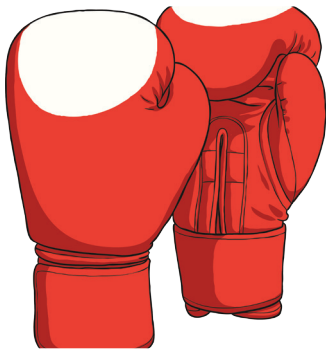


Katie Taylor

Born on 2nd July 1986, Katie Taylor grew up in Bray, Co. Wicklow with her mother and father (Bridget and Peter Taylor) and her three older siblings. From an early age, her sporting talent was noticeable; however, Katie's was not only a talented boxer but she also played football for Bray Emmets and Fergal Ógs. She also enjoyed athletics and was a member of her local running club Bray Runners. Katie clearly showed a strong interest and passion for sport in her life.



Katie first began boxing at the age of 11 in 1998. This decision was strongly influenced by her father, Peter Taylor, who himself was an Irish Senior Light Heavyweight Champion boxer. Peter was an electrician; persuaded by his daughter's abilities, he decided to change careers and he became Katie's full-time coach. On 31st October 2001, history was made when Katie, aged 15 at the time, took part in the first officially sanctioned women's bout ever held in Ireland. After a brief fight, which consisted of three ninety-second rounds, she defeated the Belfast boxer Alanna Audley. This was the beginning of a series of impressive successes.



In May 2005, Katie made Irish history once again when she became the first Irish woman to win a gold medal at the Senior European Championships. This event was held in Norway and Katie competed against Eva Wahlstrom, Lucie Bertaud and Gulsum Tatar. Katie won the gold medal by the skin of her teeth as the score at the end of her match with Tatar was 12 – 12; however, Katie won by a very close margin (29 – 28).

In the following years, Katie continued to capture the attention of the boxing and sporting world with several notable successes. She competed in numerous competitions in Ireland and across Europe in the following tournaments: International Norway Box Cup, where she won and also earned 'Best Boxer of the Tournament 2004'; the International 'Italia' Women's Tournament, Rome 2004, where she also won and also earned another title as 'Best Boxer of the Tournament'; The Women's European Boxing Championships (Ireland's only representative); and the 20th Ahmet Comert Cup tournament in April 2005, Istanbul, Turkey. After

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Katie Taylor

achieving these notable successes, Katie was encouraged to pursue a full-time career in boxing.

After several continued international successes throughout 2006, 2007 and 2008, Katie was awarded the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Female Boxer of the Year for 2008.



In 2012, Katie achieved her most notable success. She had qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, which was a significant event due to it being the first occasion that women's boxing was going to be included as a discipline. On 6th August, Katie made her first appearance fighting against Natasha Jones, a British boxer. Katie won 26 – 15, which gave her a place in the semi-final. Katie was given a great deal of support and motivation from her fans at the Olympics, which was truly magical and motivating for her.

Two days later, she competed in the semi-final against Mavzunz Chorjeva, a boxer from Tajikistan. Using a combination of quick moves, knowledge of skills and



concentration, Katie was able to achieve a victory. She won 17 – 9 in the semi-final: she had earned a place in the Olympic final! With her father by the ringside, as well as thousands of Irish fans gazing in anticipation at big screens in her hometown of Bray and throughout the country, Katie defeated Sofya Ochigava, a Russian boxer, in the final bout

by 10 – 8. This earned Katie her first Olympic Gold Medal and she also became the first ever Olympic female lightweight champion!

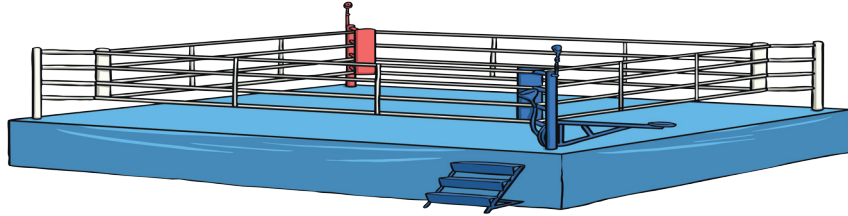
Did You Know?

Katie has played for Ireland's senior women's football team. She scored the opening goal of Ireland's big match against Hungary in 2007.

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Katie Taylor

Katie has been an inspirational role model for women's boxing in Ireland. Not only is she a national, international and world gold medal winner, she is also an ambitious and determined young woman.



Katie Taylor Questions

1. In which sport does Katie Taylor compete?

2. What other sports did Katie compete in during her childhood and teenage years?

3. Which family member mostly influenced her decision to focus her attention on boxing?
Why do you think this is?

4. What job did Katie's father have before becoming her full-time coach?

5. Where and when did the first ever officially sanctioned women's bout occur in Ireland?

6. In your opinion, why was this the first one?

7. In which competitions did Katie earn the title 'Best Boxer in the Tournament'?

8. Why was May 2005 an important time in Irish sporting history?

9. Which combination of skills enabled Katie to win her semi-final bout in 2012?

10. Where were the 2012 summer Olympics held? What was different about these Olympics compared to other years?
