

Oscar Pistorius Will Not Compete in the Olympics 400m Individual Event

Double-amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius missed meeting the qualifying time needed to participate in the 400m individual event at the Beijing Olympics. At his last chance to qualify at a meet in Lucerne, Switzerland, July 16, he missed the mark of 45.55 by a mere 0.70 seconds. However, his time of 46.25 was a personal best.

As of press time, it was not yet determined if the South African Federation and Olympic Committee would select Pistorius to participate in that country's Olympic 4x400m relay team. That would make Pistorius the first athlete ever to compete in both the Olympics & Paralympics.

Pistorius won an appeal in May when the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled that he was eligible to race against able-bodied athletes, overturning a ban imposed by the International Association of Athletics Federations.



Photo courtesy of Ossur Americas

Shay Oberg and Ryan Kocer Win ESPY Awards

Two young amputees were awarded prestigious ESPY Awards July 16 at a nationally-televised awards show at the Nokia Theater, Los Angeles.

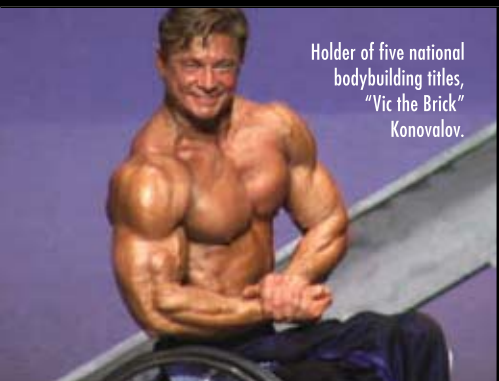
Shay Oberg, Great Falls, Mont., was honored as the top Female Athlete with a Disability. Ryan Kocer, Wagner, S.D., won top Male Athlete with a Disability.

Oberg, an upper extremity amputee, plays softball for the Montana State University-Billings softball team.

Kocer, an above-the-knee amputee, placed fourth in the 2008 Class B South Dakota state wrestling tournament and is a three-time state high school champion.

Of the eight nominees for the ESPY Awards in the Athletes with a Disability category, five are Paralympians headed to Beijing in September. They are: Patty Cisneros, Champaign, Ill./Lake Station, Ind., wheelchair basketball; Jessica Galli, Hillsborough, N.J./Savoy, Ill., wheelchair racing; Susan Beth Scott, Cape Girardeau, Mo., swimming; Phil Scholz, Mt. Sinai, N.Y., swimming; and Matt Scott, Detroit, Mich., wheelchair basketball. Although he will not be traveling to Beijing, Marthell Vazquez, Long Beach, Calif./Virginia Beach, Va., is a member of the U.S. Paralympics Soccer National Team.

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U.S. Disabled Sailing Team skipper, 1998 and 2000 World Sailing Championship silver medalist Paul Callahan.



U.S. Ski Team Captain, 2008 World Cup "Super G" Champion, and Paralympic silver medalist, Chris Devlin-Young.

