

# hailey thompson



1. **Date of Birth:** March 22, 1994
2. **Hometown:** Born in Lihue, Hawaii, but have spent the majority of my life in Stevens Point, Wisconsin (USA)
3. **Sport:** Canoe Slalom
4. **How many years training in canoe:** 2.5 years
5. **How many days/week do you train in canoe?** 4-5 days/week, except when the river freezes.
6. **Do you cross-train?** Yes. Running, rowing, biking, and rock climbing in the summer, and cross country skiing in the winter, on a competitive team.
7. **Who is your closest rival?** When I think of women who are really my closest rivals, three immediately come to mind. USA athletes Colleen Hickey and Carolyn Peterson. Internationally, Cara Marks, from British Columbia, Canada. I have a hard time thinking of these ladies as rivals because I see them more as friends.
8. **Other favourite sports/hobbies?** I

love skiing, both cross country and telemark, biking, running, rock climbing, rowing, backpacking, playboat canoeing. Anything outdoors really.

**9. 2008 Accomplishments?**

- October: World Series, American Open - 1st place C1
- August: USA Canoe and Kayak Senior National Championships -3rd place C1
- June/July: USA Junior Olympic Overall Champion
- April: U.S. Olympic Trials/PanAmerican Games/U.S. Senior National Team - 2nd C1

**10. 2009 Goals:** I would like to make the 2009 U.S. Junior National Team in kayak and canoe, (if they offer canoe for junior women). I would also like to make the Senior National Team in canoe again. If I make those teams, I really want to go to Europe to race. Both U.S. Trials are going to be defining factors of my plans.

**11. What is your message to the world regarding women in canoe?**

I know women who have paddled in canoe their entire lives, and did not get the opportunities that I am getting. The

reason I get to do the things I do, is because women before me paved the way for generations to come. I am so grateful for their work, so grateful for the support I am given. But I also think that women should not have had to fight in the first place. I think women should have been allowed to canoe from the very beginning of paddling in the Olympics. We train just as hard, want to canoe just as much as men. I do not care what gender you are; if you want to canoe in the Olympics, I think everyone should be able to do so.

**12. Who is your role model, mentor, or who inspires you the most?** U.S.

National Slalom Canoe Coach Cathy Hearn, 2-Time U.S. Olympic Slalom Kayak, 3-Time World Slalom Kayak Champion. She grew up doing canoe.

**13. What is your favourite music?**

Relaxation: Death Cab for Cutie, The Shins. Competition: Modest Mouse, The Red Hot Chili Peppers

**14. How many years do you see yourself competing in canoe?** I see myself competing in canoeing for about 12 more years. I plan on paddling my entire life.