

RISE OF THE]

STAR BRIGADE

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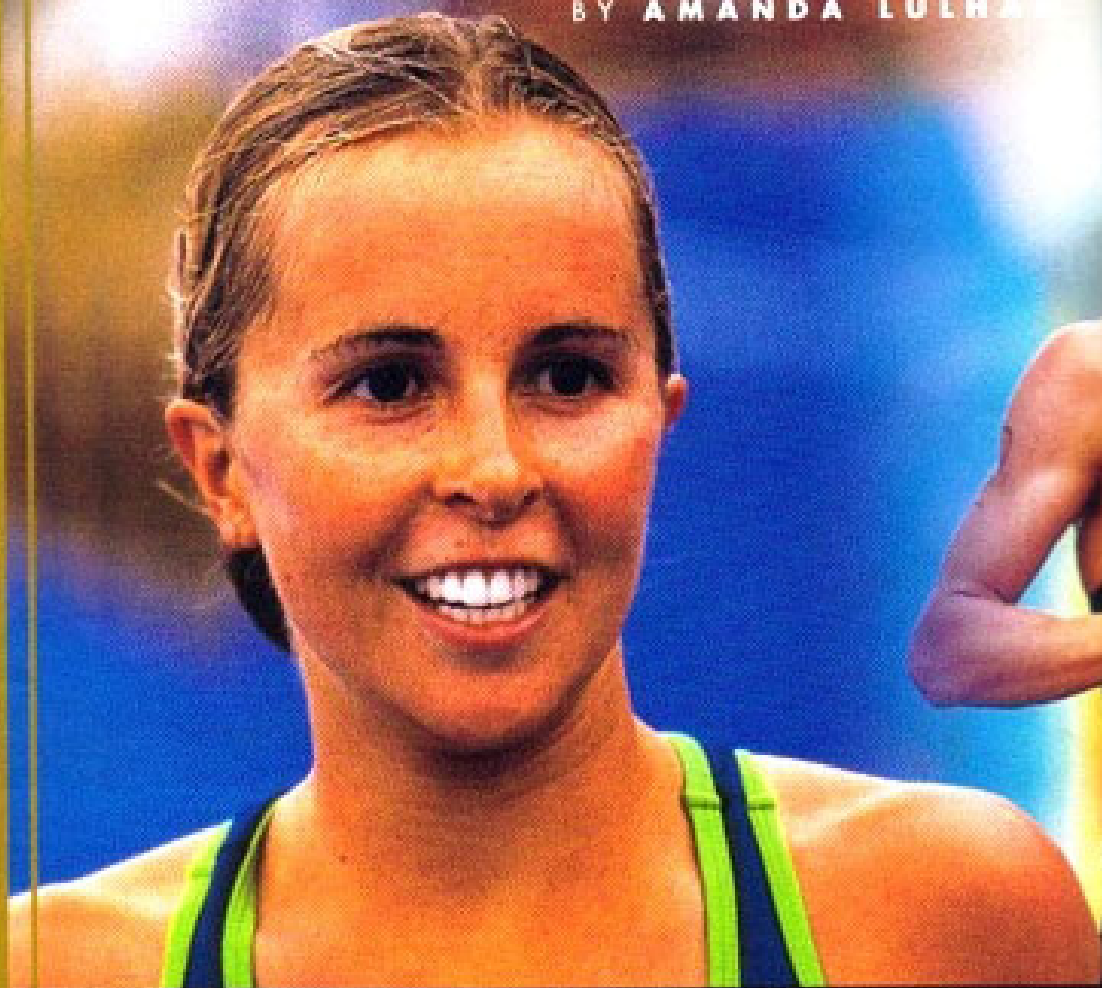


Photo
JAMES

When dual world champion Michellie Jones won Australia's sole triathlon medal at the Sydney Olympic Games and the host nation consequently lost its long-standing mantle of top nation in the world, the doom and gloomers had a field day. Critics of the newest Olympic sport predicted a future far less rosy than the golden decade Australia had enjoyed in the lead-up to the September Games while others even forecast the downfall of this country as a world leader in the sport.