

SHANE LUKE

Australian Amputee Golf Champion



At just 15, Shane Luke lost his right leg above the knee due to bone cancer. Shane's limb loss, however, has not impinged upon his dream of becoming an internationally-acclaimed golfer.

Throughout his youth, Shane always held a passion for sports. He started playing golf with his father when he was 12, initially on a handicap of 25. By the time he was 15, Shane was playing off a handicap of 10, but his sport was to come to an unexpected halt after being diagnosed with bone cancer.

After the loss of his right leg and while still receiving chemotherapy, Shane's father took him to the local driving range. His father teed the ball up and Shane hit it while balancing on his left leg, not falling over once. His father was amazed. Since that moment he has never looked back, and his passion for golf continues.

Now 35, Shane can strike a tee shot 260 meters. Incredibly, he has attained a handicap as low as 1 and is currently playing off a 4. His early technique has continued as he chooses to take his prosthetic limb off when he plays each shot, balancing skillfully on his left leg.

Achievements in his sporting career include winning the 2002 World Amputee Golf Championship, where he defeated Geoff Nicholas. "Being the first to defeat Geoff in amputee golf was a personal highlight considering Geoff's talent and many championship titles worldwide. Geoff has shown us the way. To become a professional and play on the tour is something I dream about."

Shane won his third consecutive Australian Amputee Golf Championship in Port Stephens last March. He was challenged by 33 participants from New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia. He was thrilled that Open Champion Brett Ogle from the Golf Show on Fox Sports watched the last few holes at the Australian Championship, and included a segment on the Golf show.

Shane is eager to attract more competitors to the Australian Championship, stating that the event is open to all levels of golfers (beginners included). “It was great to play with Ben Tullipan at the 2007 Championships. Ben lost both legs in the Bali bombings, and had only been playing for 10 weeks prior to the tournament”.

Shane was previously employed by the *Torch* newspaper in NSW where he worked for 17 years as a Graphic Designer. He is now working with the German componentry company Otto Bock as a service technician for prosthetic knee joints. He is looking forward to travelling to Germany later this year for MYO (electronic) hand repair training.

The Milperra Sports Complex is home to Shane’s busy training schedule, and also where he hopes to run golf clinics for other amputees in the near future. Having recently qualified as an instructor with the AGTF (Australian Golf Teachers Federation), he will also be available at Milperra Driving Range for private after-hours lessons.

His sponsors, Otto Bock, Taylormade-adidas and Milperra Sports Complex have been an essential element in his sporting achievements. When he is not on the driving range, his greatest love is spending time with his family. Shane is indebted to his wife Helen and children Jason and Scartett for their ongoing love and support.



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