

Paralympian Ann Cody Honored With STRIVE Award

Ann Cody of Washington, D.C., recently received the 2008 Hershey's STRIVE Award for National Administrator of the Year on behalf of the National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS). The award was presented at the Indoor Wheelchair Soccer National Championship on the University of Georgia campus in Athens Nov. 2. Cody was recognized for having accomplished the essentials of STRIVE: Sports Teach Respect, Initiative, Values, and Excellence. A veteran of three Paralympic Games in Wheelchair Basketball (1984) and Athletics (1988), Cody also competed in the wheelchair exhibition event at the 1988 Olympic Games. She has organized sports programs and is currently employed as the director of partnerships and public policy for BlazeSports America. Cody also serves on the IPC Governing Board and is the highest-ranking American and woman in the IPC worldwide.



While rising to the elite ranks of her sport, Cody pursued a master's degree and taught aspiring young athletes and their coaches training principles, best practices, and techniques in wheelchair racing, injury prevention, sports psychology, and racing strategies.

Cody has designed federal affairs strategies for amateur sports and health and disability-related organizations, in addition to providing representation before the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch. She also has led a number of national and international advocacy initiatives on sport with a focus on females with disabilities.

Paralympian Josh George Wins ARETE Honors Award

World Champion and two-time Paralympian Josh George, 24, has been selected as a winner of the 2008 ARETE Honors Award for Courage in Sports. George received the award at a ceremony held Oct. 17 in Chicago, which was later broadcast on CBS. The wheelchair basketball player and racer joins past honorees including Lance Armstrong, Alonzo Mourning, Tiger Woods, and Muhammad Ali.

"It is almost incomprehensible to me to be mentioned in the same sentence as such legendary past ARETE award winners, and I am looking forward to honoring their achievements," George said.

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George, who embarked on his athletic career two years after surviving a 12-story fall at the age of four, competed in the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing in six events. He won gold in the 100m wheelchair race and silver in the 800m event.

He has won the Chicago Marathon three times, won four gold medals at the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletics World Championship in 2006, and two bronze medals at the 2004 Paralympic Games. He was also the starting guard for the gold-medal winning U.S. wheelchair basketball team at this past summer's Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Two Amputees Make History at US Open

Scout Bassett, an AK amputee, and Kelly Bruno, a BK amputee, served as court attendant and ballperson respectively at the US Open, Aug. 25 to Sept. 7, in Queens, N.Y.

Bassett and Bruno are two of the first physically challenged athletes to ever serve on the field of play at a major sporting event.

Bassett, 20, born in China but adopted by a Michigan couple when she was 7, actively competes in tennis, golf, marathons and triathlons. In 2007, she qualified and competed in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Championships in Hamburg, Germany, finishing second in her division. She won silver in 2008 at the Vancouver Triathlon World Championships.

Bruno, a native of Durham, N.C., also is a triathlete and distance runner. She finished third in her category for athletes with a disability at the 2008 ITU World Championships. Bruno also raced in the 2005 and 2006 ITU World Championships as a member of the Paralympic Triathlon Development Team, taking

silver in both years.

Bassett and Bruno are both associated with the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

Sarah Reinertsen Receives da Vinci Founder's Award



The Michigan chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society presented Sarah Reinertsen with the 2008 da Vinci Founder's Award on Sept. 20, at a gala event at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn, Mich. Reinertsen, an above knee amputee, is a triathlete, motivational speaker, and author.

The da Vinci Founder's Award recognizes people who significantly increase public awareness of assistive technology and accessibility issues. At age 30, Reinertsen became the first female with a prosthetic leg to complete the Hawaii Ironman triathlon. She went on to win an ESPY award in 2006 and participate in TV's, "The Amazing Race." Reinertsen also founded her own company, AlwaysTri, Inc., whose vision statement, "Fear Less, Live More," syncs with the da Vinci Award's philosophy.

"My dream is to do extraordinary things everyday," Reinertsen emphasizes.

Chris Waddell Set to Summit Mount Kilimanjaro

Chris Waddell, Paralympic gold medalist skier, recently returned from a preliminary trip to Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa. His plan is to summit the 19,340-foot mountain in March 2009. If successful, he will be the first paraplegic to summit the tallest free standing mountain, unassisted.

"We needed to go in person first to know what we're up against," he said. "There's only so much you can learn from photos."

Waddell says this outing helped put the expedition into perspective for the team. "It was far more technical than I had anticipated with a steep approach, loose rock and tricky water troughs."



The expedition is just one facet of Waddell's new business endeavor called "One Revolution."

During the Kilimanjaro trip, Waddell and his team will be donating wheelchairs to needy families in Tanzania. The entire climb and journey will be chronicled in an upcoming documentary and book.

Additional information on Waddell's historic climb and how the public can contribute is available online at www.One-Revolution.com.

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