

Sport Today

Olympic dream over
as future comes first

Wade hangs up his Bootes

BMX



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THE Olympic dream of Toowoomba product Wade Bootes is officially over.

Bootes was recently given an ultimatum to take up an offer of a coaching scholarship with the Australian Sports Commission or continue chasing his dream of racing at the Olympics, the only major achievement missing from his resume.

A final decision was made at the weekend, with Bootes making a "financial decision" to retire from riding.

"It's going to be tough to see BMX at the Olympics for the first time and not be a part of it,"

Bootes said.

"I tried to prove a point that it would be possible to run a junior program and be an elite athlete, but they wouldn't buy it.

"It was a tough decision, but coaching is more of a business decision and gives me more of a long-term future."

Bootes will now take up a role in talent identification and with the elite coaching program.

The Toowoomba product was a pioneer of BMX racing in Australia, becoming the first from this country to race professionally in the United States, where he remained among the elite for more than a decade. He is a multiple world champion in both mountain biking and BMX.

Permission has been granted for Bootes to compete in the three-race Jeep mountain bike series in America later in the year.



Wade Bootes' dream of racing at the Olympics is over after he accepted a coaching scholarship from the Australian Sports Commission.