

# SPORTS 'N SPOKES

May 2024

## ARCHERS ADAPT

Athletes use mouths and feet to compete

## EMBRACE THE FUN

Mountain biking provides more than just thrills

# *Finding A Path*

Netix documentary weaves stories of adaptive athletes



Are you a **US Veteran**  
suffering from **hand paralysis**  
or **decreased hand function?**

**A Life-Changing Tool to Regain Hand Function**

ReGrasp Hand Neuro Rehabilitation System helps you regain strength and mobility while assisting with activities of daily living.



Ask your VA Clinical Provider to  
contact Rehabtronics or call us at  
**1-800-481-3214 (X703)**

# Inside

SPORTS 'N SPOKES

## Features

### 24 Coming Full Circle

Netfl x documentary spotlights adventures after spinal-cord injury.

by Geri Koepfel

### 30 Mastering Their Mouths

More than a handful of archers, including Paralympians Jeff Fabry, Matt Stutzman and Piotr Van Montagu, are competing in the sport by using their feet and their mouths.

by John Groth

### 36 Trekking Into Nature

Adaptive mountain bikers ride where their wheelchairs can't go.

by Jennifer Best



24

## Digital Highlights on [sportsnspokes.com](https://sportsnspokes.com)

### NWBA ADULT DIVISION CHAMPS

Want to find out which teams won the April 12–14 National Wheelchair Basketball Association Adult Division Championships in Glen Allen, Va.?

Check out the website and our Facebook page ([facebook.com/sportsnspokes](https://facebook.com/sportsnspokes)) for both stories and photos.

### READY FOR RUGBY

*SPORTS 'N SPOKES* will be at the May 3–5 United States Wheelchair Rugby Association national championships in Tampa, Fla. Check out Facebook ([facebook.com/sportsnspokes](https://facebook.com/sportsnspokes)) for pictures, results and tournament highlights.

## Scan This!

Or go to [sportsnspokes.com](https://sportsnspokes.com)





# Inside

SPORTS 'N SPOKES

6 **MY OPINION**

**Sports & Mental Health**

by Al Kovach Jr.

20 **THE EXTRA POINT**

**Flip Out**

by John Groth



30

## Also in This Issue

---

8 In The Game

41 Sports Associations

42 On The Sidelines

46 Classifications

46 ProShop



36

**On the cover:** Adaptive sit-skier Trevor Kennison is shown at Eagle Pass Heliski in Revelstoke, British Columbia.

He has a level T11/T12 spinal-cord injury and is featured in the the Netflix documentary *Full Circle: A Story of Post Traumatic Growth*.

Photo by Bruno Long.



SPORTS 'N SPOKES (ISSN 0161-6706) is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by Paralyzed Veterans of America, 7250 North 16th Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85020-5214. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Prices is Pending at Phoenix, AZ and additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SPORTS 'N SPOKES, 7250 North 16th Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85020-5214. Subscription rates: \$12 annually. Foreign orders: \$18 (U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank).



**More products.  
More resources. More Fun!**  
*All to empower your abilities...*



**Dial up your independence with:**

- Latest product & tech
- Informative workshops
- Adaptive sports & dance
- Service dogs
- And so much more



**New York Metro**  
May 3-5, 2024

**Chicago**  
June 21-23, 2024

**Houston**  
August 2-4, 2024

**Phoenix**  
Sept. 6-8, 2024

**Ft. Lauderdale**  
Oct. 18-20, 2024

**Dallas**  
Dec. 6-8, 2024

**Los Angeles**  
March 28-30, 2025



**FREE  
ADMISSION**

**Abilities.com** • Get registered and join us!



@AbilitiesExpo



@AbilitiesExpo



@abilities\_expo

# My Opinion



## SPORTS SPOKES

Published by Paralyzed Veterans of America  
7250 North 16th Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85020 • (602) 224-0500

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Al Kovach Jr., ext. 100  
al@pvamag.com

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Sherri Shea, ext. 102  
sherri@pvamag.com

### MANAGING EDITOR

Andy Nemann, ext. 112  
andy@pvamag.com

### ASSISTANT EDITORS

John Groth, ext. 105  
john@pvamag.com

Brittany Martin, ext. 110  
brittany@pvamag.com

### ART & PRODUCTION

Ann Garvey, ext. 103  
anngarvey@pvamag.com

Kerry Randolph, ext. 104  
kerry@pvamag.com

### ADVERTISING

Steve Max, 215-284-8787  
steve@max4media.com

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Suzi Hubbard, ext. 109  
suzi@pvamag.com

### WEB CONTENT

Christopher Di Virgilio, ext. 106  
chris@pvamag.com

## Sports & Mental Health

**D**id you know that since 1983, each U.S. president has proclaimed May as National Physical Fitness and Sports Month?

Me neither. The presidential declaration is to promote the importance of physical activity, physical fitness and sports participation.

The idea of the government promoting exercise goes back to the 1940s, but in 1956 then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower made it official when he created the President's Council on Youth Fitness.

Over the years, the name has been tweaked a few times, and several presidents have made an effort to broaden the council's impact. In recent history, then-President Barack Obama introduced nutrition as a critical element of fitness and renamed the agency the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition (PCSFN).

In 2023, when President Joe Biden issued Executive Order 14109, renewing the council until September 2025, he added an emphasis on mental health as it pertains to physical fitness and nutrition. I'm not sure why it took so long to begin a focus on mental health, but I'm glad someone advocated for the change in policy.

Many folks think the mind and body are independent of each other, however, mental health and physical health are actually closely linked. Our mental health plays an enormous role in our overall well-being.

Simply put, being in our so-called "happy place" can keep us physically healthy. For example, according to a 2015 study by Nancy Sin, PhD, at Pennsylvania State University, there's mounting evidence from large-scale studies demonstrating that a positive mental state is protective against cardiovascular disease. She also reports that a "glass half-full" attitude is linked to a stronger immune system.

However, this connection goes both ways. Recent studies show physical exercise contrib-

utes to positive mental wellness. In a report published in January on the National Center for Biotechnology Information's website, regular physical activity improves the functioning of the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis.

This is the part of the brain that controls our reactions to stress and regulates our mood and emotions. It's no wonder why so many clinicians recommend a regimen of physical exercise to improve depressive and anxiety symptoms.

Even though the effects of exercise on mental health have been shown to be beneficial, these outcomes aren't always sustainable or even guaranteed. Earlier this year, a well-known athlete whose superhuman exploits have been well-documented in the pages of *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* shared with me his struggles with maintaining his mental health.

Surprisingly, following a significant mental breakdown, he told me that temporarily distancing himself from his athletic career was paramount to his recovery.

As counterintuitive as this may sound, similar approaches to mental well-being have worked for other high-profile athletes such as swimmer Michael Phelps, gymnast Simone Biles and tennis player Naomi Osaka.

Do I really need the government to tell me that if I stop eating corn dogs and get more exercise I'll feel better? Probably not. But after several decades of existence, the PCSFN has had a positive impact and, regardless of your political affiliations, I think we can all agree the inclusion of mental health in the council's work is significant.

After all, how many times have you heard someone say, "Sports saved my life?"

Happy National Physical Fitness and Sports Month!

As always, let me know what you're thinking at [al@pvamag.com](mailto:al@pvamag.com).

S'NS

Now in its 49th year of publication, *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* is the nation's premier magazine for wheelchair sports and recreation primarily for those with spinal-cord injury, spina bifida, amputation and some congenital defects. Not responsible for unsolicited material. *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* neither endorses nor guarantees any of the products or services advertised. © 2024 Paralyzed Veterans of America. All rights reserved. Reproduction of the whole or any part of the contents without permission is prohibited.





# IMPACTING LIVES THROUGH SCIENCE: Funding Research to Improve Life After SCI/D

## 2025 GRANT CYCLE OPENS APRIL 1

Paralyzed Veterans of America Spinal Cord Injury Research Foundation funds grants to promote innovative research to find treatments and cures for paralysis, support efforts to improve lives of individuals living with SCI/D, and fund SCI/D Fellowships to encourage young researchers to specialize in the area of spinal cord research.

Awards will be made in November 2024 for the funding period beginning on **January 1, 2025**.

**Research Grants:** Up to \$200,000 (2-3 years)

**Fellowship Grants:** Up to \$150,000 (1-3 years)

### PROPOSALS ARE ACCEPTED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Basic Science
- Clinical Applications
- Design & Development/  
Assistive Technology
- Post-Doctoral Fellowships

Grant application period opens **April 1, 2024**.  
All applications must be submitted online by **July 1, 2024**.

**Apply at: <https://pva.aibs-scores.org>**

*Late applications will not be accepted.*

**For additional information, contact:**

Lindsay Perlman | 202.416.7611 • [LindsayP@pva.org](mailto:LindsayP@pva.org)



# In The Game

## ATHLETICS

### Debrunner Zooms Away

Switzerland's Catherine Debrunner wheeled her way to a handful of titles against a star-studded class at the first the 15th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships, which ran Feb. 13-15 at the Dubai Club for People of Determination in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Debrunner won the women's T34/52/53/54 100-, 800- and 1,500-meter events, along with the women's T53 400 and women's T54 5,000, knocking off Great Britain's Hannah Cockroft (T34) and Samantha Kinghorn (T53) and the United States' Tatyana McFadden (T54).

Switzerland's Marcel Hug won four gold medals on the men's side, taking the men's T54 5,000, 1,500, 800 and 400.

Meanwhile, Belgium's Roger Habsch set a record in the men's T51 100 (19.13 seconds), and teammate Maxime Carabin set a record in the men's T52 100 (16.25 seconds).



Switzerland's Catherine Debrunner won the T34/52/53/54 women's 800-meter wheelchair final during the 15th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships on Feb. 13 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Additionally, Iran's Hamed Amiri won the men's F54/55 shot put (12.43 meters).

The Para Athletics Championships' opening day was postponed by rain.



Switzerland's Marcel Hug won the men's T54 800-meter wheelchair race during the 15th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships on Feb. 14 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

© GETTY IMAGES/FRANCOIS NEL





© GETTY IMAGES/ FRANCOIS NEL

## BASKETBALL

### U.S. Paralympic Women's Roster Set

The U.S. women's wheelchair basketball team has finalized its 2024 Paris Paralympic Games roster — and it's filled with gold-medal-winning Parapan American Games members.

Twelve members from the 2023 gold-medal-winning Parapan American Games team that played in Santiago, Chile, are on the U.S. Paralympic Games team that will compete in late-August and September. The team was selected after the March 27–31 U.S. Women's Selection Camp held at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Natalie Schneider (Syracuse, Neb.), who's making her fifth Paralympic Games appearance, leads the way.

She's joined by now four-time Paralympians Becca Murray (German town, Wis.) and Rose Hollermann (Elysian, Minn.), now two-time Paralympians Courtney Ryan (Chula Vista, Calif.), Josie Aslakson (Jordan, Minn.), Bailey Moody (Alpharetta, Ga.), Lindsey Zurbrugg (Portland, Ore.), Ixhelt Gonzalez (Chicago), Abigail Bauleke (Savage, Mich.), Kaitlyn Eaton (Houston) and Ali Ibanez (Murray, Utah) and first-time Paralympian Emily Oberst (Brookfield, Wis.).

Elizabeth Becker (Charlotte, N.C.), Josie DeHart (Fruita, Colo.), Quinn Meyer (Austin, Texas) and Zoe Voris (Chicago) are alternates.

They will compete in the Aug. 28–Sept. 8 Paralympic Games.

### Men's U.S. Paralympic Team Named

Now five-time Paralympian Steve Serio, now four-time Paralympian Trevon Jenifer and 2022 National Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Paul Schulte headline the U.S. men's 2024 wheelchair basketball Paralympic Games team.

The team includes 12 athletes from the gold-medal-winning 2023 Parapan American Games team that played in Santiago, Chile, and eight players from the gold-medal-winning 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games team.

That includes four-time Paralympic gold-medal winner Serio (Westbury, N.Y.), four-time Parapan Games gold-medalist Jenifer (Huntingtown, Md.) and Schulte (Ann Arbor, Mich.), who's a four-time Worlds and two-time Paralympic medalist.

They're joined by three-time Parapan Games and Worlds gold-medalist and Paralympic gold-medalist

Brian Bell (Birmingham, Ala.), two-time Paralympic gold-medalist Jake Williams (Milwaukee), two-time Paralympic medalist Nate Hinze (Oshkosh, Wis.), and Paralympic gold-medalist

John Boie (Milton, Wis.), along with Jorge Salazar (Delano, Calif.), Fabian Romo (Chicago), Talen Jordan (Deerfield, Wis.), Jeromie Meyer (Woodbine, Iowa) and AJ Fitzpatrick (Cedar Rapids, Iowa).



© GETTY IMAGES/ MIPAN

COURTESY OF PARIS 2024



# National Wheelchair Basketball Association Women's Intercollegiate Division

## All-America Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Loeiza Vari Le Roux	University of Alabama
Elodie Tessier	University of Texas-Arlington
Zoe Voris	University of Texas-Arlington
Ixhelt Gonzalez	University of Alabama

## All-America Second Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Elizabeth Becker	University of Texas-Arlington
Ali Ibanez	University of Illinois
Moira Paulus	University of Alabama
Mary Wagstaff	University of Illinois

## All-Rookie Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Quinn Meyer	University of Texas-Arlington
Harmonee Ruetes	University of Texas-Arlington
Elizabeth Floch	University of Alabama
Lisa Clary-Galibert	University of Alabama
Abigail Counts	University of Illinois

## Academic All-America First Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Morgan McCammon	University of Illinois
Hannah Exline	University of Texas-Arlington
Joy Haizelden	University of Alabama
Bailey Moody	University of Alabama
Mary Silberman	University of Alabama
Kat Valdez	City University of New York

## Academic All-America Second Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Mary Wagstaff	University of Illinois
Amelia Stotts	University of Illinois
Elizabeth Becker	University of Texas-Arlington
Elodie Tessier	University of Texas-Arlington
Abigail Coffin	University of Arizona
Emilee Gustafson	University of Arizona
Lily Lautenschlager	University of Arizona

## Academic All-America Honorable Mention

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Ali Ibanez	University of Illinois
Alma Velasquez	University of Arizona
Hayley Nilsen	University of Arizona
Moira Paulus	University of Alabama
Abby Bauleke	University of Alabama
Katie Hull	University of Alabama

## Player of the Year:

Ixhelt Gonzalez University of Alabama

## Frank M. Basile Sportsmanship Award:

Crystal Jones City University of New York



Peter Berry (Houston), Aaron Gouge (Grand Prairie, Texas), Ryan Neiswender (Lebanon, Pa.) and Jorge Sanchez (Oakland, Calif.) were named as alternates.

The Paralympic Games run Aug. 28–Sept. 8 in Paris.

## Alabama Women Take Charge

The University of Alabama women's wheelchair basketball team capped an undefeated season with a come-from-behind March 10 National Wheelchair

Basketball Association (NWBA) Intercollegiate Division championship game win.

The Crimson Tide rallied from a five-point third-quarter deficit to a 75-57 win over the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) at Stran-



The University of Alabama women's wheelchair basketball team finished unbeaten after a 75-57 National Wheelchair Basketball Association Intercollegiate Division title-game win.

COURTESY OF ALABAMA ADAPTED ATHLETICS



## National Wheelchair Basketball Association Men's Intercollegiate Division

Hardin Arena in Tuscaloosa, Ala., to capture their fourth straight NWBA Women's Intercollegiate Division title.

Alabama finished 25-0 — and the title marked the Crimson Tide's fifth intercollegiate title in six years and the 10th in school history.

Mary Silberman led Alabama with 19 points, while Bailey Moody had 18, Ixhelt Gonzalez added 16, Joy Haizelden had 14 and Loeiza Vari Le Roux had 10 points.

Alabama outscored UTA, 23-12, in the final quarter to close out the win.

### UW-W Is New Men's Champ

Behind a near triple-double from Thomas Oberst, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater men's wheelchair basketball team wheeled its way to a 2024 National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) Intercollegiate Division title-game victory.

#### All-America First Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Talen Jourdan	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Ben Thornton	University of Arizona
Blaise Mutware	University of Arizona
Thomas Oberst	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

#### All-America Second Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Elijah Yoder	PennWest Edinboro
Fermin Wingerter	Southwest Minnesota State University
AJ Fitzpatrick	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Tim Houston	University of Alabama
Ido Shkuri	University of Texas-Arlington

#### All-Rookie Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Ryan Fitzpatrick	University of Illinois
Nick Deyo	University of Arizona
Gabe Taylor	University of Alabama
Preston Howell IV	University of Alabama
Noah Simeon	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

#### Academic All-America First Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Kerwin Haake	University of Arizona
Evan Lott	University of Alabama
Jeremy Evans	PennWest Edinboro
Josh Hipps	University of Alabama
Parthasarathi Venktram	University of Alabama

#### Academic All-America Second Team

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Gabe Puthoff	Auburn University
Jack Pierre	Auburn University
Koda Inman-Ahlstrom	University of Missouri
Blaise Mutware	University of Arizona
Hunter Pinke	University of Arizona

#### Academic All-America Honorable Mention

PLAYER	COLLEGE
Ben Thornton	University of Arizona

#### Player of the Year:

Emmanuel Fuentes	Southwest Minnesota State University
------------------	--------------------------------------

#### Frank M. Basile Sportsmanship Award:

Jeremy Evans	PennWest Edinboro
--------------	-------------------

Oberst scored 29 points and had 16 rebounds and nine assists, while his brother, Evan, added 23 points, five rebounds and five as-

sists to help lead the Warhawks to a 74-67 win over the University of Arizona in the March 17 NWBA



The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater captured the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Men's Intercollegiate Division title.

COURTESY OF JAKE WILLIAMS



### National Wheelchair Basketball T

#### VARSITY DIVISION

##### First-Team All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Jackson Horne	Lakeshore Lakers
Jack Binsfield	Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves
James Pollard	Bennett Blazers
Kaden Bagley	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple
Caleb Roach	Kansas City Kings Varsity A

##### Second-Team All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Sebastian Milan	New York Rolling Fury
Arelle Middleton	Rancho Halos
Andrew Beutel	LWSRA/Synergy Hawks
Adan Persad	New York Rolling Fury
Mackenzie Groth	Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves

##### Female All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Arelle Middleton	Rancho Halos
Mackenzie Groth	Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves
Sadie Absher	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple
Ava Finger	WASA Marquette Eagles
Ashlyn Olnick	RHI Racers

**Championship Game Most Valuable Player:** Jackson Horne, Lakeshore Lakers

**Tournament Male Most Valuable Player:** Jakarius Kemp, Lakeshore Lakers

**Tournament Female Most Valuable Player:** Jian Jackson, Lakeshore Lakers

**Neal R. Sportsmanship Award:** Riley Porter, Utah Rush

#### VARSITY INVITATIONAL DIVISION

##### First-Team All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Schuyler Whitney	Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers
Ben Rees	DASA Rolling Rams
Kelvin "KJ" Fields	Mississippi Wheelcats
Jonathan Pittman	Kansas City Kings Varsity B
Zaelyn Marshall	LWSRA/Synergy Hawks

##### Second-Team All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Phillip Lindsey	Mississippi Wheelcats
Romella Snedeker	Sportable Spokes
Caiden Hansen	Nebraska Red Dawgs
Adrina Castro	SAAS Junior Wildcats
Sean Nichols	Cincinnati Dragons

##### Female All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Zaelyn Marshall	LWSRA/Synergy Hawks
Romella Snedeker	Sportable Spokes
Adrina Castro	SAAS Junior Wildcats
Abigail LaPole	Adaptive Sports Ohio Cavaliers
Ruthie McKnight	Cincinnati Dragons

**Tournament Most Valuable Player:** Dodge Shore, Mad City Badgers

**Tournament Female Most Valuable Player:** Caroline Fitzpatrick, Katie's Komets

**Sportsmanship Award:** Abigail Lendosky, Mad City Badgers

#### PREP DIVISION

##### First-Team All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Ezra Ippel	Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers
Kooper Hernandez	ATX Austin
Landon Brown	Bennett Blazers
Maxwell Stachel	RHI Junior Racers
Moustafa Eldeeb	New York Rolling Fury

##### Second-Team All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Michael Bobb	Fairfax Falcons
Angel Urmeneta	New York Rolling Fury
Andrew Lucas	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets
Hunter Mastaler	ATX Austin
Emelia D'Antonio	New York Rolling Fury

##### Female All-Tournament Team

NAME	TEAM
Emelia D'Antonio	New York Rolling Fury
Sidney Whaley-Smith	WASA Marquette Eagles
Ivy Cosgrove	WASA Marquette Eagles
Liza Robbins	Bennett Blazers
Virtuous Bennett	Cincinnati Dragons

**Championship Game Most Valuable Player:** Kooper Hernandez, ATX Austin

**Tournament Male Most Valuable Player:** Cameron Davis, LWSRA/Synergy Hawks

**Tournament Female Most Valuable Player:** Zaelyn Marshall, LWSRA/Synergy Hawks

**Sportsmanship Award:** Ivy Glaser, Katie's Komets



## Basketball Association

### Tournament Junior Award Winners

#### 2024 TIMOTHY J. NUGENT HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA

##### First Team

**Scholarship Winner** Jonathan "Adam" Smith, Charlotte Rollin' Hornets

NAME	TEAM
Josie Portell	DASA Rolling Rams
Sadie Absher	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple
Indigo Bruehwiler	Fairfax Falcons
Elliott Murphy	Kansas City Kings Varsity A
Jackson Meier	Utah Rush

##### Second Team

NAME	TEAM
Gabriel Sprenger	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple
Alexander Forstner	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple
Sean Nichols	Cincinnati Dragons
Gavin Peterson	Utah Rush
Jeraldo Henry Jr.	Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks

##### Honorable Mention

NAME	TEAM
Travis Carpenter	Utah Rush
Cole Connelley	RHI Junior Racers
Kai Ryan	Brooks Bullsharks
Mackenzie Groth	Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves
Davis Taylor	Kansas City Kings Varsity A
Michelle McConnell	Utah Rush
Tucker Anderson	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple
Makary Sekulich	WASA Marquette Golden Eagles
Charlie Zerzan	Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue
Riley Porter	Utah Rush
Taylor Post	WASA Marquette Golden Eagles
Ritvika Kondakrindi	Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue
David Killpack	Utah Rush
Eli Johnson	Kansas City Kings Varsity B

#### 2024 Timothy Nugent Academic Achievers

NAME	TEAM
Dahlia Ramirez	LWSRA Hawks Juniors
Zaelyn Marshall	LWSRA Hawks Juniors
Landon Brown	Bennett Blazers
Graham Thompson	Seattle Junior Hawks
Gary Dunn IV	Orlando Magic Dreamers
Rebecca Di Giorgio	Orlando Magic Dreamers
Chance Kern	Orlando Magic Dreamers
Aarya Krishnan	Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks White

Franklin Patterson	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Prep Purple
Noah Fike	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Prep Purple
Lucas Dean	Minnesota Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves
Aaron Butler-Rodriguez	Katie's Komets
Adam Nehring	Mad City Badgers
Cameron Ruis	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple
Robert Deegan	Katie's Komets
Ryan Davis	Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks White
Tristan LaFord	Cincinnati Dragons
Liam Lenetz	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Prep Purple
Ciarlo Liples	Katie's Komets
Emelia D'Antonio	New York Rolling Fury
Matthew Alvarez	Brooks Bullsharks
Sophia Ahern	Roger C. Peace Rollin' Tigers
Faith Hammett	Music City Thunder
Caiden Hansen	Nebraska Red Dawgs
Moustafa Eldeeb	New York Rolling Fury
Andrew Lucas	Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Prep Purple
Finley McKeag	ATX Austin
Austin Bird	New York Rolling Fury
Bristol Heller	Katie's Komets
Henry Horton	Cincinnati Dragons
Quinn Hoover	Nebraska Red Dawgs
Brennan Henderson	Seattle Sonics
Phillip Lindsey	Mississippi Wheelcats



© GETTY IMAGES/ MIPAN





### Junior Prep Divison Wheelchair Basketball National Champi

#### Varsity Division

April 5

##### First Round

- No. 1 Lakeshore Lakers 66, No. 16 Fairfax Falcons 36
- No. 8 BlazeSports Junior Hawks Red 55, No. 9 Rancho Halos 48
- No. 4 New York Rolling Fury 58, No. 13 RHI Racers 38
- No. 5 Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves 47, No. 12 Brooks Bullsharks 41
- No. 6 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks Varsity 1 56, No. 11 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 38
- No. 3 Bennett Blazers 60, No. 14 Golden State Junior Road Warriors 27
- No. 10 Utah Rush 46, No. 7 Kansas City Kings Varsity A 34
- No. 2 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple 68, No. 15 WASA Marquette Eagles 40

##### Second Round

- No. 1 Lakeshore Lakers 71, No. 8 BlazeSports Junior Hawks Red 40
- No. 4 New York Rolling Fury 63, No. 5 Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves 55
- No. 3 Bennett Blazers 66, No. 6 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks Varsity 1 43
- No. 2 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple 65, No. 10 Utah Rush 45

##### Consolation Bracket

- No. 9 Rancho Halos 48, No. 16 Fairfax Falcons 28
- No. 13 RHI Racers 44, No. 12 Brooks Bullsharks 42
- No. 14 Golden State Junior Road Warriors 49, No. 11 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 48
- No. 7 Kansas City Kings Varsity A 70, No. 15 WASA Marquette Eagles 37

April 6

##### Semifin Is

- No. 1 Lakeshore Lakers 54, No. 4 New York Rolling Fury 44
- No. 2 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple 68, No. 3 Bennett Blazers 58

##### Consolation

- No. 9 Rancho Halos 47, No. 13 RHI Racers 24
- No. 7 Kansas City Kings Varsity A 48, No. 14 Golden State Junior Road Warriors 37
- No. 12 Brooks Bullsharks 49, No. 16 Fairfax Falcons 38
- No. 11 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 49, No. 15 WASA Marquette Eagles 27
- No. 8 BlazeSports Junior Hawks Red 54, No. 5 Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves 46
- No. 6 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks Varsity 1 52, No. 10 Utah Rush 48

April 7

##### 15th-Place Game

- No. 15 WASA Marquette Eagles 62, No. 16 Fairfax Falcons 56

##### 13th-Place Game

- No. 12 Brooks Bullsharks 46, No. 11 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 44

##### 11th-Place Game

- No. 13 RHI Racers 43, No. 14 Golden State Junior Road Warriors 31

##### Ninth-Place Game

- No. 9 Rancho Halos 70, No. 7 Kansas City Kings Varsity A 65

##### Seventh-Place Game

- No. 5 Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Timberwolves 46, No. 10 Utah Rush 42

##### Fifth-Place Game

- No. 6 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks 58, No. 8 BlazeSports Junior Hawks Red 44

##### Third-Place Game

- No. 3 Bennett Blazers 73, No. 4 New York Rolling Fury 49

##### Championship

- No. 1 Lakeshore Lakers 60, No. 2 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets Purple 51

#### Varsity Invitational Division

April 5

##### Pool Play

- No. 32 SAAS Junior Wildcats 50, No. 33 Music City Thunder 18
- No. 31 Mississippi Wheelcats 63, No. 34 Ability360 Phoenix Varsity 11
- No. 30 ParaSport Spokane Varsity A 32, No. 35 Courage Kenny Junior Rolling Gophers 12
- No. 29 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks White 57, No. 36 Sportable Spokes 11

##### First Round

- No. 17 Mad City Badgers 53, No. 32 SAAS Junior Wildcats 35
- No. 24 Adaptive Sports Ohio Cavaliers 39, No. 25 Bridge City Rolling Blazers 28
- No. 20 Kansas City Kings Varsity B 40, No. 29 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks White 11
- No. 21 DASA Rolling Rams 36, No. 28 Katie's Komets 12
- No. 22 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 38, No. 27 Cincinnati Dragons 36
- No. 19 Nebraska Red Dawgs 58, No. 30 ParaSport Spokane Varsity A 18
- No. 23 Roger C. Peace Rollin' Tigers 54, No. 26 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks Varsity 2 17
- No. 18 Ryan Martin Foundation Trojans 51, No. 31 Mississippi Wheelcats 20

##### Second Round

- No. 17 Mad City Badgers 40, No. 24 Adaptive Sports Ohio Cavaliers 30
- No. 21 DASA Rolling Rams 54, No. 20 Kansas City Kings Varsity B 43
- No. 22 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 38, No. 19 Nebraska Red Dawgs 25
- No. 18 Ryan Martin Foundation Trojans 43, No. 23 Roger C. Peace Rollin' Tigers 30

##### Consolation Bracket

- No. 25 Bridge City Rolling Blazers 43, No. 32 SAAS Junior Wildcats 37
- No. 28 Katie's Komets 33, No. 29 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks White 29
- No. 27 Cincinnati Dragons 47, No. 30 ParaSport Spokane Varsity A 24
- No. 31 Mississippi Wheelcats 52, No. 26 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks Varsity 2 15

April 6

##### Semifin Is

- No. 21 DASA Rolling Rams 45, No. 17 Mad City Badgers 30
- No. 18 Ryan Martin Foundation Trojans 44, No. 22 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 29

##### Consolation

- No. 28 Katie's Komets 41, No. 25 Bridge City Rolling Blazers 35
- No. 27 Cincinnati Dragons 65, No. 31 Mississippi Wheelcats 32



## Basketball Association

### Tournaments At Henrico Sports & Events Center in Glen Allen, Va.

No. 29 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks White 44, No. 32 SAAS Junior Wildcats 25  
 No. 24 Adaptive Sports Ohio Cavaliers 38, No. 20 Kansas City Kings Varsity B 29  
 No. 19 Nebraska Red Dawgs 64, No. 23 Roger C. Peace Rollin' Tigers 32  
 No. 30 ParaSport Spokane Varsity A 46, No. 26 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks Varsity 2 16

#### 15th-Place Game

No. 32 SAAS Junior Wildcats 38, No. 26 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks 11

#### 13th-Place Game

No. 29 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks White 41, No. 30 ParaSport Spokane Varsity A 22

#### 11th-Place Game

No. 25 Bridge City Rolling Blazers 38, No. 31 Mississippi Wheelcats 37

#### Ninth-Place Game

No. 27 Cincinnati Dragons 24, No. 28 Katie's Komets 22

#### April 7

##### Seventh-Place Game

No. 20 Kansas City Kings Varsity B 49, No. 23 Roger C. Peace Rollin' Tigers 25

##### Fifth-Place Game

No. 19 Nebraska Red Dawgs 59, No. 24 Adaptive Sports Ohio Cavaliers 51

##### Third-Place Game

No. 17 Mad City Badgers 46, No. 22 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 39

##### Championship

No. 21 DASA Rolling Rams 46, No. 18 Ryan Martin Foundation Trojans 22

#### Prep Division

#### April 5

##### First Round

No. 1 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks 42, No. 16 Music City Thunder 12  
 No. 8 Kansas City Kings 25, No. 9 Fairfax Falcons 22  
 No. 4 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 38, No. 13 Lakeshore Sharks 21  
 No. 5 Bennett Blazers 38, No. 12 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets 20  
 No. 6 New York Rolling Fury 35, No. 11 RHI Junior Racers 22  
 No. 3 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 42, No. 14 Katie's Komets 22  
 No. 10 BlazeSports Junior Hawks 24, No. 7 WASA Marquette Eagles 20  
 No. 2 ATX Austin 42, No. 15 Cincinnati Dragons 10

##### Second Round

No. 1 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks 35, No. 8 Kansas City Kings 17  
 No. 5 Bennett Blazers 28, No. 4 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 24  
 No. 6 New York Rolling Fury 28, No. 3 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 26  
 No. 2 ATX Austin 34, No. 10 BlazeSports Junior Hawks 16

##### Consolation Bracket

No. 9 Fairfax Falcons 32, No. 16 Music City Thunder 20  
 No. 12 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets 45, No. 13 Lakeshore Sharks 31  
 No. 11 RHI Junior Racers 52, No. 14 Katie's Komets 26  
 No. 7 WASA Marquette Eagles 39, No. 15 Cincinnati Dragons 11

#### April 6

##### Semifinals

No. 5 Bennett Blazers 42, No. 1 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks 41  
 No. 2 ATX Austin 36, No. 6 New York Rolling Fury 30

##### Consolation

No. 9 Fairfax Falcons 39, No. 12 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets 16  
 No. 7 WASA Marquette Eagles 28, No. 11 RHI Junior Racers 12  
 No. 13 Lakeshore Sharks 26, No. 16 Music City Thunder 23  
 No. 15 Cincinnati Dragons 18, No. 14 Katie's Komets 10  
 No. 4 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 29, No. 8 Kansas City Kings 12  
 No. 3 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 20, No. 10 BlazeSports Junior Hawks 13

##### 15th-Place Game

No. 14 Katie's Komets 24, No. 16 Music City Thunder 23

#### April 7

##### 13th-Place Game

No. 13 Lakeshore Sharks 26, No. 15 Cincinnati Dragons 23

##### 11th-Place Game

No. 11 RHI Junior Racers 42, No. 12 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets 25

##### Ninth-Place Game

No. 7 WASA Marquette Eagles 36, No. 9 Fairfax Falcons 26

##### Seventh-Place Game

No. 10 BlazeSports Junior Hawks 24, No. 8 Kansas City Kings 21

##### Fifth-Place Game

No. 4 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue 36, No. 3 Mary Free Bed Junior Pacers 29

##### Third-Place Game

No. 6 New York Rolling Fury 38, No. 1 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks 35

##### Championship

No. 2 ATX Austin 38, No. 5 Bennett Blazers 29



CHRISTOPHER DI VIRGILIO

Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue player Ethen Hansen, with ball, tries to dribble past Lakeshore Sharks player Amiyah Folster during the first day of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Prep Division tournament on April 5 at Henrico Sports & Events Center in Glen Allen, Va.

## In The Game

Men's Intercollegiate Division Championship at Southwest Minnesota State University.

Tyrone Griner led the University of Arizona with 23 points, while Blaise Mutware added 13 points and Justyn Newman and Ben Thornton added 12 points each.

Thomas Oberst was named the championship game's Most Valuable Player.

### CURLING

#### Korea, Norway Earn Gold

**A**s tournament host, the Republic of Korea delivered and won a gold medal.

The Republic of Korea won the World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championship 2024, defeating China, 8-3, March 16 at the Gangneung Curling Centre in Gangneung, South Korea.

The Republic of Korea led 5-1 at halftime and held on from there.

Italy defeated Japan, 8-4, for bronze. Earlier in the month, Norway won the World Wheelchair Curling Championship, defeating Canada, 6-2, to win the gold medal, while China won the bronze with a 6-3 victory over Sweden.

### PARASLIDING

#### Castillo Takes Title

**W**ill Castillo captured the 2024 U.S. Parasliming Para Bobsled national championship, which ran March 30-31 in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Castillo won the title, holding the top spot during both tournament days, and finished with a four-run combined time of 3 minutes, 58.88 seconds, just edging

out runner-up Bob Balk (4:00.64) and third-place finisher David Christopher (4:01.18).

Castillo was in first after day one with 1:59.85, while Balk was second (2:01.05) and Christopher was third (2:01.20).

Lee Kuxhaus won the Para Skeleton title with a four-run time of 4:18.55.

For more information, visit [usabs.com](http://usabs.com).

### PARA ICE HOCKEY

#### U.S. Teams Go Undefeated

**B**oth the U.S. national sled hockey team and the U.S. women's development sled hockey team re-

mained undefeated, with each team going 3-0 during the March 13-15 Minot Sled Series at MAYS Arena in Minot, N.D., against Canada in the final games of the 2024 Sled Series.

With wins of 7-0 (March 13), 4-1 (March 15) and 4-2 (March 16), the U.S. national sled hockey team moved to 13-0-0-0 overall.

Jack Wallace (Franklin Lakes, N.J.) had two goals, an assist and recorded his 100th career point, while Declan Farmer (Tampa, Fla.) scored twice and goaltender Jen Lee (San Francisco) stopped all 11 shots in the March 13 victory. Farmer had two assists and a goal, while Brody Roybal (Northlake, Ill.) had a goal and an assist in the March 15 victory. Wallace (two goals and an assist) and Farmer (two goals and an assist) each scored three points in the March 16 win.



Team USA's Jack Wallace, No. 8, shown in this 2022 Paralympics file photo, recorded his 100th career point during the March 13-15 Minot Sled Series in Minot, N.D.

Meanwhile, the women swept the Canadians, earning 3-0 (March 13), 7-0 (March 15) and 7-2 (March 16) victories. That moved the women's overall record to 7-0-0-0.

Catherine Faherty (Norwell, Mass.) had two assists and a goal in the March 13 victory. Kelsey DiClaudio (Plum, Pa.) scored three goals and had an assist, while Erica McKee (Chicago) and Faherty each scored twice in the March 15 win. DiClaudio did even better in the final game, scoring four goals in the March 16 victory.

### POWERLIFTING

#### China Powers Ahead

**C**hina's Guo Lingling, a three-time Paralympic champion in the women's up-to 41 kilograms, set a world record in the women's up-to 45 kilogram division at





© GETTY IMAGES MICHAEL STEELE

the early-March Dubai 2024 Para Powerlifting World Cup in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She recorded a 121-kilogram lift on her third attempt to win the gold and set the record.

China finished atop the medal standings, winning 13 of the event's 20 gold medals, including gold medals from Cui Zhe (women's up-to 41 kilograms), Tan Yujiao (women's up-to 67 kilograms), Zheng Feifei (women's over-86 kilograms), Yan Panpan (men's up-to 88 kilograms) and Zou Yi (men's up-to 65 kilograms) among the group.

Iran's Mohsen Bakhtiar also set an Asian record in the men's up-to 59 kilograms division, recording a 196-kilogram lift and winning a gold medal. Teammates Ahmad Aminzadeh (heavyweight, 267 kilograms) and Aliakbar Gharibshahi (men's under-107 kilograms, 250 kilograms) also won gold medals.

For results, visit [easywl.com/dubai2024/index.php](http://easywl.com/dubai2024/index.php).

## SHOOTING

### Shchetnik Scores Upset

Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik pulled off a big-time upset.

A two-time silver medalist in the Al Ain 2022 Worlds, Shchetnik finished with 456.6 points to knock off reigning world champion Anna Benson from Sweden (454.7) and Paralympic champion Cuiping Zhang (443.7) from China in the R8 women's 50-meter rifle 3 positions SH1 final at the early-March New Delhi 2024 World Cup in New Delhi, India.

But it was China that captured plenty of medals.

China's Yang Chao won the P1 10-meter air pistol SH1 division with 27 points in the final series, defeating Poland's Szymon Sowinski (24) and teammate Xing Huang (21). Meanwhile, China's Dong Chao rolled to the R7 men's 50-meter rifle 3 positions SH1 gold, totaling 456.1 points — well ahead of Poland's Marek Dobrowolski (452.8) and Ukraine's Andrii Doroshenko (440.2).

China's Zhong Yixin and Dong Chao also won gold in the R10 mixed team 10-meter air rifle standing SH1 division, defeating India's Mona Agarwal and Aadithya Giri, 16-4. It was both athletes' first mixed medal gold. China's Li Min and Yang Chao also defeated India's Manish Narwal and Rubina Francis, 16-12, in the P6 mixed team 10-meter air pistol SH1 final. They scored five of the final six points in the match.

Agarwal, though, had success earlier. She not only clinched the first gold medal at the New Delhi 2024 World Cup at the Dr.

Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi but she also earned a Paris 2024 Paralympic quota spot. Agarwal finished with 250.7 points, just ahead of 2021 Paralympic Games silver medalist Zhang (248.8) and Indian gold medalist Avani Lekhara (227.0).

Meanwhile, reigning double-world R4 mixed 10-meter air rifle standing SH2 champion Tanguy De La Forest of France recorded another title (253.7 points), winning over New Zealand's Michael Johnson, a 2004 Athens Paralympic gold medalist, by 0.5 points.

Turkey's Hakan Cevik won the R5 mixed 10-meter air rifle prone SH2 division with 255.1 points, just edging past Italy's Gianluca Iacus (254.2 points) and De La Forest (231.7 points). Cevik also earned a Paris Paralympic Games quota qualifying spot.

Hungary's Krisztina David took the P2 women's 10-meter air pistol SH1 division with 234.8 points over Oksana Berezovskaia (Neutral Para Athlete, 230.4) and Francis (211.2).

And Spain's Juan Antonio Saavedra Reinaldo won the R6 mixed 50-meter rifle prone SH1 final, totaling 250.6 points to squeak past Dong Chao (249.6).

Additionally, Cuba's Alexander Reyna Jerez (P1), Berezovskaia (P2), Australia's Natalie Smith (R8) and Greece's Sotirios Galogavros (R7) each earned quota Paralympic spots.

## SWIMMING

### Six Golds For Italy & Britain

Italy and Great Britain swimmers each recorded six gold medals at the Citi Para Swimming World

## In The Game

Series 2024 from March 15–17 in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy.

Italy finished atop the medal standings with 17 overall (six gold, seven silver and four bronze), as Antonio Fantin won the men's S6 100- and 400-meter freestyles and broke his own world record in the 100 freestyle heats (1 minute, 02.70 seconds). Additionally, Francesco Bocciardo (men's S5 200 freestyle), Simone Barlaam (men's S9 50 freestyle), Angela Procida (women's S2 150 medley) and Arjola Trimi (women's S2 50 freestyle) won gold medals.

For Great Britain, 17-year-old Olivia Newman-Baronius won three of the team's six golds — taking

the women's S14 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle.

Alice Tai took the women's S8 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke, and Tully Kearney won the women's SM13 50 backstroke.

Hong Kong's Yui lam Chan also set a world record in the women's S14 200 butterfly, finishing in 2:26.17 to break her record by 7 seconds.

### Australia Dominates

The Australian Para Swimming Team recorded 12 of the Citi Para Swimming World Series Australia 2024's 23 total gold medals in late February at the Melbourne

Sports and Aquatic Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

Paralympic medalist and world champion Timothy Hodge won three gold medals, while teammates Benjamin Hance and Jake Michel had two each.

Hodge won his in the men's S9 100-meter butterfly, 200 medley and 400 freestyle, and he had a silver medal in the men's S9 100 backstroke. Hance won golds in the men's S14 100 backstroke and men's 50 butterfly, while Michel won his golds in the men's S14 men's 50 breaststroke and men's 100 breaststroke.

Jasmine Greenwood added three medals for the Australian women,

# Print is Back!

*SPORTS 'N SPOKES* has returned to print. Now, you can receive a print copy of *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* or a digital copy.

## Print / Digital

U.S.: \$12 (one year/6 issues)

Foreign: \$18 (one year/6 issues)

## Digital only

U.S. & Foreign: \$8 (one year/6 issues)

## To Subscribe

Visit: [sportsnspokes.com/magazine](https://sportsnspokes.com/magazine)

Email: [suzi@pvamag.com](mailto:suzi@pvamag.com)

Call: 602-224-0500, ext. 109





winning gold in the women's S10 50 freestyle and silvers in the women's S13 50 and 100 backstrokes.

Meanwhile, Ireland's Róisín Ní Riain won five gold medals to lead her team to a runner-up medals table finish. She won the women's S13 50 and 100 backstrokes, 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly and 200 medley, and Ireland's Nicole Turner won the women's S6 50 butterfly.

Poland's Oliwia Jabłońska won two golds in the women's S10 200 and 400 freestyles, while the United States' McKenzie Coan won gold in the women's S7 100 freestyle.

For full results, visit <https://liveresults.swimming.org.au/vic/2024vicopenchamps>.

## WHEELCHAIR RACING

### Scaroni, Schipper Win Half

The United States' Susannah Scaroni won her third straight women's wheelchair division Uni-

U.S. Paralympian Susannah Scaroni, shown in this November 2023 photo, won the 2024 United Airlines NYC Half Marathon women's wheelchair division title on March 17.

ted Airlines NYC Half Marathon title March 17, while the Netherlands' Geert Schipper won the men's wheelchair division title in his debut in New York City.

Scaroni finished in 53 minutes and 50 seconds, recording the third-fastest time in event history, and was nearly 5 minutes ahead of U.S. teammate Tatyana McFadden (58:42) and Great Britain's Eden Rainbow-Cooper (59:09). It marked Scaroni's fourth United Airlines NYC Half title overall.

Schipper won the men's division in 48:43, while the U.S.' Evan Correll was second (52:06) and Great Britain's Johnboy Smith was third (52:51).

This year's race had six Paralympians in it.

For more information, visit [results.nyrr.org](https://results.nyrr.org).



© GETTY IMAGES/KATELYN MULCAHY



The Netherlands' Geert Schipper, shown in this photo from February's 15th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships, won the United Airlines NYC Half Marathon men's wheelchair division title March 17.

© GETTY IMAGES/ FRANCOIS NEL

## WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

### U.S. Goes 4-2 In Tourney

In its first tournament this season, the U.S. wheelchair rugby team went 4-2 at the 2024 Musholm Cup, March 29-31, in Korsor, Denmark.

The U.S. defeated tournament host Denmark (56-50) and lost to Great Britain (52-49) on the first day, defeated Great Britain (49-48) and lost to Denmark (58-49) on day two and went undefeated on day three, beating Denmark (53-52) and Great Britain (45-44) by a point each.

S'NS



# The Extra Point

## Flip Out

by John Groth

After ATX Austin had clinched the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) Junior Prep Division wheelchair basketball title, Hunter Mastaler zoomed over from the handshake line to join his team's celebration on the opposite sideline.

Except he went a little too fast.

"I just flipped right there," Mastaler says.

Sprawled out on Court 10 at the Henrico Sports & Events Center in Glen Allen, Va., his teammates — and newfound friends — just huddled around him April 7 as they celebrated a 30-0 season and NWBA Junior Prep Division title.

### PERFECTION

Championship game Most Valuable Player Kooper Hernandez scored

a game-high 17 points and had seven rebounds, while Mastaler added 15 points and seven rebounds to lead No. 2 seed ATX Austin to a 38-29 Junior Prep Division title-game win over the No. 5-seeded Bennett Blazers.

ATX Austin won all four of its tournament games by six points or more. It defeated the No. 15 Cincinnati Dragons, 42-10, in the first round, rolled past the No. 10 BlazeSports Junior Hawks, 34-16, in the quarterfinals and edged the No. 6 New York Rolling Fury, 36-30, in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Bennett defeated the No. 12 Charlotte Rollin' Hornets (38-20) and upset both the No. 4 Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks Blue (28-24) and No. 1 LWSRA/Synergy Hawks (42-41) to reach the final.

It marked the first time ATX had ever finished with an unbeaten Prep season.



CHRISTOPHER DI VIRGILIO

CHRISTOPHER DI VIRGILIO



No. 2 seed ATX Austin celebrates after defeating the No. 5 seed Bennett Blazers, 38-29, in the April 7 National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Prep Division championship. ATX Austin finished the season with a perfect 30-0 record.





Hunter Mastaler, with ball, scored 15 points and added seven rebounds in No. 2 seed ATX Austin's 38-29 National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Prep Division title-game win over the No. 5 seed Bennett Blazers at Henrico Sports & Events Center in Glen Allen, Va.

joined Miles Lynn (two points), Will Allen (two points and three rebounds), Maynor Alejandro Zapet, Jashua Tavaraz, Cassie Stoddard and Laelani Croan as players on the undefeated Junior Prep championship team.

Allen, ATX Austin head coach Tim Allen's son, is the team's assists leader. He has a level T3 spinal-cord injury that came from an automobile accident only five years ago, and he's a classification level 1 player who plays with just his arms.

"He's also easily one of the best back pickers in the Prep division, which makes scoring easy as well for the bigs," Tim Allen says.

sarcoma, a type of bone cancer that can be seen in children and young adults.

After doing chemotherapy for 10 weeks, Hernandez had his leg amputated to stop tumors from spreading. Soon after, he faced 37 more weeks of chemotherapy. Now, he's played wheelchair basketball for five years.

After trying to push Mastaler to play, the 6-foot-2 Hernandez says he finally convinced his friend at last July's Move United The Hartford Nationals in Hoover, Ala.

Now, they're teaming up in wheelchair basketball, too. They

#### DEFENSIVE EFFORT

That helped in the title game to help get Mastaler and Hernandez open, as did the team's defensive effort.

#### TEAMING UP

When he was 4 years old, Mastaler was injured when his dad's police dog, a 6-year-old Belgian Malinois named Jango, attacked him and bit his left leg. The bite caused his leg to be infected, and he had to have it amputated below the knee.

Now a 13-year-old seventh-grader and competitive swimmer, the just-under 6-foot tall Mastaler only started playing wheelchair basketball this season after Hernandez, a swimming teammate, and Hernandez's family helped give him a push. Mastaler wanted to make more friends — he got them.

"I think basketball's just an amazing sport to play in," Mastaler says.

#### CONVINCING HIS FRIEND

So does Hernandez. Eight years ago, when he was 5 years old, Hernandez was going outside to play, and he broke his left leg when slamming the door. Or so his family thought. It turns out what caused the broken leg wasn't the door, but osteo-



Kooper Hernandez, with ball, scored a game-high 17 points and had seven rebounds in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Prep Division title game and was named the championship game Most Valuable Player.

CHRISTOPHER DI VIRGILIO

ATX Austin fans cheer on the team during the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Prep Division championship game.

ATX Austin's twin towers scored most of their team's 16 points in the first half. Hernandez recorded eight of the team's first 10 points, while Mastaler had four of the team's final six. However, ATX Austin went the final 5 minutes and 15 seconds without a point and trailed 18-16 at halftime.

But Bennett made just 5-of-23 field-goal attempts in the second half and its top two scorers — Landon Brown (12 points and nine rebounds) and Spencer Davis (10 points and eight rebounds) — were held to a combined six points in the final two quarters.



CHRISTOPHER DIVIRGILIO

"Defense was better," Hernandez says. "We started blocking their two most valuable shooters."

Meanwhile, Mastaler provided the second-half scoring punch. He scored seven of the team's first nine points in

the third quarter, including 3-point play with 4:51 left in the period to give ATX Austin a 25-22 advantage. ATX Austin outscored Bennett 13-6 in the third period to grab a 29-24 lead and didn't let the advantage slip any lower than that in the fourth quarter.

"They had them pass the ball to me because Kooper was guarded, so they just dropped the ball to me and I just made a lot of shots," Mastaler says. "Whenever I make a shot, it just makes me feel good and want to do it over and over again."

Mastaler finished 7-of-12 from the field and 1-of-1 from the free-throw line.

"Phenomenal athlete. Yeah, we just told him keep his confidence up, get the ball up on the backboard a little bit better," says Tim Allen. "There's a lot of focus on Kooper Hernandez throughout the season, and Hunter came to us in the off-season. He was really a swimmer. And now he's truly a basketball player and he just was clutch, started making shots."

S'NS



CHRISTOPHER DIVIRGILIO

Will Allen gets ready to shoot in the April 7 National Wheelchair Basketball Association Junior Prep Division championship game against the Bennett Blazers at Henrico Sports & Events Center in Glen Allen, Va.



# Who's Your Sports 'N Spokes Junior Athlete Of The Year?

Winner receives



- engraved award
- subscription to S'NS



+



Complete the nomination form no later than **June 15, 2024**

[www.sportsnspokes.com/nomination-form](http://www.sportsnspokes.com/nomination-form) #2024SNSJrAthlete



## Past Award Winners

2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023







# COMING FULL CIRCLE

Netflix documetary  
spotlights adventures  
after spinal-cord injury.

by Geri Koepfel

**T**revor Kennison is an unlikely professional athlete. At age 22, he sustained a level T11/12 spinal-cord injury (SCI) on a 40-foot jump while snowboarding in 2014 near Vail Pass in Colorado. He was paralyzed from the waist down. So, Kennison, who'd been an avid amateur athlete, took up adaptive sports.

Six years later, he returned to the crash site and conquered his demons by doing the world's first double backflip in a sit-ski. Hitting the slopes made him feel free again.

"I could have that normalcy and literally go ski with my friends," Kennison says. "I had a lot of learning curves, but once I could ski the trees and be independent, it was cool."

Now, at age 31, he's one of the world's most acclaimed sit-skiers, with sponsors and 114,000 Instagram followers.

His story is told in the award-winning feature-length documentary *Full Circle: A Story of Post Traumatic Growth*, directed by Josh Berman and produced by Level 1 Productions out of Denver. It's available on Netflix.

The film's ultimate goal, Berman says, was to show that "regardless of the struggles or the trauma you are facing or may have faced, there is a path forward to not only over-

ILLUSTRATION BY KERRY RANDOLPH  
PHOTOS BY CHIP PROULX





BRUNO LONG

Josh Berman, right, directed *Full Circle: A Story of Post Traumatic Growth*, featuring adaptive athlete Trevor Kennison, left and above.

coming that trauma but growing from it and bettering yourself in some way. And I think that's a message that resonates universally."

## A Bigger Story Emerges

Kennison first connected with Berman in summer 2019. They discussed making a short docuseries that showed Kennison adaptive skiing, biking and kayaking.

Over time, the idea blossomed into a feature film. As it opens, Kennison is about to become the first sit-skier to tackle Corbet's Couloir, a hair-raising gorge at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Wyoming with a 30-foot drop that many of the most accomplished skiers avoid.

COURTESY OF FULL CIRCLE

COURTESY OF THE KENNISON FAMILY



Trevor Kennison sustained a level T11/12 spinal-cord injury while snowboarding in 2014.

Berman, although not disabled, skied professionally for a couple of years but hurt his left knee in 2000, which sidelined his athletic career. Instead, he started traveling the globe on the other side of the camera to document skiers.

This was Berman's first time working with an adaptive athlete, however. He was interested in telling Kennison's "story of redemption, of overcoming obstacles," he says.

"I felt there was a bigger story to tell," Berman says. "Trevor radiates this energy and charisma that really makes him special."

The first day of filming *Full Circle* was Jan. 4, 2020. By then, Kennison already had successfully skied Corbet's Couloir, so Berman used footage others had taken and re-enacted the rest.

For his next challenge, Kennison was intent on returning to the scene of his accident to do a backflip — something he'd never done before the injury. Not only did he nail it, but he did so repeatedly.



Berman was "stoked," Kennison recalls, and urged him to try the first-ever sit-ski double backflip, resulting in one of the film's emotional moments.

Seeing Kennison's awe-inspiring feats resonates with anyone, not just those who have a disability, Berman says.

"It leaves them with a feeling that they can do more," Berman says. However, he adds, "We took so many steps to prioritize Trevor's safety. Showing that kind of stuff does not always make for a dramatic piece of cinema. Safety was always paramount."

## Surprising Parallel Leads

Kennison and Berman didn't know when they began the project that the late Barry Corbet, whose name graces the legendary couloir, also had been paralyzed from the waist down later in life. A friend's mother mentioned it to Berman in passing, and he thought she was confused. It took the film in an entirely new direction.

Corbet was a rugged outdoorsman and trailblazing mountain climber — he was on the first U.S. team to climb Mount Everest — and was paralyzed in a helicopter accident in 1968. He became a vanguard and a sage for others with SCI via adaptive sports, filmmaking and journalism.

He also wrote a thoughtful, yet practical, 1980 book, *Options: Spinal Cord Injury and the Future*.

Corbet died at age 68 in 2004.

"Learning about Barry and all the things he'd done immediately just blew up the scope of this project and





turned it into something so much bigger and more impactful than we ever could've hoped for," Berman says.

As it happened, the timing worked well because the shutdown due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in March 2020 curtailed Berman's ability to travel the country doing interviews. He took about a year to pause, research Corbet and incorporate his story into the script.

The film details Corbet's astonishing life and quotes excerpts from his book, which impart insight, wisdom and acceptance of SCI to others in the same situation — a decade before the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law.

"It was certainly the most challenging aspect of any filmmaking project that I've been a part of," Berman says. His goal, he adds, was "to bring back Barry's voice, so he's almost talking to Trevor and guiding him."

## Facing Everyday Obstacles

Besides weaving the two stories, the movie also shows a level of frankness about the everyday battles Kennison has faced before and after his accident, including mental health issues and substance abuse. His parents got divorced, which took a toll on him, and he admits he "partied a lot" and didn't apply himself in school.

However, Kennison finally was finding his footing. Before his injury, he'd moved from New Hampshire to Colorado to live near his sister and was training to be a plumber. After months in rehab, he drifted again for a short time and lived with a



COURTESY OF THE CORBET FAMILY

Trevor Kennison, top, does a backflip in a scene from *Full Circle: A Story of Post Traumatic Growth*. Above, Barry Corbet, whose story is woven into the film, is pictured kayaking.

friend back in New Hampshire before he found his way back to Colorado and started sit-skiing.

"I go through depression still," Kennison says. "Everyone deals with mental health issues, and that's so important and that's what the movie shows."

Kennison also doesn't balk at speaking honestly about physical issues that those with SCI face in the bathroom — and in the bedroom. People just see the wheelchair, he says, but they don't know about the hidden hardships, like how long it takes for a suppository to kick in or how a sex chair works. Incidentally, these were the kinds of then-taboo top-





Trevor Kennison, seated in blue coat, talks with the crew while filming *Full Circle: A Story of Post Traumatic Growth*.

ics Corbet lobbied to bring out in the open as the longtime editor of *New Mobility*.

The purpose of the scenes detailing these things wasn't to make anyone feel sorry for him, Kennison says, but to "show people real life" and give them hope, no matter what they're facing behind the scenes.

"Whether it's an adult, a kid, someone with a disability, someone going through something mentally, physically, emotionally, it can help so many people," Kennison says.

Berman says one of the lines from Corbet's book that struck a chord with him more than any other

was, "You can be OK if you choose to be OK. The future, however unfathomable, is yours."

"It's powerful and puts the ball in our court," Berman says.

## Support & Empathy Are Key

*Full Circle* also features interviews with several others who have been involved in Kennison's life, such as Roy Tuscany, founder of the nonprofit High Fives Foundation. High Fives Foundation has helped more than 700 people who have had life-changing injuries, with a quarter of those being veterans.





At left, Trevor Kennison takes a run while helisking in British Columbia. Kennison, above, hopes to make more ski movies, but he also wants to be a motivational speaker.

“Whether it’s an adult, a kid, someone with a disability, someone going through something mentally, physically, emotionally, it can help so many people.” — **Trevor Kennison**

Tuscany says he had a “massive amount” of support after he fractured his T12 vertebrae in 2006 on a 100-foot ski jump, so he set up the foundation to pay it forward. Craig Hospital in Denver, where Kennison did rehab, contacted High Fives, which gave Kennison a grant, helped him set goals and got him his first sit-ski and his first reliable vehicle, Tuscany says.

As the film shows, sit-skiing is taking a toll on Kennison’s 31-year-old body, but he says he probably has three to five more years in him as a pro. He plans to make more ski movies, but he’s also

signed with a modeling agency and wants to pursue a career as a motivational speaker.

Berman hopes *Full Circle* will increase empathy, not just for those with disabilities.

“Everybody is likely going through some degree of struggle or challenge,” he says. “No matter what we’re struggling with, we can persevere. We can grow and learn from the challenges we are facing in life.”

S’NS

# MASTERING T



U.S. para archer Matt Stutzman, who shoots with his feet and his mouth, is vying to make his fourth straight Paralympic Games.

**More than a handful of archers, including Paralympians Jeff Fabry, Matt Stutzman and Piotr Van Montagu, are competing in the sport by using their feet and their mouths.**

*by John Groth*

**A**n adrenaline junkie and U.S. Paralympic archer, Matt Stutzman keeps finding new ways to push his boundaries. Shooting a bow with only his feet and his mouth isn't enough.

More than once, he's jumped out of an airplane, landed, taken off his parachute and then sat down and launched a shot at a specifically placed target 50 meters away.

Sometimes, he'll amp himself up even more. So, he'll strap himself in an adaptive dragster and speed down a race track at 160 mph, then abruptly stop, get out, drop his helmet and shoot an arrow at a target 50 meters away there, too.

That's what it takes to simulate the adrenaline rush of competing with the time ticking down during a major tournament.



# THEIR MOUTHS

ILLUSTRATION BY KERRY RANDOLPH  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF USA ARCHERY

Matt Stutzman grabs an arrow with his right foot, right, and then brings his face down to the release aid on his bow and slowly applies pressure to trigger the release aid, left.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF USA ARCHERY



"I like to practice shooting under adrenaline. And I've done it for so long now that I still have the adrenaline, and I just learn how to cope with it better than most," Stutzman says.

One would think shooting with just his feet and mouth to fire a bow is hard enough.

There are more than a handful of other archers, from U.S. Paralympians Jeff Fabry and Stutzman

to Belgian Paralympian Piotr Van Montagu to National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) athlete Kyle Hansel who have learned to adapt to that type of shooting technique, whether it's using just their mouth or their feet and mouth.

A four-time Paralympic medalist, Fabry won gold at the 2012 London Paralympics in the men's individual compound W1 division and bronze in the 2004 Ath-



Jeff Fabry of Team USA shoots during the W1 men's finals at the 2017 World Archery Para Championships on Sept. 16, 2017, in Beijing.

ens men's individual W1 and men's team open divisions and in the 2008 Beijing men's individual compound W1 division. Stutzman has competed at the 2012 London, 2016 Rio de Janeiro and 2021 Tokyo Paralympics, earning a silver medal in the men's individual compound open division in London.

Van Montagu made the 2021 Tokyo Paralympics in the compound men's open division and reached the third round, while Hansel just found the sport a couple years ago. They've each taken similar, yet different, roads on their journeys.

### Trial & Error

Fabry also holds the Guinness World Record for most points scored in the men's W1 individual compound division, with 678 in Stoke Mandeville, United Kingdom, on Sept. 7, 2009. It took plenty of practice to get there.

The 51-year-old Fabry grew up bow hunting and rifle-hunting in the woods — and it's that love of shooting that helped motivate him after his injury.

Fabry lost his right arm below the elbow and left leg above the

knee after a December 1988 motorcycle accident in Lemoore, Calif. Since there was no internet then and he wanted to join his friends shooting in the woods again, he taught himself to do archery with his mouth and teeth — all from trial and error.

Fabry knew his roommate had a bow sitting in the closet; he went and grabbed it, cut out a piece from a pair of blue jeans, tied the jean piece onto the bow

© GETTY IMAGES/DENNIS GROMBKOWSKI



Jeff Fabry of the United States competes in the men's individual compound W1 quarterfinals during the 2012 London Paralympic Games in England.



string to use as a mouth tab and shot his first arrow. Once he conquered the early fear of injuring his mouth, he was dialed in.

"It didn't hurt. It was more getting away from the fear factor to actually do it. I didn't know what would happen. I used jean material, pushed the bow back, prayed I didn't hurt myself, and then was like, 'Oh hell, there's nothing to this,'" Fabry says. "I can't say it was easy right away. I mean, it wasn't extremely difficult, but it was figuring out how to get consistency for the shot. Just because it was all brand new and I had no one to go to for help. I had to learn everything on my own."

Fabry holds the bow with his left arm, then draws it back with a mouth tab, made from a nylon dog leash, and releases the arrow with his teeth. He's tried tons of different materials — jeans, leather, nylon — but what's the most consistent and easiest to use for him is a nylon dog leash. Then, it was all about practice — against able-bodied archers, too.

"Just wrap it around the string, sew it on and start rocking and rolling and go," Fabry says. "... It's a nylon leash. You use them for strapping. So, why couldn't you use it on a mouth tab for pulling a bow back? Yeah, I figured out fast the leathery bit wasn't a good method [because it got too moist and it stretches]. And I knew webbing would be strong. So, that's how I went to the dog leash."

His wife, Crystal, also helped push and support his return to the sport. Now, Fabry, who's dealing with a left shoulder injury, teaches archery at Kings Gun & Archery Center in Hanford, Calif., with his 21-year-old daughter, Rebecca, and 17-year-old son, Joseph.

## Getting Some Help

Fabry's teaching and advice helped Hansel.

A 33-year-old Paralyzed Veterans of America Bay Area & Western Chapter member and Marine Corps veteran, Hansel sustained level C4-C5 incomplete spinal-cord injuries more than six-and-a-half years ago after being thrown backwards off a mechanical bull while on vacation at the Grand National Rodeo at the Cow Palace Arena & Event Center in Daly City, Calif.

Two years ago, he decided to sign up for archery at the NVWG in Tempe, Ariz., but he was disquali-

fied after his first shot because it went so far out of bounds it nearly hit someone. Months later, he attended an archery clinic in Redwood City, Calif., run by Fabry. While there, Hansel tried putting a piece of string on the bow and pulling it back with his teeth. But he didn't like the feeling.



TOSHA GAINES

So, he talked to Fabry to come up with other ideas, then did another clinic and found a different way — using his jaw. Hansel pulls the bow back and puts the butt of his right hand in his right ear. Then, the trigger of the arrow release lines up with his lower jaw on the right side. By moving his jaw sideways, he triggers the release.

He says he needs to keep working on it and that it's too slick for his jaw to catch, so he needs to build the trigger up with tape or a cotton ball so it grabs.

But Hansel returned to the 2023 NVWG in Portland, Ore., and did archery again. This time, there was no disqualification and he did much better.

"It's 10 rounds of three. So, 30 shots," says Hansel, a Pacifica, Calif., resident. "But I haven't trained or built up those muscles yet to make it work. So, the last four rounds we did, I was getting tired and my shots were getting a little bit more wide. Just body fatigue."

A Paralyzed Veterans of America Bay Area & Western Chapter member and Marine Corps veteran, Kyle Hansel shoots archery mainly with his jaw.

By moving his jaw sideways, he triggers the release.

“I saw a guy on TV with a bow and arrow hunting, and I was like, ‘You know what? That’s how I’m going to put food on the table. I’m going to get a bow, go in the woods, I’m going to shoot myself a deer. And that’s how I’m gonna do it.’ And that’s what kicked all of this off.” — Matt Stutzman



Matt Stutzman won a silver medal in the individual compound open division at the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

## Another Paralympic Run

Heading into this summer, Stutzman and Van Montagu are vying for a shot to compete in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, which run Aug. 28–Sept. 8.

Known as the “Armless Archer,” the 41-year-old Stutzman, a Kansas City, Kan., native and Fairfield, Iowa, resident, was born without arms and started his archery conquest 14 years ago.

U.S. Paralympic archer Matt Stutzman pushes his right foot away from his chest to draw the bow back.



PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF USA ARCHERY

Struggling to find employment in October 2010, he was frustrated. Businesses wouldn’t take a chance on him because of his disability, and he says they wondered if he could actually work as well as able-bodied individuals.

But while feeling sorry for himself, sitting on the couch and watching TV, he found his inspiration from watching Darrin Christenberry, an archer and wildlife biologist. That’s when he decided that’s how he’d provide for his family.

“I saw a guy on TV with a bow and arrow hunting, and I was like, ‘You know what? That’s how I’m going to put food on the table. I’m going to get a bow, go in the woods, I’m going to shoot myself a deer. And that’s how I’m gonna do it,’” Stutzman says. “And that’s what kicked all of this off.”

Over the last 14 years, Stutzman has learned how to perfect his technique. It’s taken plenty of practice, patience and determination.

Sitting in either his wheelchair or on a stool, Stutzman attaches a release aid over his right shoulder, rests his bow on the ground and then balances it against his left leg. That’s the only time he’ll use that leg.

With the bow balancing against his left leg, Stutzman grabs an arrow with his right foot and loads it into the bow. Then, he grabs the bow with



his right foot, gentleman-crosses his legs and leans down to bring the bow up to his chest.

Next, Stutzman connects the release aid to the string, or the D-loop, of the bow. Once it's attached, he sits upright and pushes his right foot away from his chest, which draws the bow back. Then, he brings his face down to the release aid where he can aim. As he aims, Stutzman slowly applies pressure to a trigger on the release aid, allowing the bow to fire. He keeps repeating that process until he's out of arrows.

But it wasn't until a friend noticed Stutzman's success and thought he should try it full-time that Stutzman decided to aim higher. Now, he's become one of the top disabled men's compound open division archers in the world.

Besides the Paralympic silver medal, Stutzman has also won two World Archery Para Championships gold medals (2022 individual and 2015 team) and two bronze medals (2019 individual and 2023 team), earned a silver medal at the 2015 Parapan American Games and won a gold medal at the 2014 Pan American Outdoor Championships.

And from 2015 to 2022, he held the Guinness World Record for the longest accurate shot taken in archery by someone with or without a disability, hitting a target from 310 yards (930 feet, or three-plus football fields) out before the U.S.' Tyler Toney broke that record with a 330-meter (1,083-foot) shot on Sept. 2, 2022. He's even been featured in the Netflix movie *Rising Phoenix*.

Stutzman helped other disabled athletes compete in the sport, too. That includes Van Montagu, who was born with no arms and a right leg impairment. Van Montagu acknowledged he watched Stutzman's videos to help him learn the sport.

As of March, the 35-year-old Van Montagu ranks 10th in the compound men's open division.

Born in Poland, he was adopted by Belgian parents when he was 4 years old. During his teenage years, he gravitated toward wheelchair football, participating in several World and European Cups before archery hooked him.

In 2015, Van Montagu visited Cardinal Mercier Archery club in Braine-l'Alleud, Belgium, that specializes in disabilities. With help from others there, he learned how to shoot based on Stutzman's videos.

"I hold my bow with my left foot. On my right shoulder, there is a custom-made chest guard where a release aid is installed, which I operate



© GETTY IMAGES/ CARMEN MANDATO

with a small lever located under my chin," Van Montagu says in an email.

The hardest part came with working to develop his adaptation, a chest guard and release aid, to help him shoot.

"I would say that it's about attaching my bow to my release aid, because I have to bend, and I don't always see the release aid well since it's at the level of my chin," Van Montagu says.

It took nearly three years to finish it. Once he was comfortable with it, he started entering national events in 2018 and then international competitions in 2019. A Charleroi, Belgium, resident, Van Montagu says his coach, Vincent Vandervelden, a former archer, has helped with his success, along with developing a quick adaptation ability. Plus, there's another surprise reason for his passion.

"I have always loved archery in movies and series such as *The Lord of the Rings* with [the] Legolas [character]," Van Montagu says in an email. "It's the somewhat individual aspect after a team sport and the concentration."

Belgian para archer Piotr Van Montagu holds his bow with his left foot, then shoots by using a custom-made chest guard with a release aid operated with a small lever under his chin.

S'NS



# Trekking

Adaptive mountain bikers ride where their wheelchairs can't go.

by Jennifer Best

**F**or professional adaptive mountain biker Jeremy McGhee, finding his trail riding “shred,” or passion, as a paraplegic was about bringing back the adrenaline thrill of his pre-injury days as a feral youth — about doing what he loves.

Since sustaining a level T10 spinal-cord injury (SCI) from a motorcycle accident in 2001 at age 25, he's become the first paraplegic to climb and descend Bloody Couloir outside of Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and an adventure athlete who's traveled all over, from Asheville, N.C., to Port Angeles and the San Juan Islands in Washington to check out nature.

“I'm not a mountain biker. I'm a runner. My bike allows me to run on the trail and cultivate a relationship with nature,” McGhee says through email. “Might as well fully embrace it, though, throw on the pads and send it!”

For Maggie Frederick and Brad Smith, adaptive mountain biking began as simple extensions of their exercise regimes. Where McGhee found his stoke, Smith and Frederick found the key to physical and mental well-being — and each other.

“If you've never tried mountain biking, if for whatever reason you're nervous about it, I highly encourage everyone to try it at least once. Three years ago, I would never have imagined what I'm doing now. Not even close. Get out there,” says Frederick, who was born with spina bifida.

## More Accessible Trails

Adaptive mountain biking is mountain biking for everyone who isn't riding a traditional upright mountain bike. Bike styles include handcycles, trikes and specialty modified bikes to fit various body types and physical needs. They may be recumbent, offering riders a full seat with a backrest, or a more

ILLUSTRATION BY KERRY RANDOLPH/  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY MCGHEE





# Into Nature

Professional adaptive mountain biker Jeremy McGhee sustained a level T10 spinal-cord injury from a motorcycle accident in 2001 at age 25.

for an upper-limb amputee to routing all power from a single foot crank for a lower-limb amputee. A tricycle may offer two front wheels for forward-leaning models or two rear wheels for recumbent models.

From coast to coast, mountain bike trails are becoming increasingly popular and increasingly adaptive. In July 2022, Truckee Trails Foundation in Truckee, Calif., announced the development of the area's first all-inclusive/adaptive bike skills development trail — Compass Skills Loop. Truckee-based High Fives Foundation has since consulted on builds at Sierra Vista Mountain Bike Park in Reno, Nev., and Sky Tavern ski mountain just south of Reno.

"I guarantee no matter where you live, you'll know someone involved with or part of mountain biking. Sometimes you just have to travel. As much as we want to have every-

forward-style with riders' knees bent below their forward-leaning body. The relatively recent advent of the electric bike has further expanded access, allowing riders to pedal farther and into more technical terrain.

The bikes are adapted for the individual. Adaptations may include simple rerouting of handbrakes to one lever





JEFF FOX



GABE KEATING



BRIAN MCPHERSON



COURTESY OF JEREMY MCGHEE



COURTESY OF JEREMY MCGHEE

Jeremy McGhee, in this set of photos, says his adaptive mountain bike allows him to run on the trail and cultivate a relationship with nature.

Jeremy McGhee has traveled all over the United States, from North Carolina to California to Washington, to check out trails and nature on his adaptive mountain bike.

thing available in every space, it's just not. We want everything universally designed, but it's not," High Fives Foundation Founder/CEO Roy Tuscanly says. "Just like you have to travel to surf — there just isn't surf in the middle of the country — you might have to travel to mountain bike."

In 2023, a mountain bike jump trail optimized for adaptive mountain bikes was built in Bentonville, Ark. Trails abound within reach of National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colo., or National Ability Center in Park City, Utah.

Indeed, it's not unusual for Frederick and Smith to travel three hours from their homes in Atlanta to hit the trails in western North Carolina, including DuPont State Recreational Forest outside of Brevard, N.C. Trails in the Blue Ridge Mountains offer gravel and single-track fun.

"The best thing is to find a local program that has a wide swath of equipment, so you can test different versions of adaptive mountain bikes and find the one that works best for the type of riding you like to do," Tuscanly says.

Smith was an athlete before his level T10 SCI. He quickly found his way back into competition through wheelchair racing, adaptive road cycling and paratriathlon.





COURTESY OF JEREMY MCGHEE



COURTESY OF MAGGIE FREDERICK

“But I wanted to get back out into nature,” he says. “I love being out in the woods and riding, whether on gravel or single track. I feel like being connected to nature is good for all of us.”

In the six years after his injury, the former physical education teacher returned to work as a school counselor, got social and got active, but he yearned for a return to nature. Then, he joined up with Atlanta-based Catalyst Sports for a clinic where he tested various styles of adaptive mountain bikes, rode on trails and never looked back.

“The best thing is to find a local program that has a wide swath of equipment, so you can test different versions of adaptive mountain bikes and find the one that works best for the type of riding you like to do.” — Roy Tuscany

Maggie Frederick, left, and Brad Smith, right, take an adaptive mountain bike gravel ride at Great Smoky Mountains National Park in August 2023.

“The mountain bike let me get back where my wheelchair couldn’t go,” Smith says. “Just seeing a creek and being back in the woods was pretty awesome.”

For Frederick, the mountain bike gave her a first look at the beauty of nature away from the pavement.

“Me being a wheelchair user my whole life, I’ve never been able to access the woods like that, so that’s my favorite part — being out in the woods,” she says.

Though their skills have increased and they can ride alongside able-bodied mountain bikers, riding with Catalyst or other similar organizations has its benefits.

“I can ride with any mountain biker, but they may or may not know what to do to help get me up and over a tree across the trail when you’re talking about

my bike, which is 90 pounds, plus my body weight,” Smith says. “Riding with Catalyst is great because they have volunteers who know what they’re doing. They’re trained pretty well, know the trails. They know you, the bikes, and they can help you through the rough stuff.”

Catalyst includes 11 chapters throughout the Southeast, Midwest and East Coast. Other organizations across the country offer similar trail test opportunities. Those include Shepherd Center in Atlanta, which held a 2023 clinic in Knoxville, Tenn., and Telluride Adaptive Sports Program (Telluride, Colo.) that annually puts on Moab Mania, a six-day adaptive mountain bike clinic in and around Moab, Utah.



# Road To Adaptive Mountain Biking

Need help getting started with adaptive mountain biking? Here are some resources to help get you involved or people to contact.

- Catalyst Sports, southeastern U.S.  
catalystsports.org
- High Fives Foundation, Truckee, Calif.  
highfivesfoundation.org
- National Ability Center, Park City, Utah  
discovernac.org
- Shepherd Center, Atlanta  
shepherd.org
- National Sports Center for the Disabled, Winter Park, Colo.  
nscd.org
- Move United  
moveunitedsport.org/sports/  
adaptive-sports
- Jeremy McGhee  
theunpavement.org
- Lasher Mountain Bikes  
lashersport.com/bikes.html
- Reactive Mountain Bikes  
reactiveadaptations.com
- Paralyzed Veterans of America Sports  
pva.org/adaptive-sports

MATT KIRBY/CATALYST SPORTS



Maggie Frederick and Brad Smith ride adaptive mountain bikes at DuPont State Recreational Forest in Cedar Mountain, N.C., in November 2021.

“I think just mental health-wise, mountain biking has helped me tremendously,” Frederick says. “It’s helped me make friends, helped me travel. Last year, I mountain biked in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Arizona. And the more I get out, the more people I meet, and that just leads to more rides and getting out even more.”

Frederick, who also found her way into the mountain bike world through Catalyst, says she has a theory about why she rarely sees people with disabilities on the street.

“Even though I have a disability, I’m shocked when I see someone in public with a disability. It seems like there are so few of us there,” Frederick says. “But my theory is that too many people with disabilities sit at home. They don’t go out into the community because it’s hard. You have to do research or frickin’ cross your fingers and pray there’s a ramp.”

But, she says, following the Catalyst tour through eight of its 11 clinic stops was worth the effort. She’s built her skills alongside developing deeper self-reliance as she’s traveled to Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center’s all-female adaptive mountain bike camp in Arizona.

“I went to Great Smoky Mountains National Park last year. That never would have been possible without the mountain bike,” Frederick says. “Being in the woods and being in nature that way is indescribable.”

## Long, Lasting Bond

And that friendship, built on trail after trail after that initial meeting at an adaptive mountain bike clinic, has only grown. Together, Smith and Frederick have hit the trails with friends and got a camper van with a winch and ramp built into the floor so they can load up and go.

“We don’t ride just the two of us since we’re both on handcycles and we both cannot walk. If one of us flips over, then we’re screwed if we don’t have an able-bodied friend along. But we can get ourselves to the trailhead and back again,” Frederick says.

In November, Smith and Frederick will make their biggest jump of all together as they get married on a trail surrounded by mountain biking friends. Catalyst Founder and Executive Director Eric Gray will serve as their officiant with Catalyst Mountain Bike Director Matt Kirby as their witness.

“We’ll celebrate on the trail in our favorite place,” Smith says. “We’ll go on an easy gravel ride the day before to get the blood flowing, then hit something more epic the day after.”

S’NS



# Sports Associations

## AMPUTEE SPORTS

### Move United

451 Hungerford Drive, Ste. 608  
Rockville, MD 20850  
moveunitedsport.org

## ARCHERY

### USA Archery

210 USA Cycling Point  
Suite 130  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919  
(719) 866-4576  
clubs@usarchery.org

## BASKETBALL

### Wheelchair Basketball Canada

6 Antares Drive, Phase 1, Unit 8  
Ottawa, Ontario K2E 8A9  
Canada  
(613) 260-1296  
info@wheelchairbasketball.ca  
wheelchairbasketball.ca

### International Wheelchair Basketball Federation

5 Route Suisse  
1295 Mies  
Switzerland  
+41-22-545-00-00  
iwbf.org

### National Wheelchair Basketball Association

1130 Elkton Drive, Ste. C  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
(719) 266-4082  
nwba.org

## BILLIARDS

### National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association

9757 Mount Lompoc Court  
Las Vegas, NV 89178  
jdolezal@verizon.net

## BODYBUILDING

### Wheelchair Bodybuilding, Inc.

P.O. Box 777  
Converse, TX 78109  
(785) 893-6398  
wheelchairbodybuilding@gmail.com  
wheelchairbodybuilding.com

## BOWLING

### American Wheelchair Bowling Association

c/o Gary Ryan, AWBA Secretary  
16006 Congo Lane  
Houston, TX 77040  
(713) 444-7588  
gryan210@sbcglobal.net  
awba.org

## FENCING

### U.S. Fencing Association

1 Olympic Plaza  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
(719) 866-4511  
usfencing.org

## FLYING

### Freedom's Wings International

60 Old Lakeside Rd South  
Hewitt, NJ 07421  
Chris Lynch, Pres. (973) 417-7841  
William Thar, Sec./Treas. (973) 507-6072  
freedomswings.org

## FOOTBALL

### Move United

451 Hungerford Drive, Ste. 608  
Rockville, MD 20850  
moveunitedsport.org

### Universal Wheelchair Football Association

U.C. Raymond Walters College  
Disability Services Office  
9555 Plainfield Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45236-1096  
(513) 792-8625  
john.kraimer@uc.edu

## GOLF

### U.S. Golf Association

1631 Mesa Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906  
(719) 471-4810, ext.15  
usga.org

### National Amputee Golf Association

11 Walnut Hill Road  
Amherst, NH 03031  
(800) 633-6242  
info@nagagolf.org  
nagagolf.org

## HOCKEY

### U.S. Sled Hockey Association

710 N. Lake Shore Drive, 3rd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 908-4292 / 908-1051 (fax)  
info@sledhockey.org  
usahockey.com/sledhockey

## HORSEBACK RIDING

### North American Riding for the Handicapped Association

P.O. Box 33150  
Denver, CO 80233  
(800) 369-RIDE / (303) 252-4610 (fax)  
pathintl.org

## LACROSSE

### Wheelchair Lacrosse USA

4245 West Overlook Drive  
San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 807-9327  
wheelchairlacrosse.com

## MULTISPORT

### Casa Colina Adaptive Sports & Outdoor Adventures

255 East Bonita Avenue  
Pomona, CA 91769  
(909) 596-7733 / 593-0153 (fax)  
casacolina.org

### Move United

451 Hungerford Drive, Ste. 608  
Rockville, MD 20850  
moveunitedsport.org

### World T.E.A.M. Sports

4250 Veterans Memorial Highway,  
Ste. 420E  
Holbrook, NY 11741  
(855) 987-8326 / 288-3377 (fax)  
worldteamsports.org

## QUAD SPORTS

### Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (BORP)

3075 Adeline St., Ste. 155  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
(510) 849-4663 / 849-4616 (fax)  
info@borp.org  
borp.org

### United States Wheelchair Rugby Association

4000 Ridgeway Drive  
Homewood, AL 35209  
(205) 999-3092  
uswra.org

## RACQUET SPORTS

### International Tennis Federation (Wheelchair Tennis Department)

Bank Lane, Roehampton  
London SW15 5XZ, England  
(011) 0044-(0)208-878-6464  
0044-(0)208-392-4744 (fax)  
wheelchairtennis@itftennis.com  
itftennis.com

### United States Tennis Association

70 W. Red Oak Lane  
White Plains, NY 10604  
(914) 696-7000 / 696-7029 (fax)  
usta.com

## RECREATION

### Turning POINT (Paraplegics On Independent Nature Trips)

403 Pacific Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160  
(972) 524-4231  
point@turningpointnation.org  
turningpointnation.org

## SHOOTING

### Move United

451 Hungerford Drive, Ste. 608  
Rockville, MD 20850  
moveunitedsport.org

### National Wheelchair Shooting Federation

102 Park Avenue  
Rockledge, PA 19046  
(215) 379-2359 / 663-0102 (fax)

### NRA Disabled Shooting Services

11250 Waples Mill Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 267-1495 / 267-3941 (fax)

## SKIING

### Move United

451 Hungerford Drive, Ste. 608  
Rockville, MD 20850  
moveunitedsport.org

### Skii for Light, Inc.

1455 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
(612) 827-3232  
info@sfl.org  
sfl.org

## SOFTBALL

### National Wheelchair Softball Association

13414 Paul Street  
Omaha, NE 68154  
(402) 305-5020  
bfroendtd@cox.net  
wheelchairsoftball.org

## TABLE TENNIS

### American Wheelchair Table Tennis Association

23 Parker Street  
Port Chester, NY 10573  
(914) 937-3932  
johnsonjennifer@yahoo.com

## TRACK & FIELD

### Adaptive Track & Field USA (ATSUSA)

https://www.atfusa.org

## WATER SPORTS/RECREATION

### American Canoe Association

7432 Alban Station Boulevard  
Ste. B-232  
Springfield, VA 22150  
(703) 451-0141 / 451-2245 (fax)  
americancanoe.org

### Handicapped Scuba Association

1104 El Prado  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
(949) 498-4540 / 498-6128 (fax)  
hsa@hsascuba.com  
hsascuba.com

### Water Skiers With Disabilities Association

1251 Holy Cow Road  
Polk City, FL 33868  
(800) 533-2972 / (863) 324-4341  
325-8259 (fax)  
usawaterski.org

# On The Sidelines

## COLLEGE ATHLETICS

### Wheelchair Champions To Be Crowned At NCAA Events

Some of the best wheelchair athletes in tennis and track will be competing for national titles at a pair of NCAA championship events this spring.

Holding the wheelchair events at NCAA championships was announced by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and NCAA Office of Inclusion March 28. The move was included as part of four programs launched by both organizations to engage schools with adaptive sports while increasing Paralympic sport awareness.

The 100-meter national collegiate wheelchair championships will be held at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in June.



© GETTY IMAGES/ CHRISTIAN PETERSEN

The national collegiate singles wheelchair tennis championships will take place at the NCAA Division I singles championships at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., May 24–25. The wheelchair semifinals and finals will compete on the main courts of the Michael and Anne Greenwood Tennis Center between the NCAA singles and doubles finals.

History will be made the following month in Eugene, Ore., when the national collegiate wheelchair championships in the 100-meter races takes place for the first time at the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The top eight men and eight women from the preliminary qualifiers will compete for a national title at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field June 7–8.

Another program announced by the USOPC and NCAA in March was a Team USA versus college all-star wheelchair basketball game during halftime of the championship game at the NCAA Division I Women's Final Four, which was held April 7 in Cleveland.

The two organizations also announced their intent to launch a Para-College Sports Hub to serve as a vehicle for growth of para sport programs and athlete participation at campuses across the nation. The official launch is expected to be announced in the coming months.

For more information about any of the programs, visit [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org) and [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com).

## PARALYMPICS

### Paris Medals Unveiled

The medals for this summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris will each include an iconic piece of France in them.

Unveiled by the Games' organizing committee, Paris 2024, in February, each medal will include a small piece of iron from the Eiffel Tower. The hexagon-shaped piece of iron came from scraps taken from the Eiffel Tower during various renovation projects over the last century.

While the back, or "Eiffel Tower side," of the Olympic and Paralympic medals will look the same as part of an effort to bring the Games closer together, the other side will be unique to each event.

The front of the Paralympic medals features a representation of the view of the Eiffel Tower looking up from underneath it. The words "Paris" and "2024" frame the pillars of the tower and are written in uni-





The back of the medals for this summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris will each include a piece of iron from the Eiffel Tower.

versal Braille, which symbolizes accessibility and is a reference to its French inventor, Louis Braille.

To enable the three metals to be distinguished by touch, lines are engraved on the edge of the medal won: I for gold, II for silver and III for bronze.

The front of the Olympic medals features the goddess of victory, Nike, in Panathenaic Stadium, where the Olympic Games were revived in 1896. The Greek Acropolis overlooks the stadium on one side, while the Eiffel Tower overlooks the other side.

The Olympic Games are set to take place July 26–Aug. 11, while the Paralympic Games will run Aug. 28–Sept. 8.

For more information, visit [paris2024.org/en](https://paris2024.org/en).

## Record Media Interest

The upcoming 2024 Paris Summer Paralympics will be broadcast in more countries than ever before.

The organizing committee for the Games, Paris 2024, and the In-

ternational Paralympic Committee (IPC) announced in late February that a record number of broadcasters from around the world are set to cover the Paralympics.

Media rights holders in more than 160 countries and territories have committed to broadcasting the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, which begin Aug. 28. The 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo were shown in 154 countries and territories.

Additionally, the Summer Games will make history as the first Paralympics to offer some live coverage from each of its 22 sports. During Tokyo 2021, 19 sports were broadcast, while 15 were shown during the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

NBCUniversal announced last August it planned record-setting coverage of the Paralympics in the United States. The network says it has planned more than 140 hours of the Games across NBC, USA Network and CNBC. Nine of those hours will be on NBC, including six in prime time.

Meanwhile, in the host country, France Télévisions will broadcast the Games, while Radio France and RMC have secured radio rights. Channel 4 in the United Kingdom will screen its fourth successive Summer Paralympics, while Infront has already finalized coverage in a record 40 European countries.

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games are set to take place Aug. 28–Sept. 8.

For more information on the Games, visit [paris2024.org/en](https://paris2024.org/en). For more information on NBCUniversal's coverage of the Paralympics, visit [nbcolympics.com/paralympic-games](https://nbcolympics.com/paralympic-games).

## TRACK & FIELD

### Trials Moved To Florida

The upcoming U.S. Paralympic Team trials for track and field are moving from the West Coast to the East Coast.

The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) an-



COURTESY OF PARIS 2024



The Paris 2024 Summer Paralympics will make history as the first Paralympics to offer some live coverage from each of its 22 sports.

© GETTY IMAGES/ PONGNATHEE KLUAYTHONG



The Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar, Fla., will host the U.S. Paralympic Team trials for track and field July 18–21.

COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MIRAMAR, FLA.

nounced in late March that the trials have been moved to the Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar, Fla., in the Miami area. Originally planned to be held in Chula Vista, Calif., the trials will still take place July 18–21.

The 24-acre Ansin Sports Complex features a newly renovated FTX Mondo running track identical to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic track in Beijing. The track has seating for more than 5,000 fans and hosted the 2022 U.S. Paralympics Track & Field National Championships.

July's trials will serve as the selection event for the U.S. Paralympic track and field team that will compete at this summer's Paris Paralympic Games. The only exception for team selection at the trials will be for the marathon.

Tatyana McFadden (Baltimore), Aaron Pike (Park Rapids, Minn.), Daniel Romanchuk (Mount Airy, Md.) and Susannah Scaroni (Tekoa, Wash.) already punched their tickets to Paris via the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon.

A part of the recently announced Making Team USA platform presented by Xfinity, fans will get unprecedented access to celebrate and understand athletes on their sports journey to the Paralympic Games Paris 2024. To follow the untold story of how Team USA comes to be, fans can explore the Making Team USA presented by Xfinity

Hub by visiting [teamusa.com/making-team-usa](https://teamusa.com/making-team-usa).

Open to the public, the trials will also be shown across Team USA and NBC platforms. Broadcast and ticket sale information hadn't been announced by the *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* publication deadline in early April.

For more information, visit [teamusa.org](https://teamusa.org).

## SLED HOCKEY

### Calgary Hosts World Championships

The biggest event on the para ice hockey calendar is taking



Calgary, Alberta, will host the 2024 World Para Ice Hockey Championships A-pool at WinSport Arenas from May 4–12.

© GETTY IMAGES/LISAMARIE

place this month in Calgary, Alberta, for the first time.

The 2024 World Para Ice Hockey Championships A-Pool is being played at WinSport Arenas in the

"Stampede City" May 4–12. The event features the top eight teams in the world, including Team USA, Canada, Czechia, China, South Korea, Italy, Japan and Slovakia.

Three Asian teams are competing in the A-Pool for the first time, as Beijing 2022 Paralympic bronze medalist China and PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic bronze medalist Korea are being joined by B-Pool world champion Japan.

The tournament is being played in a round-robin format with the teams split into two groups, followed by the play-off round, culminating with the gold-medal game on May 12.

Opened in 2011, WinSport Arenas houses four ice rinks inside Canada Olympic Park, a year-round sport and recreation hub for Calgary residents. The city of Calgary hosted the 1988 Olympics and serves as home to both Hockey Canada's central office and the NHL's Calgary Flames.

For more information, visit [paralympic.org/ice-hockey](https://paralympic.org/ice-hockey).

S'NS





Note: \*\* means this is not a PVA-sponsored event.

## Air Guns

- **Wisconsin Air Gun Tournament**  
March 8-9, 2024  
Milwaukee, WI
- **Texas Air Gun Tournament**  
May 4-5, 2024  
San Antonio, TX

## Bass Fishing

- **Citrus Slam Bass Tournament**  
Hosted by Florida Gulf Coast PVA  
April 5-7, 2024  
Kissimmee, FL
- **Bluegrass Bass Bash Bass Tournament**  
Hosted by Kentucky-Indiana PVA  
April 19-21, 2024  
Kuttawa, KY
- **Capital Clash Bass Tournament**  
Hosted by PVA National  
June 7-9, 2024  
LaPlata, MD

## Billiards

- **Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament**  
March 15-17, 2024  
Midlothian, VA
- **Mid-America Billiards Tournament**  
May 23-24, 2024  
Oklahoma City, OK

## Bowling

- **Nevada Bowling Tournament**  
November 30 - December 3, 2023  
Las Vegas, NV
- **Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament**  
January 31-February 2, 2024  
Tampa, FL
- **Texas PVA Bowling Tournament**  
May, 8 2024  
San Antonio, Texas

## Boccia

- **Bayou Boccia Tournament**  
February 2-3, 2024  
Gulfport, MS

## Paracycling

- **PVA Racing High Performance Racing Camp**  
January 28-February 4, 2024  
Brooksville, Florida
- **Swamp Classic\*\***  
February 3-4, 2024  
Gainesville, FL
- **Valley of the Sun Stage Race\*\***  
February 17-18, 2024  
Phoenix, AZ
- **PVA Pocahontas Off-Road Spring Camp**  
April 10-14, 2024  
Chesterfield, VA
- **PVA Off-Road Classic (PVA Off-Road Race)**  
April 13, 2024  
Chesterfield, VA
- **PVA Paracycling Learn to Race Camp**  
June 21-22, 2024  
Milwaukee, WI
- **US Paracycling Road National Championships**  
(PVA High Performance Team)  
TBD 2024  
Location TBD

## Trapshooting

- **Cal-Diego Trapshoot**  
March 22-24, 2024  
Redlands, CA
- **Vaughan Trapshoot**  
May 24-26, 2024  
Elburn, IL
- **Wisconsin Trapshoot**  
June 7-9, 2024  
Green Bay, WI
- **Iowa Trapshoot (Year End)**  
June 21-23, 2024  
Cedar Rapids, IA

## Non-Series Events

- **PVA Rugby Invitational**  
January 11-14, 2024  
Louisville, KY
- **National Veterans Wheelchair Games**  
July 25-30, 2024  
New Orleans, LA

# Pro Shop

## CLASSIFIEDS

**WHEELCHAIR JEANS. THE ORIGINAL.** Don't fall for fakes! Each pair is custom made just for you. Call Darlene (918) 402-8408 or Vincent (505) 903-1335. Or email darleneatwheelchairapparel@gmail.com or vincent@luzimen.com

### HAVE YOU MOVED?

For change of address, please notify us six weeks in advance, sending your old address (as it appears on your mailing label) and your new one.



**Circulation Department,  
PVA Publications**  
7250 North 16th Street, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85020-5214

Update your email to ensure delivery of **SPORTS 'N SPOKES**. Email your current email address to Suzi Hubbard at [suzi@pvamag.com](mailto:suzi@pvamag.com). Use Email Update in the subject line.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE:** Classified ads must be prepaid and are not commissionable (\$1/word—personal, \$1.50/word—business, bold lead-in no extra charge). Contact Sherri Shea, [sherri@pvamag.com](mailto:sherri@pvamag.com) or 602-224-0500, ext. 102.

**ADVERTISE  
READERS USE S'NS  
TO FIND PRODUCTS  
AND SERVICES  
HERE**

## INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Abilities Expo.....	5
Coloplast Corporation.....	48
Orion Medical Group Inc.....	46
PVA Research Grants.....	7
PVA Sports.....	45
Rehabtronics.....	2

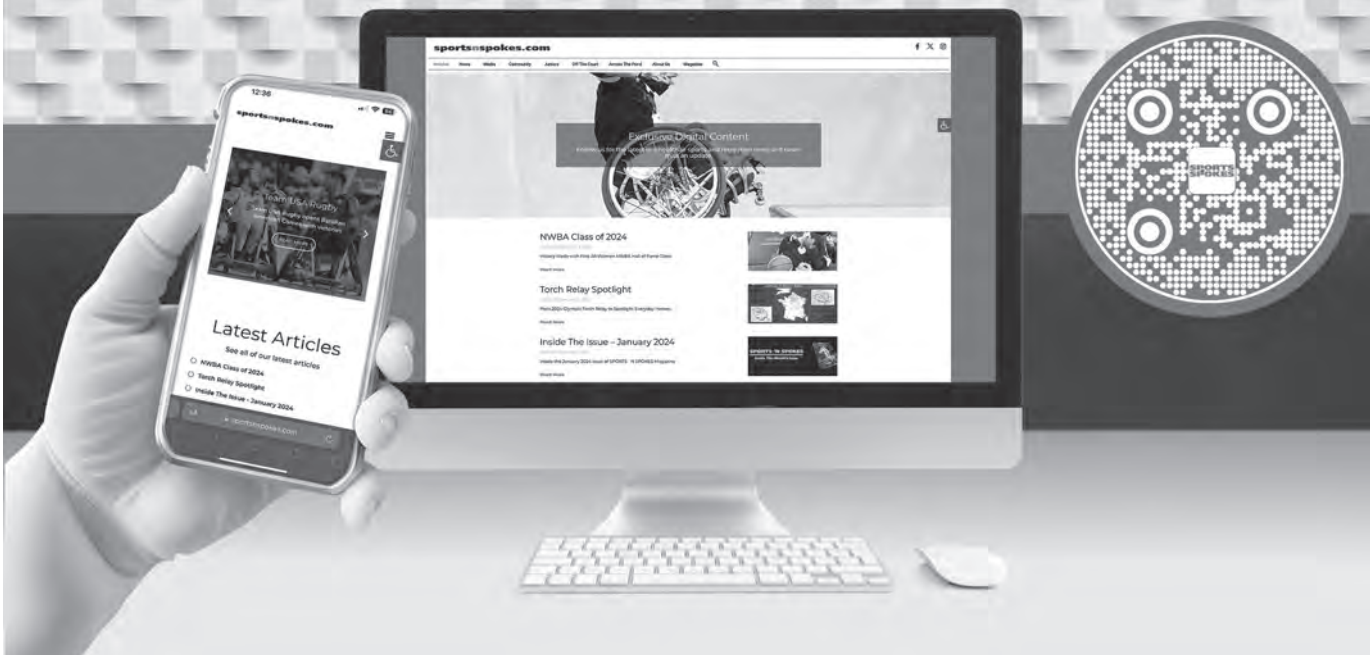
**Ferti Care® Personal**  
Don't let incontinence hold you back

**JUMP START  
YOUR  
SEX  
LIFE**

- Treats ejaculation and orgasmic dysfunction
- Great sexual satisfaction for MEN and WOMEN
- Ferticare 2.0
- Inexpensive alternative to fertility clinic
- Improves bladder control
- VA-approved Kegel device/sexual dysfunction
- Non-invasive alternative device for incontinence

**Orion Medical Group, Inc.**  
(Full DME Pharmacy Specializing SCI)  
714-649-9284 / 1-888-64-ORION (67466)  
Fax 714-594-4038 | [info@medicalvibrator.com](mailto:info@medicalvibrator.com)  
[www.medicalvibrator.com](http://www.medicalvibrator.com)

# sportsnspokes.com





# Final Frame



National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) 2024 Hall of Fame inductees Darlene Hunter, PhD, left, Cheryl Vines, middle standing, and Andrea Woodson-Smith, PhD, right, are pictured along with Golden State Road Warriors head coach and 2007 NWBA Hall of Fame inductee Paul Jackson during halftime of the April 14 Division II NWBA Adult Division Tournament championship game. Photo by Christopher Di Virgilio.



# Luja™ Coudé

with Micro-hole Zone  
Technology

"I found, with Luja™  
Coudé, I don't need  
to reposition the  
catheter anymore."

Joe\* | Catheter user



## 80+ micro-holes. Designed to reduce the risk of UTIs.<sup>1</sup>

Introducing Luja™ Coudé with Micro-hole Zone Technology.

Featuring over 80 micro-holes designed for optimal bladder emptying in one seamless flow.<sup>2</sup> Say goodbye to repositioning and hello to a product designed to reduce the risk of UTIs<sup>1</sup> and a smoother catheterization experience.

Call toll free: **1-855-385-3990**  
Visit [www.coloplast.com/LujaCoudé](http://www.coloplast.com/LujaCoudé)  
Or scan the QR code with your  
smartphone camera



Micro-holes. Macro Difference.

\*Joe is a Coloplast product user who has received compensation to provide this information.

Each person's situation is unique, so your experience may not be the same. Talk to your healthcare professional about which product might be right for you.

1. UTI risk factors defined by Kennedy M., et al. (2019), 10.1155/2019/2757862 Study supported by Coloplast.
2. Luja has close to no flow stops and complete bladder emptying is defined as <10mL. Landauro et al., 2023, N=42. Individual results may vary.

Luja Coudé is indicated for use by patients with urine retention and patients with post void residual volume (PVR) due to neurogenic and non-neurogenic voiding dysfunction. The catheter is inserted into the urethra to reach the bladder allowing urine to drain. The product is for adult male patients only. Available by prescription only. Patients performing self-catheterization should follow the advice of, and direct questions about use of the product to, their medical professional. Before using the device, carefully read the product labels and information accompanying the device including the instructions for use which contain additional safety information. For single-use only; discard it after use. If you experience symptoms of a urinary tract infection, or are unable to pass the catheter into the bladder, contact your healthcare professional. The risk information provided here is not comprehensive. To learn more, talk to your healthcare provider. For further information, call Coloplast Corp. at 1-866-226-6362 and/or consult the company website at [www.coloplast.us](http://www.coloplast.us).