



## **Perdita Felicien**

Perdita dedicated herself to hurdling in high school and won two consecutive Canadian junior championships titles. Her talent brought offers of athletics scholarship and she chose the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, earning an honors degree in kinesiology.

In university Perdita Felicien was a ten-time All-American and three-time NCAA champion in the 100m hurdles. Felicien was the first female athlete in school history to be named University of Illinois Female Athlete of the Year three consecutive years.

Felicien blossomed into a major force on the international scene winning her first world title at the world championships in Paris while still in college, and beating legend Gail Devers. With her win, Felicien became Canada's first ever female world gold medalist and was named Canada's female athlete of the year, the first track athlete to capture that honor in 25 years.

Perdita chalked up six straight wins leading up to the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, where she was expected to win gold in the 100 m hurdles. Unexpectedly, Felicien collided with the first hurdle in the finals and did not finish. However Felicien's reaction and class to the situation made her a champion in the hearts of Canadians.

In August 2007 the two-time world champion, won a silver medal at the world championships in Osaka, Japan in one of the fastest 100m hurdle races in history, where only five hundredths separated the top four finishers. In 2008 Felicien missed the Beijing Olympics due to injury, but worked for the national broadcaster CBC as an analyst. She received raves reviews for her work on camera and has parlayed that into a new career as a sportscaster & commentator.

Perdita Felicien knows how to persevere and how to triumph she is a passionate storyteller that inspires. Perdita keeps the mantra that obstacles are what you see when your eyes are off the prize. She is a very inspirational speaker.

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