



OLD SCHOOL

Teresa Edwards puts her sneakers in her gym bag five days a week and heads to the basketball courts at Crunch Fitness in Atlanta for some serious pickup. Most of the guys know her game by now—she's usually the only woman—but every couple of days, there's a new sucker to school.

"I tell them all the time I'm the weak link," says Edwards, a 5'11" guard who turned 36 on July 19. "I like to pop off four or five shots before they figure it out."

Come September, Edwards will need no introduction. The former Georgia star is prepping for her fifth Olympics—more than any other American in hoops history. She has played professionally in five countries, owns four Olympic medals (three gold, one bronze) and has toiled on 18 national teams. And yet it's easy to forget about her this time of year, when the rest of her once-and-future sidekicks are mixing it up in the WNBA. Edwards turned down the league after the ABL filed for bankruptcy in 1998. She was making around \$150,000 at the time; the WNBA offered \$50K. "It's about not selling your soul," she says. "It's about



respect for yourself and what you can do." So now the blissfully unemployed baller is bidding her time in a man's world until the Olympic squad comes together Aug. 14. When she's not lifting weights and knocking down threes, she's running sprints at a high school track alongside Atlanta Falcons. As the lone sister to four younger brothers, Edwards has always hung with the guys. The only tricky part? When she takes her show Down Under, no chick's gonna buy that weak-link routine.

—ANNE MARIE JEFFORDS

Waneek Horn-Miller plays for Canada, for her people and for the sister (below) she clung to after being stabbed by a soldier on a fateful day 10 years ago.



BRAVE HEART

On land or in the pool, Canada's Waneek Horn-Miller is used to being a leader
BY ERIC ADELSON



SHE IS UNLIKE any other Olympian in history. Waneek Karawinionta Onakarake Sunshine Horn-Miller, co-captain of the Canadian water polo team, is thought to be the first full-blooded Mohawk woman to qualify for the Games. Fittingly, her sport is making its own Olympic debut on the women's side. But what really sets Waneek apart is the two-inch scar over her heart and the indelible images of that day 10 years ago when one more inch might have killed her.

Waneek's mother, Kahn-Tineta Horn, has been a leading Native rights activist for three decades. In July 1990 she took Waneek, then 14, and Waneek's 4-year-old sister, Kanietio, along to a protest against the Quebec town of Oka, which had plans to expand a golf course onto a Mohawk cemetery. They ended up camping out on the course for three months, along with 50 other Natives—surrounded by 2,500 Canadian soldiers.

Tensions flared throughout the standoff, with one confrontation resulting in the use of tear gas. On Sept. 26, the Natives decided to leave. But the soldiers, caught by surprise, gave chase to the Mohawk leaders. In the chaos that followed, Waneek tried to shield Kanietio as the two were pushed to the ground. "I thought I got the wind knocked out of me," she recalls. "But I looked down, and I was covered in blood."

Only then did she realize she had been stabbed in the chest with a bayonet. Luckily, the blade had missed her heart; she was stitched up and released from the hospital

the same day. By the next morning, however, her picture was splashed across front pages nationwide.

The Oka crisis changed Waneek's life. "I figured, I'm alive, so I better do something," she says. She gave up competitive swimming because it was "too individual." Then, at 15, she joined a two-month organized run through Native communities from British Columbia to Quebec, logging 10 to 20 miles per day as the youngest member of the group. At 16, she completed a four-month run from Alaska to New Mexico. She also took up water polo, and soon found that her strength and vision made her a natural.

At Carleton University in Ontario, Waneek majored in political science, walked off with three trophies as female athlete of the year and made the national team as an outside shooter. With every step, she displayed her mother's leadership skills. (She has never met her father, the Miller in Horn-Miller.) It wasn't long before she became the squad's liaison to coaches, questioning everything from playing time to strategy. She spurred the team to gold at the '99 Pan Am Games and to silver behind the U.S. at the Holiday Cup just a few weeks ago.

She insists she has no mixed feelings about wearing the colors of a country where her own people have seldom come first. After all, if Canada should win in Sydney, Waneek will honor two nations. "When I'm on the podium, I'm a Mohawk," she says. "That's what helps me put the ball in the net."

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8.9-16
SWIM DOC
Med school can wait for Jenny Thompson. First up: another residency at the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials in Indianapolis.

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