with the team for the 2010 , 2011 and 2012 seasons . Her 2010 team won the league championship . Prior to that , she played for the New South Wales based Drummoyne Devils in 2009 .

= = = Junior national team = = =

In January 2009 , Southern was a member of the national team that competed at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival held in Sydney , and competed in the preliminary match against China that Australia won 17 ? 10 , scoring three goals . She participated in the preliminary round loss to Hungary 19 ? 17 , scoring four goals . At the same tournament , Southern scored one goal in the gold medal finals match where her team took silver following a 10 ? 9 loss to Hungary . In July 2010 , she was a member of the Born ? 91 junior national team that toured New Zealand and the United States . She was a member of the Australian side that finished third at the 2011 FINA Junior World Championships .

= = = National team = = =

Southern has competed for the Australian Stingers , having made her debut in 2010 at the

Longmont Tournament , which is also known as the Sydney Anniversary Tournament . At that tournament she scored eight goals in a 10 ? 8 finals win over the United States . In two other games in the tournament , Southern scored three goals in each . She was a member of the Stingers squad that competed at the FINA World Cup in Christchurch , New Zealand in 2010 that finished second .

In February 2011 , Southern was a member of the team that competed against Italy in the International Series in Perth , Western Australia . In the second and third matches against Italy , she scored one goal and netted another two goals in the fourth match . Southern was a member of the team that toured Europe in June 2011 . At the Kirishi Cup , in Kirishi , Russia in June 2011 , she scored three goals in the match against Greece , three in the match against Hungary and five in the match against Kazakhstan . She also scored a goal in a friendly against Italy . That year , Southern was a member of the team that finished third at the FINA World League Finals .

Southern competed in the Pan Pacific Championships in January 2012 for the Stingers , scoring a goal in a Stingers 8 ? 7 win over the United States . She also scored one goal in the game against Brazil and two goals in the game against China . Southern was part of the team that competed at the International Series in Melbourne , Victoria , scoring two goals in the second match against Canada . She was a member of the squad that competed in a January 2012 three game test series against the United States women 's national water polo team . The team won two of the three matches , with scores of 12 ? 13 in an opening series loss , winning 11 ? 6 in the second match and winning the third match 12 ? 7 clash at Sutherland Leisure Centre . Southern scored three goals in the first half of the final match in the series .

In late February 2012 , Southern was part of the Stingers squad that competed in a five @-@ game test against Great Britain at the Australian Institute of Sport , the team 's first matches against Great Britain 's national team in six years . In the first game of the test series on 21 February 2012 , which Australia won 13 ? 5 , she scored four goals . Southern did not compete in the second or third games , but in Australia 's fourth game victory of 14 ? 8 , she scored two goals .

= = = Olympics = = =

In February 2012 , Southern was named to the final training squad for the 2012 Summer Olympics , and as such , attended a training camp starting on 20 February 2012 at the Australian Institute of Sport . The squad of seventeen players will be cut to thirteen before the team departs for the Olympic games , with the announcement being made on 13 June .

= = Recognition = =

In 2010 , Southern was named the Junior Runner Up at the Business Technology Centre North Queensland Sportstar Awards , which included a A \$ 1 @,@ 000 prize that her mother picked up as Southern was unable to attend the award ceremony . In 2011 , she was named the Senior Runner Up at the Business Technology Centre North Queensland Sportstar Awards , which came with a A \$ 500 prize , and she won the Cassowary Coast Regional Councils Senior Sports Award .