

Eddie the Eagle Answer Key

Script

Michael Edwards, or as he is better known, Eddie the Eagle, is a famous figure in the UK and media darling. Eddie was the first competitor to represent Britain for ski jumping in the winter Olympics in Calgary in 1987, a sport for which no-one from Britain had ever entered before. In fact, he was the only British competitor in the winter Olympics that year. Eddie was a true amateur and received no financial support from the British sporting establishment. To make matters worse, he was also severely short-sighted and had to wear glasses to see where he was going. On top of that, he was not exactly light; in fact, he weighed 9 kilos more than the next heaviest competitor. Nevertheless, he has always maintained that he did not suffer from a fear of heights, despite persistent rumours to the contrary.

There are a number of versions as to how he became known as Eddie the Eagle. According to one, the President of the Games announced during the closing ceremony that he had flown like an eagle. Another story is that, on arriving in Calgary, he was heading out of the terminal when he walked into a glass door in front of a number of journalists, who came up with the famous nickname.

Although he did succeed in setting several UK records in his short career, Eddie managed to come last in both events at the Olympics – in 55th and 58th place, to be precise. An Italian sports commentator said that he ‘flew like a brick’. There is no doubt that Eddie was the most celebrated competitor of the Games that year, which did not exactly delight the organisers, who felt that he was making the sport look ridiculous. They changed the rules to make it impossible for a complete amateur to enter on behalf of a country without a competitive level in a sport.

Following the Calgary games, Eddie went on to write his memoirs, entitled ‘On the Piste’ as well as recording several novelty records, two of which were in Finnish. He also went on the after-dinner circuit as a motivational speaker. However, all his earnings had evaporated by 1992, when he filed for bankruptcy, blaming dishonest lawyers who had siphoned off the money. He then went on to study Law and graduated from De Montfort University.

A biopic is soon to be released starring Steve Coogan in the role of Eddie the Eagle, Britain’s favourite underdog and living legend. Eddie is a shining example to us all of self-belief and disregard for officialdom. His wife proudly refutes all claims that her husband is a failure and points to his enduring fame and popularity at home and abroad.

Eddie the Eagle Answer Key

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- 1 Ski jumping
- 2 No support from the sporting establishment, short-sighted/wore glasses, too heavy.
- 3 That he was afraid of heights.
- 4 He walked into a glass door.
- 5 He came last.
- 6 He set a number of UK records.
- 7 They changed the rules to prevent total amateurs with no chance of winning from entering.
- 8 'On the Piste'.
- 9 Finnish.
- 10 He became a motivational speaker.
- 11 A degree in law.
- 12 By a 'biopic'/motion picture/movie/film.
- 13 He is very popular/he is admired as an underdog/he is a living legend.
- 14 They are proud of him.