

IPC Announces Paralympian Ambassadors

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement, recently announced the launch of its Paralympian Ambassador Program and has named three American athletes to the ambassador position.

Cheri Blauwet, athletics; Muffy Davis, alpine skiing; and Chris Waddell, alpine skiing; will act as representatives of the Paralympic Movement. They will give speeches at corporate events, participate in awareness campaigns, and make appearances in the media.

All Paralympian Ambassadors have competed in at least one Summer or Winter Paralympic Games, have won at least one medal, have been recommended by their respective National Paralympic Committee as a positive role model, and have a clean record with regards to drug use.

The goal of the program is to create a roster of top past and present Paralympic athletes to be ambassadors of the Paralympic Movement, in order to be role models for young people with and without disability and act as awareness and communication tools for the Paralympic Movement to enhance and increase its public profile.

For additional information, visit www.paralympic.org.

Kelly Bruno Wins In Ironman Competition

Kelly Bruno, a native of Durham, N.C., won her division at the 2007 Ironman Triathlon World Championship, Oct. 13, in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. She won the Physically Challenged Women's Division with a time of 14:02:34.

The Championship consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike, and a 26.2 mile run.

Gerald Geier of Germany finished first in the Physically Challenged Men's division with a time of 12:15:04. In the division of Handcycle Men, Hans Koeppen of Germany was the winner with a time of 11:29:15.

The Physically Challenged division consists of two categories: handcycle and physically challenged. The handcycle category includes athletes who use a hand-cranked cycle during the bike portion and a racing chair during the run segment of the event. Those who do not meet eligibility for the handcycle category can enter the Ironman through the lottery for the physically challenged.

The Pro Men champion was American Chris McCormack with a time of 8:15:24. Chrissie Wellington of Great Britain won the Pro Women division with a time of 9:08:45.

For more information on the Ironman, visit www.ironman.com.

Eric Robinson Featured on Entrepreneur.com



Eric Robinson, who established the Extremity Games, recently was the subject of an article, "Xtreme Entrepreneurs," on the Web site, Entrepreneur.com. The article profiles Robinson from his interest in prosthetics at the age of 17 to becoming the president of College Park Industries, to his involvement in Extreme Sports. To read the article, visit www.entrepreneur.com/xtreme.

Trilateral Amputee Cameron Clapp in feature film 'Stop-Loss'

Trilateral amputee Cameron Clapp appears in the recently-released wartime drama, "Stop-Loss." It's not Clapp's first time in front of the cameras. He also has appeared in "My Name is Earl!" and in the HBO series "Carnivale."

In "Stop-Loss," Clapp plays Vet #1, a young veteran who lost his legs and arm in the war. In his scene, he is shooting pool and having a conversation with actress Abbie Cornish. Clapp has a few lines and all of his prosthetic limbs are in full view including a close up of him using his body-powered upper extremity prosthesis to line up and make a shot.

Hanger practitioners Kevin Carroll, Phil Conley, Chad Simpson, and Chuck Anderson all have worked closely with Clapp, who wears two microprocessor knees and a body-powered arm for everyday use. He also uses activity-specific prostheses for swimming, running, skiing, and surfing.

To learn more, visit www.cameronclapp.com.



Cameron Clapp, left, with film star Ryan Phillippe.

Photo courtesy of Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc.

Jessica Galli Named 2007 Paralympian of the Year

Jessica Galli of Hillsborough, N.J., was recently selected as the U.S. Olympic Committee's (USOC) 2007 Paralympian of the Year. The 24-year-old athlete had four world-record breaking performances in 2007 for track and field.

"It's a great honor to receive this award," Galli said. "Finding out before Christmas was a great present for me and my family. I had a great year. I didn't expect to do as well as I did, but I'm very happy with how everything turned out."

"Jessica had an amazing year in 2007, and we are all very proud of her accomplishments," said Charlie Huebner, Chief of U.S. Paralympics. "She is a great representative for Paralympic sport in the U.S. and the positive impact of an active lifestyle for individuals with physical disabilities."

Double Amputee Marine Completes Run Across America

Eugene Roberts, a double amputee and Marine, completed a 3,000-mile, 11-state run across America. His trek, named "Running Across America for Jesus," raised money for the homeless, cancer research, and diabetes research.



It took Roberts nine months to complete the run, which began July 2, 2007, at the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He finished April 7 at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Baltimore, his home state.

A distance runner in high school, Roberts was inspired to run after watching a documentary about Terry Fox, an amputee who tried to run cross-country in Canada before passing away from cancer in 1981.

Roberts previously completed the 2001 Baltimore Marathon in 8 hours, 41 seconds. He also ran 5K and 10K races, two half marathons and ran across Maryland in 2004.

Additional information and photos from Roberts' run can be found on his Web site, www.raafj.com.

We Remember ...



Peter "Pete" Petersen, a longtime-volunteer with DS/USA, passed away April 8, 2008. He and his late wife, Suzanne, volunteered for 14 years at The Hartford Ski Spectacular and other special events. During the 1990s, he also served for six years on DS/USA's board of directors. As the general manager of A.H. Robins

Co., Petersen was instrumental in obtaining sponsorship for DS/USA from the company's Chapstick division.

Janet Brown, 60, the national executive director of the Dwarf Athletic Association of America, passed away Dec. 10, 2007, from complications following treatment for leukemia.

Charles E. "Butch" Joeckle Jr. passed away Oct. 17, 2007. Joeckle, a combat Marine Corps veteran, served as a commissioner to the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission since 2004. He served on the Board of Directors of Help Disabled War Veterans and was a member of the President's Task Force to Improve Access to Health Care for our Nation's Veterans. He also was an accredited veterans' representative for the National Veterans Legal Services Program and held several positions in the Disabled American Veterans professional staff. He was DAV National Adjutant until 1993.

SPORTS & RECREATION

eX3 Moves to Michigan

eX3, the 2008 Extremity Games, will be held July 24-26, at new locations in southeastern lower Michigan. Participants must register in advance. Registration can be done online at www.extremitygames.com.

Events scheduled* include:

Thursday, July 24

Moto-X, BMX
9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Warm up
10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Opening Ceremony
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alternating BMX and Moto-X heats and finals
Site: Baja MX
8683 Birch Run Road
Millington, Mich.

Instructional Clinics
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
– Competitions
Site: Planet Rock
34 Rapid St.
Pontiac, Mich.

XAmped Film Festival
7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Site: Crowne Plaza
Auburn Hills, Mich.

Friday, July 25

Skateboarding
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
Instructional Clinics
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Competitions
Site: South Street Skate Park
341 South Street
Rochester, Mich.

Saturday, July 26

Wakeboarding, Kayaking,
Mountain Biking
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
Instructional Clinics.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pancrase
Exhibition
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Competitions
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Award Ceremony & BBQ
Site: Pontiac Lake
7800 Gale Road
Waterford, Mich.

Rock Climbing
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

**Event schedule subject to changes.*

USA Sledge Hockey Team Takes Bronze in World Championships

The United States Ice Sledge Hockey Team (A Pool) took home a bronze medal at the IPC Sledge Hockey World Championships held March 30-April 6 at the New England Sports Center, Marlborough, Mass. Canada won the gold and Norway the silver. B Pool winners are: Korea, gold; Czech Republic, silver; Estonia, bronze.

The Championships were part of the 4th Annual 2008 USA Disabled Hockey National Festival, April 4-6, which drew a record number of spectators and participants. Thirty-four teams representing the four disciplines of USA Hockey's disabled section – sled hockey, special hockey, hard of hearing or deaf, and standing amputee – competed in 10 divisions. A number of youth participants were present as well.

"This was the largest disabled hockey event ever," said Dr. David Crandell, president of the American Amputee Hockey Association.