

Olaf Tufte

Date of birth: 27th April 1976

Sport: Rowing, Single Sculls

Hometown: Nykirke, NORWAY



Olaf Tufte has been at the top of elite rowing for over 15 years - a rare accomplishment in this demanding sport, particularly for a single sculler. His two Olympic gold medals, in 2008 and 2004, make him one of only five men with two Olympic victories in the single.

Olaf made his competitive debut when he was 18 years old. Two years later he competed in the coxless four at the 1996 Olympic Games, placing eighth. He then turned his attention to the double sculls and won a bronze medal at the 1999 World Championships following this up with silver at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Away from the sport of rowing Olaf is a family man and likes nothing better than to spend time with his wife and children. He and his wife work and live at Tufte Farm which has been in the family for more than 300 years. He also organises the annual 'Tufte Farmer Challenge' an untraditional competition between some of Norway's top athletes, with events including tractor tyre flipping, axe throwing, sawing and car pulling! His commitment to balance is precisely what makes him a champion sculler and allows him to flourish in all aspects of his full and busy life as husband, father, farmer and corporate representative.

Despite his success at the double sculls Olaf decided to focus on the single scull and this proved to be a positive move when he took the gold medal in the World Championships in 2001 and 2003. He followed on from this success to take a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Athens 2004.

In the final at the Beijing Olympic Games Olaf was nearly two seconds down with 500m to go, but came back with a decisive and thrilling attack to win the gold medal and repeat his success in Athens. Olaf describes the race as his best ever a view confirmed by Dan Topolski a respected rowing coach, writer and broadcaster who described him as a "fantastically efficient and effective sculler".

He created and manages Team Tufte, set up to develop the next generation of Norwegian rowers and gives youngsters the opportunity to receive coaching from him. He and the team push each other hard, helping Olaf to stay at the top of his sport and ensuring the other team members climb the ladder in international competition.

Olaf has qualified to compete at the Olympic Games in London 2012. At age 35 he still has the strength and determination to earn a place on the medals podium.

Achievements

- 2008 Gold – Olympic Games, Single Sculls
- 2007 Bronze – World Championships, Single Sculls
- 2005 Silver – World Championships, Single Sculls
- 2004 Gold – Olympic Games, Single Sculls
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- 2002 Bronze – World Championships, Single Sculls
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