



Randy Richardson

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# ELITE COMPETITION, INTERNATIONAL SPIRIT

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The Beijing Science and Technology University Gymnasium was filled to capacity for the gold medal wheelchair rugby match, U.S. vs. Australia. With flags waving, faces painted and lungs ready to roar, the American and Aussie fans were ready.

But there was one more contingent - the majority of the crowd in fact - set to get in on the action: the thousands of Chinese fans in attendance.

A rallying effort by Paralympic Academy Director John Register brought a few voices to dozens, which then became hundreds, swelling to a loud roar as the crowd of American and Chinese fans chanted "Jia You, Mei Guo Dui! Jia You, Mei Guo Dui!" Let's Go U.S.A.

With a committed crowd behind them, Team USA - led by Will Groulx, Bryan Kirkland and Andy Cohn - took gold, beating Australia 53-44.

## Amazing Awaits

The 13th Paralympic Summer Games in Beijing, China, was the largest Paralympic gathering ever. More than 4,200 athletes from 148 countries participated in events in 20 sports.

Team USA, made up of 213 athletes, finished third in the medal count, climbing two spots from the rankings in Athens (2004), behind China and Great Britain.

In addition to Wheelchair Rugby, Team USA also claimed the top spot on the podium in the team sports of Women's Goalball and Women's Wheelchair Basketball, as well as multiple medals in Athletics, Cycling, Wheelchair Tennis, Sailing and Swimming.

The U.S. Paralympic Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team defended its title, going undefeated in Beijing to earn its second consecutive Paralympic gold medal.

"It was a little more difficult this time because every team here was gunning for us," said team co-captain Patty Cisneros. "They wanted what we had and we rose to the challenge. There's

no better feeling than knowing you're the best in the world."

For the first time, the U.S. Paralympic Men's and Women's Swimming Team finished in the number one spot in the swimming medal standings, winning 17 gold medals in Beijing. The U.S. swimmers set an astounding total of 16 world records, 23 Paralympic records, 48 Pan American records and 99 American records.

"We've taken leaps and bounds in the last four years. The team has been very performance oriented and that has shown in the medal count, lifetime best swims and records," said Head Coach Julie O'Neill.

The U.S. Paralympic Swimming Team's 44 total medals (nine more than they took home from Athens) were won by 19 U.S. athletes, demonstrating the depth of the team. And it wasn't just the returning Paralympians - like Erin Popovich, Lantz Lamback, Jessica Long and Rudy Garcia-Tolson - who visited the podium more than once. First-time Paralympians - including Cortney Jordan, Amanda Everlove, Roy Perkins and Anna Eames - won multiple medals, broke world records and challenged their teammates in tough races, making it clear that the U.S. team has a bright future.

"We have a really young team and we're going to be around for awhile to hold on to this," said Eames.

At the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park, U.S. crews made history, winning two of the first-ever awarded medals in the Paralympic sport of rowing. The mixed four with coxswain - Simona Chin, Jamie Dean, Jesse Karmazin, Tracy Tackett and Emma Preuschl - won silver, while Laura Schwanger won bronze in the women's single sculls.

"The competition was incredibly tough and I'm just happy to win a medal," said Schwanger, a

former track and field Paralympian who already had 11 medals to her name.

In Athletics, U.S. competitors set six world records and took home 28 medals - nine gold, 14 silver and five bronze - topping the team's performance in Athens by two medals.

Wheelchair racer Jessica Galli won the most medals for the U.S. Track & Field Team during Beijing competition: gold in the 400m (also a world record with a time of 54.88), silver in the 100m, 200m and 800m, and bronze in the 4x100m relay.

The men's 4x100m relay team - comprised of Brian Frasure, Jim Bob Bizzell, Casey Tibbs and Jerome Singleton - won gold and set a world record in the event, edging out second place Brazil by almost three seconds.

"I can't imagine it being any more perfect," said Frasure, who plans to retire after Beijing. "Walking out into the stadium and hearing the cheers really got the adrenaline pumping. I just can't imagine going out any way more perfect than this."

The U.S. Paralympic Cycling team had a goal of 10 medals, including two gold, heading into Beijing competition. They surpassed that goal, finishing with five gold, five silver and four bronze. 52-year-old Barbara Buchan won two gold medals during competition. U.S. teammates Karissa Whitsell (with new pilot Mackenzie Woodring), Jennifer Schuble, Oz Sanchez and Alejandro Albor also contributed multiple medals to the overall team tally.

Also exceeding expectations was the U.S. Wheelchair Tennis Team: Nick Taylor and David Wagner won gold in Quad Doubles, and Wagner earned bronze in Quad Singles.

## Athletes, Veterans In Uniform

Melissa Stockwell, who lost her left leg to a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq, was the

**"JIA YOU, MEI GUO DUI!"  
LET'S GO USA!**



Photo courtesy of Jessica Long

first veteran injured in Iraq to compete on the U.S. Paralympic Swimming Team. In addition to competing in three events - women's S9 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle and 400m freestyle - at her first Paralympic Games competition, Stockwell was also selected by the U.S. delegation as flag bearer for the Closing Ceremonies.

"Coming over here [to Beijing], I've been so proud to wear the USA uniform and be a part of the team," said Stockwell. "To walk and hold the flag is a huge honor, especially alongside all of my teammates, who have accomplished so much. To end the Paralympics by carrying the flag will complete my whole experience."

Along with Stockwell, 14 American veterans and one active-duty member of the military - Casey Tibbs (Athletics) - donned the Team USA uniform for the 2008 Paralympic Games: Will Groulx (Wheelchair Rugby); Lee Hinson (Wheelchair Tennis); Chuck Lear, T.J. Pemberton, Kevin Stone and Russell Wolfe (Archery); Carlos Leon, Scot Severn and Scott Winkler (Athletics); Angela Madsen and Laura Schwanger (Rowing); Kari Miller (Sitting Volleyball); Oscar Sanchez and Jennifer Schuble (Cycling.)

Across the board, from the USOC Paralympic Military Program to the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, a partnership between Disabled Sports USA and Wounded Warrior Project, to local events, disabled sports organizations are continuing to extend more opportunities to veterans.

"The focus of the USOC Paralympic Military Program is to provide ongoing programs and mentors to injured service men and women in their hometown communities," said Charlie Huebner, Chief of Paralympics. "By collaborating with the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and other community-based sport organizations like DS/USA and National Parks and Recreation, we're hopeful we can continue to expand those programs."

### The Spirit of the Games

At the 2008 Paralympic Games, both the camaraderie and competition shone through as the international community of athletes, fans,

coaches and volunteers came together in Beijing: Chinese and American fans uniting in the stands; athletes smashing world records amidst the toughest competition in Paralympic history; sold-out venues; thousands of spectators joyously photographing family and friends in the outdoor plazas; national anthems filling the arenas as medalists watched their countries' flags rise.

Whether you cheered on competitors from the Water Cube or Bird's Nest, watched competition live on UniversalSports.com, or welcomed hometown athletes back to the States, you know firsthand the contagious energy and spirit of the Paralympic Games.

With expanded focus on grassroots development programs, additional involvement from members of the military and increased media attention, we can only expect continued growth of the Paralympic Games and a golden future for Team USA on this elite international stage.

*Joe and Tara Kusumoto have been documenting the Paralympic Games since 2004 in Athens, Greece. In addition to working as a photographer, Joe manages the Keystone Adaptive Center, a program of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC). Tara writes on a variety of topics, from disabled sports to book reviews, and is a public relations consultant for emerging technology companies. They live in Breckenridge, Colo.*

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# 2008 U.S. Paralympic Medalists by Sport

**99 total medals:  
36 Gold, 35 Silver, 28 Bronze**

## ARCHERY

Lindsey Carmichael (Lago Vista, Texas), Bronze - Women's Individual Recurve - Standing  
Jeff Fabry (Tulare, Calif.), Bronze - Men's Individual Compound - W1

## ATHLETICS

Men's 4x100m Relay T42-T46 - Gold - Jim Bob Bizzell (Abilene, Texas), Brian Frasure (Apex, N.C.), Jerome Singleton (Irmo, S.C.), Casey Tibbs (San Antonio, Texas)  
Women's 4x100m Relay T53/T54 - Bronze - Anjali Forber Pratt (Natick, Mass.), Jessica Galli (Hillsborough, N.J.), Tatyana McFadden (Clarksville, Md.), Amanda McGrory (Kennett Square, Pa.)

Jim Bob Bizzell (Abilene, Texas), Silver-T44 400m, Silver-T44 200m  
Jeremy Campbell (Perryton, Texas), Gold-F44 Discus Throw, Gold-P44 Pentathlon  
Anjali Forber Pratt (Natick, Mass.), Bronze-T53 400m  
Brian Frasure (Apex, N.C.), Bronze-T44 100m  
Jessica Galli (Hillsborough, N.J.), Gold-T53 400m, Silver-T53 100m, Silver-T53 200m, Silver-T53 800m  
Josh George (Fairfax, Va.), Gold-T53 100m, Silver-T53 800m  
Elexis Gillette (Raleigh, N.C.), Silver-F11 Long Jump  
Peter Gottwald, Jr. (West Chester, Pa.), Silver-T13 800m  
April Holmes (Somerdale, N.J.), Gold-T44 100m  
Josiah Jamison (Vance, S.C.), Gold-T12 100m  
Tatyana McFadden (Clarksville, Md.), Silver-T54 200m, Silver-T54 400m, Silver-T54 800m  
Amanda McGrory (Kennett Square, Pa.), Gold-T54 5000m, Silver-T54 Marathon, Bronze-T53 800m  
Jerome Singleton (Irmo, S.C.), Silver-T44 100m  
Jeff Skiba (Sammamish, Wash.), Gold-F44/F46 High Jump, Silver-P44 Pentathlon  
Casey Tibbs (San Antonio, Texas), Bronze-F42/F44 Long Jump

## CYCLING

Women's Individual Time Trial B&VI 1-3 - Gold - Karissa Whitsell (Eugene, Ore.), Mackenzie Woodring (Grand Rapids, Mich.)  
Women's Individual Road Race B&VI 1-3 - Silver - Karissa Whitsell (Eugene, Ore.), Mackenzie Woodring (Grand Rapids, Mich.)  
Women's Individual Pursuit B&VI 1-3 - Bronze - Karissa Whitsell (Eugene, Ore.), Mackenzie Woodring (Grand Rapids, Mich.)  
Alejandro Albor (Elk Grove, Calif.), Silver-Individual Road Race HC C, Bronze-Individual Time Trial HC C



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Barbara Buchan (Bend, Ore.), Gold-Individual Time Trial LC 3-4/CP 3, Gold-Individual Pursuit LC 3-4/CP 3  
Allison Jones (Colorado Springs, Colo.), Silver - Individual Time Trial LC 3-4/CP 3  
Oz Sanchez (San Diego, Calif.), Gold-Individual Time Trial HC C, Bronze-Individual Road Race HC C  
Jennifer Schuble (Homewood, Ala.), Gold-500m Time Trial LC1-2/CP 4, Silver-Individual Time Trial LC 1-2/CP 4, Silver- Individual Pursuit LC 1-2/CP 4  
Anthony Zahn (Riverside, Calif.), Bronze- Individual Time Trial LC 4

## GOALBALL

U.S. Women's Team - Gold - Jen Armbruster (Colorado Springs, Colo.), Lisa Banta (Tuscon, Ariz.), Jaclyn Barnes (Wadsworth, Ill.), Jessica Lorenz (Oakland, Calif.), Asya Miller (Lapeer, Mich.), Robyn Theryoung (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

## JUDO

Greg Dewall (Chico, Calif.), Bronze - +100 kg

## ROWING

Mixed Coxed Four - LTA - Silver-Simona Chin (Houston, Texas), James Dean (Pickerington, Ohio), Jesse Karmazin (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.), Emma Preuschl (Indianapolis, Ind.), Tracy Tackett (Phoenixville, Pa.)

Laura Schwanger (Harrisburg, Pa.), Bronze- Women's Single Sculls - A

## SAILING

2-Person Keelboat (SKUD18) - Gold - Maureen McKinnon Tucker (Marblehead, Mass.), Nick Scandone (Fountain Valley, Calif.)

Jon Ruf (Pewaukee, Wis.), Bronze- 1-Person Keelboat (2.4mR)



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## SITTING VOLLEYBALL

U.S. Women's Team - Silver - Allison Aldrich (Lincoln, Neb.), Heather Erickson (Fayetteville, N.C.), Alex Gouldie (St. Paul, Neb.), Katie Holloway (Van Nuys, Calif.), SuGui Kriss (Ravena, N.Y.), Kendra Lancaster (W. Lafayette, Ind.), Hope Lewellen (Palos Park, Ill.), Brenda Maymon (Charlestown, Ind.), Gina McWilliams (Dallas, Texas), Nichole Millage (Champaign, Ill.), Kari Miller (Washington, D.C.), Lora Webster (Edmond, Okla.)

## SWIMMING

Cheryl Angelelli (Clinton Township, Mich.), Silver-100m Freestyle S4, Silver-50m Freestyle S4  
Kelley Becherer (Sheboygan, Wis.), Gold-50m Freestyle S13, Bronze-100m Freestyle S13, Bronze-400m Freestyle S13  
Aimee Bruder (Birmingham, Ala.), Bronze-100m Freestyle S4  
Cody Bureau (Latrobe, Pa.), Bronze-200m Individual Medley SM9  
Anna Eames (Golden Valley, Minn.), Gold-100m Butterfly S10, Bronze-100m Freestyle S10  
Amanda Everlove (Wichita, Kan.), Silver-100m Butterfly S8, Silver-200m Individual Medley SM8, Silver-50m Freestyle S8  
Rudy Garcia-Tolson (Bloomington, Calif.), Gold-200m Individual Medley SM7, Bronze-100m Breaststroke SB7  
Deborah Gruen (Hamden, Conn.), Bronze-100m Breaststroke SB6  
Courtney Jordan (Henderson, Nev.), Gold-50m Freestyle S7, Silver-100m Freestyle S7, Silver-400m Freestyle S7, Bronze-200m Individual Medley SM7  
Lantz Lamback (Augusta, Ga.) Gold-100m Backstroke S7, Silver-100m Freestyle S7, Silver-400m Freestyle S7, Bronze-50m Freestyle S7  
Jessica Long (Baltimore, Md.), Gold-100m Butterfly S8, Gold-100m Freestyle S8, Gold-400m Freestyle S8, Gold-200m Individual Medley SM8, Silver-100m Backstroke S8, Bronze-100m Breaststroke SB7  
Ashley Owens (Stockbridge, Ga.), Gold-100m Freestyle S10, Silver-400m Freestyle S10  
Roy Perkins (Del Mar, Calif.), Gold-50m Butterfly S5, Bronze-100m Freestyle S5  
Jarrett Perry (Wichita, Kan.), Bronze-100m Backstroke S9  
Erin Popovich (Silverbow, Mont.), Gold-100m Freestyle S7, Gold-400m Freestyle S7, Gold-100m Breaststroke SB7, Gold-200m Individual



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Medley SM7, Silver-50m Butterfly S7, Silver-50m Freestyle S7  
Susan Beth Scott (Cape Girardeau, Mo.), Bronze-400m Freestyle S10  
Elizabeth Stone (Grand Rapids, Mich.), Silver-100m Backstroke S9  
Miranda Uhl (Alachua, Fla.), Gold-200m Individual Medley SM6  
Justin Zook (Plymouth, Minn.), Gold-100m Backstroke S10

## WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

U.S. Women's Team - Gold - Sarah Castle (Centennial, Colo.), Patty Cisneros (Lake Station, Ind.), Loraine Gonzales (Ft. Worth, Texas), Carlee Hoffman (Cutlerville, Mich.), Emily Hoskins (Mascoutah, Ill.), Mary Alison Milford (Magnolia, Ark.), Becca Murray (Germantown, Wis.), Alana Nichols (Farmington, N.M.), Christina Ripp (Dane, Wis.), Jennifer Ruddell (Champaign, Ill.), Natalie Schneider (Lincoln, Neb.), Stephanie Wheeler (Norlina, N.C.)

## WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

U.S. Men's Team - Gold - Andy Cohn (Tempe, Ariz.), Will Groulx (Portland, Ore.), Scott Hogsett (Phoenix, Ariz.), Bryan Kirkland (Leeds, Ala.), Norm Lydych (Austin, Texas), Seth McBride (Juneau, Alaska), Jason Regier (Denver, Colo.), Nick Springer (New York, N.Y.), Chance Sumner (Denver, Colo.), Joel Wilmoth (Hueytown, Ala.), Mark Zupan (Austin, Texas)

## WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Quad Doubles-Open - Gold - Nick Taylor (Wichita, Kan.), David Wagner (Hillsboro, Ore.)  
David Wagner (Hillsboro, Ore.), Bronze-Quad Singles - Open



Photos by Randy Richardson