

# Hayden Kovacic

D.O.B. 08/10/1993

Coach: Alex Kovacic

Occupation: Student

Club: Joined Westfields A.C. in 2005, became Life member in 2016.

## Honours:

**Life member Westfields Athletics Club**

**2016 NSW Open 100m Champion**

**2016 Adhemar Ferreira da Silva Scholarship**

**2016 Finalist Rio de Janeiro Olympics test event**

**Top 40 All-time Australian 100m**

**Number 1 All-time Westfields AC 100m**



Above: Hayden wearing the Australian uniform at 2016 Rio Olympics Test Event

## Progression

Year (age)	100	200
2012 (17)	10.6 (hand)	
2013 (18)	nil	nil
2014 (19)	10.69	21.84
2015 (20)	10.58 (10.44 2.8)	
2016 (21)	10.35	21.36 (21.13 2.9)
2017	10.55	

## Internationals:

2016 Olympic test event, Rio de Janeiro 100m 7<sup>th</sup> final

## National Championships:

**2016 Australian Open Championships SOPAC**

100m DSQ

200m 11<sup>th</sup> 21.36

## NSW Championships

**2016 NSW Open**

100m Gold medal 10.46 (0.6) (heat 10.61 -0.1, Semi 10.53 0.4)

## Brief History

Hayden Kovacic enrolled at Westfields Sports in 2005 and for the next 5 years was essentially a regular participant in events including 100, 200, long jump and triple jump. Small in stature for most of his years at Westfields Hayden gained most of his early success as a valuable relay runner. Coach Fred O'Connor would often speak of his exceptional coordination and overall talent and knew it would only be a matter of time before he would excel.

Then when in year 12 at the Hunter Stadium during the Sports School Knockout, Hayden did something so "out of the box" some thought there had been an error (including me). Hayden won the 100m race in a hand time of 10.6. It was one of the most memorable moments in Westfields history. Hayden had been recently running in the 11 second range but unknown to most he had been training hard and improving rapidly. Only for the fact there was no wind gauge would the time have rocketed him into the National rankings.

The next 12 months would see niggling injuries so it wasn't until 2014 that Hayden proved to all that he was going to be "a force to be reckoned with". In 2014 he ran times of 10.94, 10.82 and then the incredible 10.69 at the Treloar Shield early in the new season. It gave him his first National ranking appearing in the Open top 40 at number 32 by the end of the year. More injuries would prevent an assault on the NSW Championships in 2015.

Even though throughout his three years as an open athlete (2015, 2016 & 2017) would be continually affected by injuries nevertheless when he was able to compete he did so with disciplined efficiency. He began 2016 on a high note winning the Club Championships (defeating Australian Open Champion Jin Su Jung) and taking second at the Hunter Track Classic behind another Australian Champion Josh Clarke). In fact for the most part of 2016 he was undefeated in 100m winning 8 races in a row. One of

the more memorable races was when he defeated the National 100m Champion Jin Su Jung on 4 consecutive occasions. He then won the Illawarra Track Classic (60m and 100m) and finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the Queensland Track Classic in a new p.b. of 10.42. This was followed by a career highlight when he became the first ever WAC athlete to win the NSW Open 100m. The NSW title was never in doubt with easy wins in the heat and semi final. His run in the final was one of the most convincing and most memorable. He led all the way and powered away from the rest of the field as he crossed the finish line. The end of the season was unfortunate with a break in the heats of the 100m at the Australian Open. His season performances had clearly made him a favourite for a National podium finish and a chance for the National Title, but it wasn't to be. Hayden did however redeem himself with a p.b. in the 200m into a strong headwind finishing just out of the top 8. Shortly after at the 2016 Westfields Presentation Night Hayden was honoured with Athlete of the Year and winner of the Adhemar Ferreira da Silva Scholarship. He went onto compete in Rio de Janeiro at the 2016 Olympic Test event as the only Australian athlete. Running a p.b in the first round of 10.35 he was elevated to number 6 in Australia and top 40 All-time Australian. After gruelling back up races (3 all in the one day) he finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the final, and emerging as Westfields greatest ever sprinter.

#### Interesting facts:

- Hayden was undefeated in 100m in 2016 over 8 consecutive races.
- Hayden has run 21.13 over 200m albeit wind assisted
- Hayden's average 100m time in 2016 (only counting races with legal tail winds) was 10.49
- Hayden's legal P.B. in the 200m of 21.36 was into a -1.7 headwind
- Hayden has a 60m p.b. of 6.85 and is currently ranked no. 5 in 2017
- Hayden's 2016 National ranking would have made him an obvious choice for the Australian 4x100m relay squad. Unfortunately we did not send a men's team to the Rio Olympics and his selection never eventuated.