

Sol2023 Ambassador Chris Votu Sports Biography

Chris Votu's journey to success started from humble beginnings. Growing up in a small village called Komuvaolu in the Weather Coast Moli district, Chris faced many challenges along the way. Despite these challenges, he remained determined and focused on his goals. Chris attended Makaruka primary school and completed his Form 1 at Avuavu Secondary School, but due to unforeseen circumstances, he was unable to continue his education.

Chris Votu worked at Horokiki Cocoa Farming Company before transitioning to Solomon Islands Plantation Limited Company where he worked for two years. Though his education ended after completing Form One at Avuavu Secondary School, Chris proved his worth through his hard work and dedication in his career.

Chris also pursued his passion for sports and became a talented athlete.

After being approached by Fujiyama, a teacher at Ruavatu Secondary School, Chris Votu's passion for soccer shifted to athletics. He started training in various track and field events and eventually competed in his first competition, the Inter-Secondary School Athletics competition. Chris found his niche in sprinting and began to focus on improving his times.

His hard work and dedication paid off as he became the fastest man in Solomon Islands, winning several medals at the South Pacific Games, Mini Games, Chris even had the opportunity to represent the country at the Commonwealth Games in 1994 and 1998, as well as the Olympic Games in 1996 and 2000.

Chris's passion for both soccer and athletics was undeniable as he continued to excel in both sports. He would often participate in the weekly athletics trials for long-distance running, and despite not always winning, he frequently placed second. His natural talent and potential caught the attention of his friends, who eventually persuaded him to focus more on athletics.

After his debut in the world championship, Chris participated in many other trials and championships, constantly striving to improve his performance. He competed in the South Pacific Games and Mini Games, winning medals in various events such as the 1500-meter, 3000 meters, and 5000-meter races. In the 2003 South Pacific Games held in Fiji, Chris won gold in the 5000 meter and bronze in the 1500-meter race. His passion and dedication to athletics also led him to participate in the 2006 Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne, Australia.

In 1997, Chris Votu made his debut appearance in the mini games held in Pago Pago, the capital city of American Samoa. He participated in the long-distance running category and achieved a remarkable feat by securing a bronze medal. This marked the beginning of his successful career in athletics.

Chris Votu had an illustrious career in the sport of athletics, competing in various regional and international events including the Mini Games, Pacific Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games, and World Championship events. He has had the privilege of traveling to many countries around the world to participate in these competitions. Throughout his career, Chris has won numerous medals for his country, making him one of the most accomplished athletes in the history of Solomon Islands athletics.

Despite facing challenges along the way, Chris remained committed to his athletic career and his determination led him to great success. Chris's story is an inspiration to many,

showing that with hard work, determination, and a positive attitude, one can overcome any obstacle and achieve success.

By Ezmie Oge

GOC Media.