

# SPORTS 'N SPOKES



March 2025

## BUILDING BOOM

Adaptive sports facilities are on the rise

## LOWERING THE COST

Grants make wheelchair sports more affordable

# Trekking Together

The AdvenChair is more than an off-road wheelchair

# Get the most out of your subscription

## Unlock the Digital Edition of Sports 'N Spokes

All PVA members and other subscribers who request a digital subscription can access their Digital Edition of **Sports 'N Spokes** anywhere, at any time, on any device. Your email address is the key to access the Digital Edition of **Sports 'N Spokes**. Additional benefits of the Digital Edition of **Sports 'N Spokes** include:

**Access to the archive issues | Ability to change the view | Ability to download issues**

**TIP 1** Make sure your current email address is on file with **Sports 'N Spokes** magazine.

**TIP 2** Update your browser the most recent version and add [digi@pvamail.com](mailto:digi@pvamail.com) to your safe sender list. Around the 1st of every other month, all digital subscribers receive an email from PVA Magazines ([digi@pvamail.com](mailto:digi@pvamail.com)) to

advise you that the **Sports 'N Spokes** digital edition is available.

**TIP 3** Access Info/Having trouble logging in? Your username is your email on your subscription and your password is the same as your customer account number, which you can find on the mailing label of your print copy.

If you need assistance with your digital subscription, please contact [cindy@pvamag.com](mailto:cindy@pvamag.com) or call 602-224-0500, ext. 109.



## Features

### 14 If You Build It ...

Not the rarity they once were, adaptive sports facilities are on the rise across the country and offer much more than a place to work out or compete.

by Lisa Abelar

### 22 Together On The Trail

The AdvenChair off-road wheelchair is doing more than helping people with disabilities enjoy the great outdoors.

by Andy Nemann

### 30 Getting Granted

Wheelchair and adaptive sports can be costly, but there are financial aid sources and groups to help athletes.

by Jennifer Best

## S'NS at 50

### 12 S'NS Replay

A look back at 50 years of interesting facts, people and more about *SPORTS 'N SPOKES*.

### 13 Classic Cliff

Revisiting some of the best columns from *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* founder Cliff Crase.



22

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



### BIG HITS IN THE BLUEGRASS

Paralyzed Veterans of America's eighth annual Wheelchair Rugby Invitational had its biggest field yet. Check out the website for coverage and photos from the mid-February invitational held in Louisville, Ky.

### HOOP-FILLED TWO MONTHS

Over the next two months, the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament Championship Series kicks off. The intercollegiate tournament starts this month, while the adult, juniors, women's and military tournaments all get going in April. Check out the website for coverage.

6 **MY OPINION**

**Athletes To Advocates**

*by Al Kovach Jr.*

42 **PEOPLE**

**Following His Referee  
Calling**

*by John Groth*



Also in This Issue

- 5 Sports Associations
- 8 In The Game
- 36 On The Sidelines
- 44 Classifieds
- 44 ProShop
- 47 Final Frame



**On the cover:** AdvenChair is a unique and convertible off-road wheelchair that also promotes togetherness. Photo courtesy of AdvenChair.



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. Email address changes to cindy@pvamag.com or mail 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).

# 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

**Ski 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  
bfroendt@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

# 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

David Hostetler, ext. 103  
dave@pvamag.com

Kerry Randolph, ext. 104  
kerry@pvamag.com

### ADVERTISING

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cindy Mazanyi, ext. 109  
cindy@pvamag.com

### WEB CONTENT

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

## Athletes To Advocates

It's March, which means college basketball tournaments are omnipresent in the headlines across the United States.

However, for those of us tracking wheelchair basketball, our attention might also be on the March 25–29 National Wheelchair Basketball Association Men's and Women's Intercollegiate Division National Championships at the University of Illinois.

Today, wheelchair basketball is the most popular wheelchair sport in the world, yet there was a time when it was simply a means of recreation for a few veterans who had recently become paralyzed during World War II. Back then, the young men seeking exercise and camaraderie would scrimmage in the confines of multipurpose rooms at veterans' hospitals.

However, in 1946, at the Birmingham Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital located in Van Nuys, Calif., this pastime became an organized sport and the impetus to a social movement that continues to impact all of us today.

This ragtag group of patients called themselves the Flying Wheels, and to demonstrate their competency, they challenged the hospital staff to a game. When it ended in a lopsided victory for the patients, the hospital's newsletter reported that the competition was "an action-packed, fast-moving and exciting contest."

Soon after, in 1947, the Flying Wheels chartered a bus to the Corona Naval Station, where they competed in the first game between two wheelchair basketball teams. The

derie would scrimmage in the confines of multipurpose rooms at veterans' hospitals.

COURTESY OF RYNEARSON FAMILY ARCHIVE



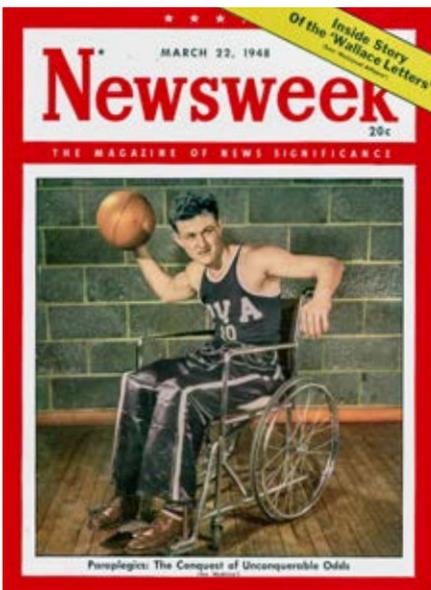
World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries play a practice game of wheelchair basketball at the Birmingham Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital gym in Van Nuys, Calif., in 1946.

Now in its 50th 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. © 2025 Paralyzed Veterans of America. All rights reserved. Reproduction of the whole or any part of the contents without permission is prohibited.



The Birmingham Flying Wheels on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in 1948.

© NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE



During a visit to New York City's famed Madison Square Garden, wheelchair basketball pioneer Jack Gerhardt was featured on the March 22, 1948, cover of *Newsweek* magazine.

news spread quickly, and patients at other VA hospitals around the country began forming teams, such as the Rolling Devils and the Gizz Kids (apparently "Condom Catheter Kids" was already taken or deemed inappropriate).

As these local teams challenged collegiate and professional basketball teams, they garnered the attention of sports writers throughout the country. Matter of fact, in 1948, a paralyzed veteran named Jack Gerhardt appeared on the cover of *Newsweek* with the caption below his photo reading, "Paraplegics: The Conquest of Unconquerable Odds."

While the sport of wheelchair basketball became popular with the media, the players never squandered the opportunity to educate the public about the challenges they faced as the first generation of paralyzed veterans. By doing so, these athletes became advocates.

The Flying Wheels certainly did their part to fight for disability rights. With the support of sports writers representing newspapers across the country, the Flying Wheels chartered an airplane and embarked on a barnstorming tour that included eight major cities. They played in arenas as big as Madison Square Garden in New York before huge crowds.

Following a game in the VA hospital in Richmond, Va., the Flying Wheels went to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. I'm not sure how they navigated all those stairs, but they managed to find their way into the offices of their elected representatives and lobbied for legislation to help paralyzed veterans purchase and modify their homes to accommodate their wheelchairs. The Flying Wheels were successful, and the legislation establishing the Specially Adapted Housing grant program became law June 19, 1948. However, their work wasn't done.

In the years to come, these veterans continued to play key roles in the passage of legislation to ensure equal access to public spaces and employment opportunities. Their work was realized years later with the passage of landmark disability rights laws such as the Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The players' impact on public perception as athletes and as advocates is difficult to quantify, but I know the quality of life I enjoy today is a direct result of their work. By demonstrating their resilience and ability via their athleticism and by engaging and contributing to society despite their disabilities, these veterans helped shift people's attitudes toward disability. In other words, their efforts put us on a trajectory that moved us away from pity and toward empowerment.

As always, let me know your thoughts at [al@pvamag.com](mailto:al@pvamag.com).

# In The Game

## BASKETBALL

### U.S. Men's Under 23 Team Named

There's a fresh new look for the U.S. men's under 23 wheelchair basketball team, featuring two players from Illinois and two more from Georgia.

Twelve athletes were selected for the team, which will compete at the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation's (IWBF) Men's U23 Wheelchair Basketball World Championship Zonal Qualifier April 2-6 in Bogota, Colombia, to try and secure a spot in the June 12-21 IWBF Men's U23 World Championship in São Paulo.

There will be four zonal tournaments (Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia Oceania) to determine the countries that qualify for the championship. The event started in 1997 in Toronto and has been held every four years since.



Illinois residents Drew Beutel (Naperville) and Martrell Stevens (Chicago) and Georgia residents Collin Lancaster (Dacula) and Jude Hiley (Atlanta) lead the way for the U.S., along with AJ Fitzpatrick (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), Ryan Fitzpatrick (Sherman, Conn.), Tim

Houston (Ponte Vedra, Fla.), Sebastian Milan (Bronx, N.Y.), Ke'Sean Paire (Woodville, Texas), Gavin Peterson (Heber City, Utah), Adam Smith (Waxhaw, N.C.) and Davis Taylor (Columbia, Mo.).

Selections were made at the end of the Jan. 16-18 Men's U23 Selection Camp at the United States Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

## SKIING

### Successful Forster Return

After missing some time due to a concussion, four-time Paralympic wom-

Germany's Anna-Lena Forster, shown in this 2022 Beijing Winter Paralympics file photo, won three women's sit-skiing slalom titles at January's Para Alpine Skiing World Cup in Feldberg, Germany.



## Men's World Para Ice Hockey Championships

en's sit-skiing champion Anna-Lena Forster made a triumphant return to the slopes.

The German skier won three women's sit-skiing slalom titles at January's Para Alpine Skiing World Cup in Feldberg, Germany.

The Netherlands' Jeroen Kamp-schreur captured three wins in the men's sitting division.

Sweden's Ebba Årsjö won both women's standing division titles, while France's Arthur Bauchet won all three men's standing division titles.

It marked the first time Feldberg hosted a Para Alpine Skiing World Cup stage event.

## SLED HOCKEY

### World Para Ice Hockey Championships Set

This May's World Para Ice Hockey Championships A-Pool schedule has been set in late May, with the U.S. facing

#### A-POOL SCHEDULE LECOM HARBORCENTER BUFFALO, N.Y. (ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN)

##### MAY 24

10 a.m. – Czechia vs. Slovakia  
1:30 p.m. – United States vs. Norway  
5 p.m. – Canada vs. Germany  
8:30 p.m. – China vs. South Korea

##### MAY 25

10 a.m. – Czechia vs. Norway  
1:30 p.m. – Slovakia vs. United States  
5 p.m. – South Korea vs. Canada  
8:30 p.m. – China vs. Germany

##### MAY 27

10 a.m. – Canada vs. China  
1:30 p.m. – United States vs. Czechia  
5 p.m. – Norway vs. Slovakia  
8:30 p.m. – Germany vs. South Korea

##### MAY 28

1:30 p.m. – Quarterfinal 1  
5 p.m. – Quarterfinal 2

##### MAY 30

10 a.m. – Placement Game  
1:30 p.m. – Semifinal 1  
5 p.m. – Semifinal 2  
8:30 p.m. – Placement Game

##### MAY 31

12:30 p.m. – Bronze-Medal Game  
4 p.m. – Gold-Medal Game

Canada, China, South Korea and Germany and Group B with the U.S., Czechia, Slovakia and Norway.

Pool play runs May 24–27, with quarterfinals May 28, semifinals May 30 and the championship May 31.

Brazil's Gabriel Araujo led the way, taking the Best Male Overall Athlete and Best Male High-Support Needs Athlete awards. Great Britain's Alice Tai won Best Female Overall Athlete honors, while Spain's Teresa Perales won the Best Female High-Support Needs Athlete. Great Britain's Olivia Newman-Baronius was named the Best Female Junior Athlete, while Great Britain's William Ellard was named Best Male Junior Athlete.

## TENNIS

### Four Straight For Schröder

The Netherlands' Sam Schröder picked up two Australian Open titles.

In late January, he netted his fourth straight Australian Open quad singles wheelchair title, hanging on for a win over teammate Niels Vink at Melbourne Park. The No. 1 seed, Schröder earned a 7-6 (9-7), 7-5 victory over Vink, rallying from a 4-1 deficit in the first set and a 3-1 deficit in the second set. As the second seed,

Spain's Teresa Perales, shown in this 2024 Paris Paralympics photo, won the 2024 Para Swimming World Series' Best Female High-Support Needs Athlete honor.

## SWIMMING

### Para Swimming Series Winners

The Para Swimming World Series announced its 2024 winners and best performing athletes over the series.



© GETTY IMAGES/SANCHESNETI

Norway in its opening game. Defending champion Canada will take on A-Pool newcomer Germany at the LECOM Harborcenter in Buffalo, N.Y.

Running May 24–31, the A-Pool championships include eight teams, with Group A featuring



ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

## In The Game

The Netherlands' Sam Schröder kisses the championship trophy after winning the Jan. 25 quad wheelchair singles final against the Netherlands' Niels Vink at the Australian Open at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia.

Schröder and Great Britain's Andy Lapthorne teamed up for a 6-1, 6-4 win over Israel's Guy Sasson and Vink, the top seeds, for the quad wheelchair doubles title.

Great Britain's Alfie Hewett finally upended his nemesis, Japan's Tokito Oda, for the men's wheelchair singles title. Oda had defeated Hewett in three of their previous four Grand Slam finals meetings and in five straight matches overall. But this time Hewett took the title. Hewett won in straight sets (6-4, 6-4) and ended up winning two titles, as he and teammate Gordon Reid won their sixth consecutive Australian Open men's wheelchair



© GETTY IMAGES/GRAHAM DENHOLM

doubles title, defeating Spain's Daniel Caverzaschi and France's Stephane Houdet, 6-2, 6-4. It marked Hewett and Reid's 22nd Grand Slam title together.

Japan's Yui Kamiji, the top seed, took the women's wheel-

chair singles championship, earning her first Grand Slam title since 2020. She took the first four games to start the match and defeated the Netherlands' Aniek van Koot, 6-2, 6-2. Defending champ Diede de Groot (the

## Football All-Star Frenzy

COURTESY OF MOVE UNITED



Eighteen military veterans competed in the USA Wheelchair Football League (USAWFL) Veterans All-Star Game on Feb. 3 as part of NFL Community Events at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans prior to Super Bowl LIX. Team Stars beat Team Stripes, 20-19 in double overtime, as Antoine Gray caught the game-winning touchdown pass and was named the game's Most Valuable Player. The USAWFL is a program of Move United that is made possible in part by support from the National Football League (NFL) and a Bob Woodruff Foundation partnership, which is part of the league's Salute To Service initiative.



Great Britain's Alfie Hewett serves against Japan's Tokito Oda in the men's wheelchair singles final Jan. 25 at the 2025 Australian Open at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia.

Netherlands) missed the tournament because of an injury.

In the women's wheelchair doubles final, China's Wang Ziyang and Li Xiaohui defeated Japan's Manami Tanaka and China's Zhu Zhenzhen, 6-2, 6-3, for the title. Their victory marked

China's first Grand Slam title in wheelchair tennis.

In juniors action, Brazil's Vitoria Miranda won the first Australian Open girls' junior wheelchair division title, rallying to defeat the United States' Sabina Czausz, 0-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4). The U.S.' Char-

lie Cooper defeated Belgium's Alexander Lantermann, 6-2, 6-2, for the Australian Open boys' junior wheelchair division title. Both Miranda and Cooper had won the Melbourne Wheelchair Open junior wheelchair divisions a week before.

Cooper and Brazil's Luiz Calixto took the first Australian Open boys' wheelchair doubles title, defeating Australia's Benjamin Wenzel and Lantermann, 6-3, 6-0, while Belgium's Luna Gryp and Miranda won the first girls' wheelchair doubles title, defeating Latvia's Ailina Mosko and Czausz, 6-1, 6-1.

S'NS

**Tub Sliders from Raz Design**

# Trakz

The only tub sliders with Zbrilok™ a patented safety feature that helps prevent injury.

**Trakz-AT**

- 35° of tilt
- 15-minutes setup without tools

**Trakz-AP**

- Non-tilt model

Learn more here [www.razdesigninc.com](http://www.razdesigninc.com)

# S'NS Replay



*SPORTS 'N SPOKES (S'NS)* has had four editors since its inception in 1975, and besides managing the magazine, they had strong and varied sports interests.

- Current *S'NS* Editor-In-Chief Al Kovach Jr. (2023-present), top right photo, is a former Paralympian, and the retired Navy SEAL is also a two-time Los Angeles Marathon men's wheelchair race winner.
- Late *S'NS* editor-in-chief and Navy veteran Tom Fjerstad (2017-2023), pictured at Pearl Harbor in middle left photo, liked to scuba dive during his free time.
- Late *S'NS* editor-in-chief Richard Hoover (2007-2017), an Air Force veteran, middle right photo, loved to trapshoot.
- Late *S'NS* founder and first editor-in-chief Cliff Crase (1978-2007) was an Air Force veteran and an accomplished track and field athlete and swimmer.

PIVA PUBLICATIONS FILE PHOTOS

This year marks SPORTS 'N SPOKES' 50th anniversary, and as part of the yearlong celebration of this major milestone, this special department is dedicated to some of the best columns from founder Cliff Crase. This month's Classic Cliff from the September 1977 issue of SPORTS 'N SPOKES looks at some issues the editorial staff still faces today.

## Editor's Notebook

“ That news is so old it has an odor! Those results were all two-tenths of a second off of my time! You spelled my name wrong! Why is my copy delivered last in the whole country? That photo was bad, you didn't get my good side!” All of the above comments periodically land on the editor's desk from various contributors. Questions and comments like these could be answered quite simply with one question. What is a nice, well-educated microbiologist and an ordinary stock exchange analyst doing publishing a wheelchair sports magazine???

That last question I cannot answer, but the first bundle of questions and comments are easy. If you think wheel'n on water is impossible, just try to obtain the final results from a major sports event the day after the action. No one seems to know you. You sit on the phone or run around thinking the whole sports world has gone underground, or under the bar, OR both! After you have pleaded, bribed, and coerced the official data out of the proper people, your problems have just been born.

Many articles and results are phoned into our magazine office, recorded on tape, transcribed, proofed and sent to the typesetters. That process takes about a week. Then comes the layout work, which is tedious, and time-consuming. From that point it is on to the printers,

and another week to 10 days, plus a few days for late material is expended. Then the copy goes off to the hippy-dippy U.S. Postal Service. God knows what happens to the magazine after that.

After all of the aforementioned rigamortale, the staff of SPORTS 'N SPOKES gets a chance to sit back, sip some fermented fruit of the vine, and skim through the latest printed word in the world of wheelchair sports and recreation. The staff just knows that they are positively correct, and the brand new issue that has just hit the streets (and is laid to rest in the bottom of the mail bags of the nation) is a masterpiece done to perfection.

Many sips of the forbidden fruit later, the smirk of perfection is suddenly wiped off the faces of the staff (at least the ones who still claim to work for the rag) when errors like the following start to surface from the once claimed “magazine of excellence”.

The Boston Marathon is 26 miles, 365 yards. Everyone (ahem) knows that any race that is labeled a marathon MUST be a minimum of 26 miles AND 385 yards. Or this little gem...in the national swimming results, Class IV Men's Butterfly; to imply that Scott Robeson swam a 25-

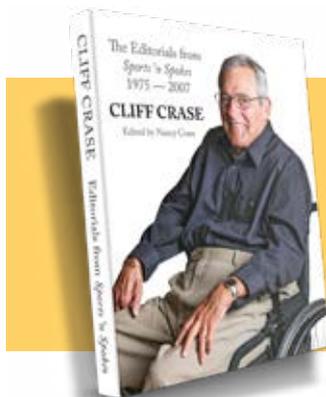
yard butterfly stroke in 36.39 seconds is insane! Shucks, Scott, with more records attached to his name than any USA swimmer, could do 25 yards in that dumb time with one arm, blindfolded, and going upstream. The distance should have been 50 yards. Calling Jim Hernandez “Seattle's Madman” wasn't too swift. The tape later revealed the words, “Seattle's FASTMAN”.

Now, that is more like it! In describing the championship wheelchair basketball games, Gene Tatum, a Bordentown Elk, was said to have played a “wail” of a game. Well, maybe so, but “whale” is more proper, and that little bit of incorrect syntax was pronounced really wrong by one of those impeccable lawyer-types. The whole Eastern Seaboard called the ED's attention to the misspelling of a famous ballplayer who was inducted into the National Wheelchair Basketball Association's Hall of Fame for 1977. Al Sloatsky's name will never be the same.

Sooooo, perfection is still far beyond the grasp of the SPORTS 'N SPOKES staff. Ain't no way we can sell every void write! RIGHT?



© GETTY IMAGES/SIRIKORNT



Take a peek into the history of wheelchair sports through the words of SPORTS 'N SPOKES founder Cliff Crase. The Editorials from SPORTS 'N SPOKES 1975 — 2007 is 280 pages of columns written by Cliff while he served as editor and also includes photos. \$28.55 (plus S&H). Proceeds benefit Paralyzed Veterans of America. To order, visit [blurb.com/b/6516777](http://blurb.com/b/6516777).

# IF YOU BUILD

**Not the rarity they once were, adaptive sports facilities are on the rise across the country and offer much more than a place to work out or compete.**

by Lisa Abelar

**M**ore and more adaptive sports are popping up — and so are adaptive sports facilities.

Instead of trying to figure out how to navigate a regular gym or buying some light weights and doing stretches inside their home, wheelchair athletes can now work out, play sports and use a facility that's designed for and adapted to them.

Additionally, adaptive sports offer more than simply recreation for the individuals participating in them.

A survey conducted by Disabled Sports USA revealed that adaptive sports improve a feeling of independence, and Move United reports that a feeling of independence and accomplishment fuels confidence, which improves employability and economic stability.

And of course, recreational activities have health benefits. From cardiovascular and muscular strength to social

connectedness and beyond, adaptive sports are making a positive impact on the lives of athletes in untold ways.

What began as a way to rehabilitate wounded veterans from World War II, and eventually the wars in Korea and Vietnam, has evolved into leagues and programming that promote inclusivity, celebrate accessibility and remind athletes with disabilities that they have the ability to stay active in whatever way works for them.

At Ability360 in Phoenix, vice president of operations for sports and fitness Gus LaZear looks at what the facility offers through a lens tinted by life, not just athletics.

"We're a center for independent living," LaZear says. "That's the guts of what Ability360 is."

Here's a deeper look at what a handful of adaptive sports organizations offer across the country.

ILLUSTRATION BY KERRY RANDOLPH © GETTY IMAGES/PALHOVIK

COURTESY OF ABILITY 360



# IT

At Ability360 in Phoenix, users not only can play adaptive sports but also have a large workout facility where they can utilize weights, handcycles and other machines.

Outdoor mountain biking is one of the main activities at New England Disabled Sports in Lincoln, N.H.

COURTESY OF NEW ENGLAND DISABLED SPORTS





**Turnstone**  
Creating possibilities.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF NANCY MYERS-SCHULZ PHOTOGRAPHY

## **Turnstone** ([turnstone.org](http://turnstone.org))

**Location:** Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Sports & Programs:** The Turnstone campus encompasses over 190,000 square feet, offering space for a diverse menu of programs. From fitness to aquatics, adaptive sports, adult day services, social services, therapy and more, the campus serves the community in a number of ways. Its universal, accessible design welcomes athletes with fully accessible bathrooms and locker rooms that include adjustable-height mat tables for easier transfers. Turnstone's Plassman Athletic Center features a 75,000-square-foot fieldhouse, four collegiate-sized basketball courts, a 230-meter indoor track and areas for field events. In addition, the space is wired to support an influx of electricity needs for power soccer games.

**Events:** Turnstone hosts a variety of events, from sports to corporate gatherings, including regional, national and international level competitions for adaptive sports. The fieldhouse is



Turnstone's gym can host a variety of sports, including wheelchair tennis, top, adaptive fencing, above, and wheelchair basketball.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF ABILITY360

equipped to host wheelchair basketball, boccia, goalball, wheelchair rugby and track. The Plassman Athletic Center is in use about two-thirds of the weekends throughout the year for athletic competitions, community gatherings or corporate events.

**What's next:** In addition to upgrading technology that will allow better live streaming and adding a new, large conference room to accommodate in-person or virtual gatherings, Turnstone has also added a designated pet relief area to improve convenience and inclusivity at the facility.

## Ability360 ([ability360.org](http://ability360.org))

**Location:** Phoenix

**Sports & Programs:** The Ability360 campus includes offices for more than a dozen organizations serving the disabled community, such as the Brain Injury Association of Arizona and the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association. Its athletic facilities include 45,000 square feet of universally designed space for aquatic sports, indoor track, basketball, fitness and rock climbing.



Laser tag, above, wheelchair basketball and adaptive rock climbing, both below, at Ability360's gym.

**Events:** Ability360 hosts about 40 classes each week and averages about one adaptive tournament a month. During the busier months, generally over the winter, it's not uncommon for the facility to host



back-to-back events for regional or national competitions, from wheelchair basketball to wheelchair rugby. In addition to court sports, Ability360 facilitates paddling and kayaking outings, hiking excursions, adaptive golf and even speed puzzling. The organization sponsors five wheelchair basketball teams, a wheelchair rugby team, two power soccer teams, a football team and a number of other competitive programs.

**What's next:** The facility's group fitness room has been renovated, as have the pool, the rock climbing wall, the courts and the fitness center. The organization may next look to update its indoor track, which is one-tenth of a mile, with grant funding.

## New England Disabled Sports ([nedisabledsports.org](http://nedisabledsports.org))

**Location:** Lincoln, N.H.

**Sports & Programs:** New England Disabled Sports offers a variety of year-round programming through partnerships with local ski resorts, all of which is free to veterans, including whatever equipment is needed. In the winter months, the organization offers adaptive skiing, snowboard-



Skiing is one of the main activities for athletes at New England Disabled Sports.

ing, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. In the summer months, sports include paddleboarding, kayaking, golf, pickleball, cycling and downhill mountain biking. One unique aspect of the programming at New England Disabled Sports is that the organization makes the needed equipment available to its participants — including the TetraSki, a sit-ski that can be controlled by breath or joystick.

**Events:** The organization's winter offerings are more popular than its summer events, so it is working to expand the programming available in the warmer months. However, on average, the organi-



Adaptive kayaking is another outdoor activity offered at New England Disabled Sports in Lincoln, N.H.



PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER



zation provides about 3,000 lessons a year to 650 unique athletes. The organization also organizes and sponsors multi-day ski camps for individuals with a spinal cord injury or visual impairment. With just six paid staff and about 200 volunteers, New England Disabled Sports is truly a community effort and most of their “marketing” is through word-of-mouth referrals from volunteers or athletes.

**What’s next:** The organization recently received a grant to cover the cost of equipment, maintenance and lessons for individuals with spinal cord injuries. That grant means any athlete with a spinal cord injury can participate for free. In addition, the organization is hoping to pursue the possibility of accessible lodging, since it is hard to come by in the area.

## Adaptive Sports Center ([adaptivesports.org](http://adaptivesports.org))

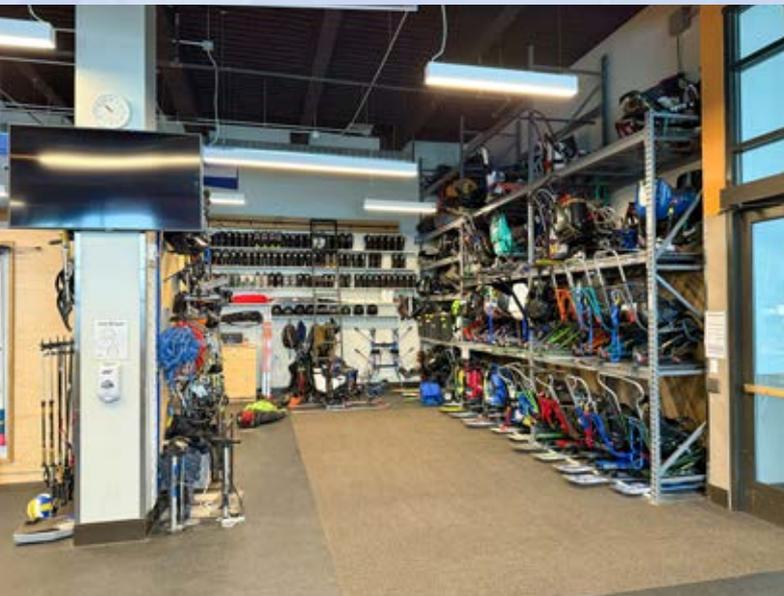
**Location:** Crested Butte, Colo.

**Sports & Programs:** The Adaptive Sports Center offers year-round adaptive recreation opportunities. Anchored by a 26,000-square-foot lodge known as the Kelsey Wright Building, the sports center offers adaptive skiing in the winter and adaptive cycling, water sports, hiking and rock climbing in the summer. As an added bonus, the facility has a ski in/

out and bike in/out design, making accessibility a bit easier. That design allows athletes to leave their equipment in one area if they need a break, rather than having to haul it around.

**Events:** The center works with organizations across the country — and even around the globe — to host athletic retreats and competitions. It works closely with a number of veterans’ groups serving participants across the U.S. and abroad. Those traveling to the center with an organized group often stay on site in the center’s lodge, which includes a kitchen facility and lockers. If individual families visit, not affiliated with an organized group, they usually stay in a nearby rental.

The Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte, Colo., has a 26,000-square-foot lodge known as the Kelsey Wright Building.



Adaptive skiing equipment is stored at the Adaptive Sports Center.



Accessible bathrooms are available at the Adaptive Sports Center.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY OF LAKESHORE FOUNDATION

**What's next:** The latest addition to the facility is an updated sensory room for participants who need a calming space to take a break, relax and refocus their minds.

## Lakeshore Foundation ([lakeshore.org](http://lakeshore.org))

**Location:** Birmingham, Ala.

**Sports & Programs:** As an official Olympic and Paralympic training site, Lakeshore Foundation also houses the national governing body for three Paralympic sports: Team USA wheelchair rugby, boccia and, as of January, para powerlifting. What began as a hospital specializing in tuberculosis treatment in 1926 evolved to a rehab hospital and eventually, in the 1980s, to a foundation serving individuals with disabilities.

**Events:** With roughly 4,000 members, the foundation has some type of event or tournament going on just about every day. From veter-



ans' events to yoga classes to swim races and community engagement events, the facility is almost always in use. In addition, Lakeshore Foundation is the official training home for an NBA G League



LAKESHORE



Lakeshore Foundation, which is an official Olympic and Paralympic training site in Birmingham, Ala., hosts a variety of wheelchair basketball tournaments.



Wheelchair athletes work out at Lakeshore Foundation, which has roughly 4,000 members.

team. Most recently, the facility hosted a tournament for wheelchair rugby developmental teams from the U.S., Canada and Great Britain.

**What's next:** Lakeshore Foundation opened its Sports Science and Performance Center, designed to offer testing and training for any type or level of athlete. The center only recently came online and it is still growing, but it opened with the recognition that high-performance testing and training equipment was not widely available to everyone. This center has been designed specifically for individuals with disabilities in an attempt to level the playing field when it comes to performance training.

S'NS

## FINDING AN ATHLETIC HOME

Athletes with disabilities have more options than ever when it comes to staying active or taking part in competitive sports. These are a few additional adaptive sports centers and facilities across the country that feature a wide range of programs, services and equipment.

### **SPIRE Academy**

Location: Geneva, Ohio  
[spireacademy.com](http://spireacademy.com)

### **Shirley Ryan AbilityLab**

Location: Chicago  
[sralab.org](http://sralab.org)

### **The Adaptive Sports Center at Windham Mountain**

Location: Windham, N.Y.  
[adaptivesportsfoundation.org/adaptive-sports-center-at-windham-mountain](http://adaptivesportsfoundation.org/adaptive-sports-center-at-windham-mountain)

### **United States Adaptive Recreation Center**

Location: Big Bear Lake, Calif.  
[usarc.org](http://usarc.org)

### **National Sports Center For The Disabled**

Locations: Winter Park, Colo., and Golden, Colo.  
[nscd.org](http://nscd.org)

### **Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute**

Location: Minneapolis  
[account.allinahealth.org/services/184](http://account.allinahealth.org/services/184)

### **Helen Hayes Hospital**

Location: West Haverstraw, N.Y.  
[helenhayeshospital.org](http://helenhayeshospital.org)

### **National Ability Center**

Location: Park City, Utah  
[discovernac.org](http://discovernac.org)

### **Sportable**

Location: Richmond, Va.  
[sportable.org](http://sportable.org)

### **Craig Hospital**

Location: Denver  
[craighospital.org/inpatient/therapeutic-recreation](http://craighospital.org/inpatient/therapeutic-recreation)

### **Shepherd Center**

Location: Atlanta  
[shepherd.org/programs/services/sports-recreation/sports](http://shepherd.org/programs/services/sports-recreation/sports)

# TOGETHER



**The AdvenChair off-road wheelchair is doing more than helping people with disabilities enjoy the great outdoors.**

**A**ll-terrain wheelchairs aren't anything new, but a former forest firefighter has designed a chair that allows even more adults and children with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D) to go off-road, while promoting time with family and friends.

The AdvenChair is a patented and convertible hiking wheelchair designed for people with higher levels of SCI/D or limited upper arm mobility, such as from a stroke.

Showcased at last November's TravelAbility Emerging Markets Summit in San Francisco, the chair is made so the rider is pushed or pulled by one to six people. Inventor Geoff Babb believes that aspect of the AdvenChair allows his creation to do more than allow people with limited mobility to experience places such as mountain trails.



ER

ON THE  
TRAIL

*by Andy Nemann*

ILLUSTRATION BY KERRY RANDOLPH  
PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHAN MENTZER CREATIVE



COURTESY OF CODY ROUX

“We think that adventuring is a team sport, and it really takes a team of people to move the chair,” Babb says. “The AdvenChair not only allows people to be out, but it brings people together to do that.”

## Outdoor Or Indoor

A beefy-looking chair with a heavy-duty orange frame, the AdvenChair has several unique features that help it stand out from other all-terrain wheelchairs.

One of the biggest is the AdvenChair’s ability to easily be converted from an off-road chair to one better suited to operate and maneuver indoors.

The All-Terrain Mode utilizes a removable 20-inch front wheel

with shock absorbers that helps the chair navigate rugged, soft or steep terrain with the stability and durability of a mountain bike. When it’s time to head inside, use a bathroom or even get on a bus, 6-inch caster wheels are lowered into place and the third wheel is removed. Both modes allow a user’s feet to rest on a multi-position foot plate with a minimum of 6 inches of clearance.

It’s only natural that the AdvenChair offers the stability and durability of a mountain bike, since it utilizes premium mountain bike parts for the wheels, tires, brakes and handlebars.

The main wheels are 27.5-inch Maxxis High Roller tires with a CushCore inner tire suspension system that allows the tires to be used with low pressure. The height-adjustable handlebars at the back of the chair have hand brakes for the 180-millimeter disk brake



The AdvenChair wasn't only created to help people with disabilities explore places such as Smith Rock State Park in Oregon, left. It was designed to help bring people together.

rotor. The padded seat is adjustable to fit young children up to large adults and features adjustable armrests and hand grips.

Those mountain bike parts also help make the chair easy to disassemble and fold into a compact size that can fit in the back of a small hatchback trunk or stow on an airplane. Babb says using them makes the chair easy to maintain.

"Wheelchair parts are expensive and not as accessible or as available as mountain bike parts," he says. "This way, you can go to any bike store and get what you need."

## Trial & Error

As with so many inventive products, this one wasn't created overnight. It took a few prototypes, several years and a rough trip to the Grand Canyon to get here.

### WHEELCHAIR MODE



Created for indoor use, the AdvenChair's Wheelchair Mode is designed to operate and maneuver in tighter spaces such as a bathroom.

### ALL-TERRAIN MODE

The AdvenChair's All-Terrain Mode is designed to navigate rugged, soft or steep trails with the stability of a mountain bike.





COURTESY OF ETHAN MENTZER CREATIVE

The AdvenChair is purposely designed to be pushed or pulled by one to six people, which creator Geoff Babb, seated, believes is an aspect of his invention that brings people together.

An avid outdoorsman, Babb was working as a Bureau of Land Management fire ecologist in Bend, Ore., in 2005, when a near-fatal brain stem stroke left him in a wheelchair and with limited use of one hand.

Babb adapted and found ways to do things outside, such as sit-skiing and horseback riding, but he realized he was being limited not so much by his body, but by his rigid wheelchair. With the help of his friend and helicopter mechanic Dale Neubauer, Babb modified his wheelchair with more robust tires and a third wheel to create the first AdvenChair.

Babb and his family used his new creation to explore several parks in Oregon and Washington, which eventually led to a 2016 attempt to visit the bottom of the Grand Canyon

via the famed Bright Angel Trail. Unfortunately, a broken axle 2 miles into the descent forced a return to the top of the canyon's South Rim and the realization that a whole new off-road wheelchair was needed. This one would be designed from the ground up to be less like a wheelchair and more like a mountain bike.

"I was kind of crushed when the first design failed, but we knew we had to start over again and keep going," Babb says. "Fortunately, I had some friends who were creative and led me down this path. I certainly had to learn to be open to talk about engineering and prototyping."

With the help of CAD designer Jack Arnold and Neubauer, along with Babb and his wife, Yvonne's, direction, AdvenChair 2.0 was born. Everything with the new chair was going well in 2017 when Babb had another stroke.



AdvenChair inventor Geoff Babb, seated above, and his team's four-day trek to the bottom of the Grand Canyon in 2022 is the subject of the short documentary film *Dream Boldly The Grand AdvenChair* from Outback Film ([outbackfilm.io/featured-film](http://outbackfilm.io/featured-film)).



Created with the idea that "adventuring is a team sport," the AdvenChair has been a hit in the popular outdoor recreation area of Bend, Ore., with local adventure companies such as Wanderlust Tours and school programs such as the Northwest Regional Outdoor Science School.

“We think that adventuring is a team sport, and it really takes a team of people to move the chair. The AdvenChair not only allows people to be out, but it brings people together to do that.” — Geoff Babb, seated below

---



COURTESY OF ETHAN MENTZER CREATIVE

Despite the personal setback, a determined Babb steadily recovered from his second stroke. Several minor modifications were made to the chair, and the first production run of the current AdvenChair rolled out in June 2021.

## Part Of A Team

Available for individual purchase (\$11,950), the AdvenChair has seen strong growth through its own rental program, tour groups, schools and non-profit groups.

Located in the popular outdoor recreation destination of Bend, Ore., the AdvenChair can be rented for a half day, a whole day, a week or three or more weeks with prices ranging from \$75 to \$850. The chair has also been popular with local companies

such as Wanderlust Tours ([wanderlusttours.com](http://wanderlusttours.com)) and school programs such as the Northwest Regional Outdoor Science School.

Babb says he hopes to have people exploring and enjoying the great outdoors in AdvenChairs throughout the world in the next five years, but he believes he's created something more than an off-road wheelchair.

"It just means a lot to me to see smiles and hear the laughter of people that are working together to work through a difficult area and problems," Babb says. "For me, early on, not being able to rock climb, hike or bike again was kind of hard. But being in the AdvenChair, I feel like I'm really part of the adventure again as a team."

For more information on the AdvenChair, visit [advenchair.com](http://advenchair.com).

S'NS

# Nominations Now Open



**Athlete of the Year  
2025**

## **SPORTS 'N SPOKES Junior Athlete of the Year 2025**

This prestigious award, established in 1986, recognizes the passion, dedication and sportsmanship of young wheelchair athletes (21 and under) competing across the world.

The *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* Junior Athlete of the Year award is given annually to a junior athlete who combines exceptional athletic achievement with exemplary character including sportsmanship and positive impact in his or her community.

Coaches, family and friends, nominate your choice for the 2025 *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* Junior Athlete of the Year today.



### **The winner receives a:**

- \$2,500 cash award
- Custom-made award
- Subscription to S'NS



Complete the nomination form no later than  
**June 15, 2025**

[www.sportsnspokes.com/nomination-form](http://www.sportsnspokes.com/nomination-form) #2025SNSJrAthlete

Questions? Contact [chris@pvamag.com](mailto:chris@pvamag.com).

Scan Here



# GETTING

# GRANTED



COURTESY OF BART JONES

by Jennifer Best

**A**fter reading about a wheelchair sport, studying it, considering playing, even finding a club to join, place to train or boat to sail, you feel like you're all set to try out. Then, there's the cost of the whole thing: adaptive equipment, facilities, coaching, maybe even travel. Potential athletes, whether recreational or competitive, can find the costs downright daunting, but financial aid for athletes with disabilities is out there for the asking.

Think outside the box. While Medicare, Medicaid, disability or health insurance or other insurance programs may cover

equipment and technology that is medically necessary, other organizations may provide funding for equipment to meet vocational goals, social outlets or general wellness.

Consider sponsorships from local businesses you already frequent, as well as reaching out to regional and national organizations. Look to local service clubs and charitable foundations that offer hyper-localized support — Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Rotary Club, Odd Fellows, Elks, Moose, Lions, Eagles and Masonic Temple — as well as countless grant programs. Sometimes,

COURTESY OF CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION



**Wheelchair and adaptive sports can be costly, but there are financial aid sources and groups to help athletes.**



COURTESY OF CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION



COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



COURTESY OF CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION

Adaptive sports grants, including those offered by the Challenged Athletes Foundation, are available for children and adults.

it helps to ask not what they can do for you, but tell potential supporters what you can provide. Just remember — they can't say "yes" if you don't ask. "In the ask, be specific, be personal. Tell us about yourself, how your life can change as a result of receiving a grant, how it will benefit your wellness, your quality of life. Some grant applications prompt those types of responses, but think beyond prompts if you find an application without them," Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) Chief Programs Officer Patrick Lawrence says.

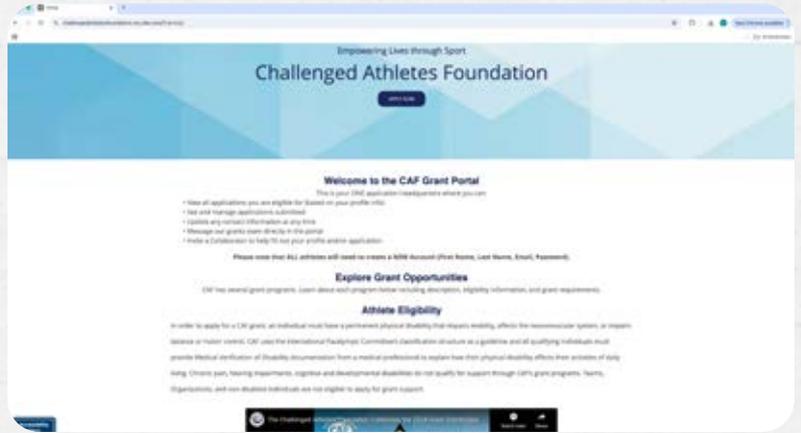
## Grant Givers

In the 30 years since its inception, CAF ([challengedathletes.org](http://challengedathletes.org)) has distributed \$178 million to nearly 50,000 athletes with physical disabilities for items that are often overlooked by medical insurance, such as running prosthetics, adaptive sports equipment and expenses associated with competition travel, training and coaching. Last year alone, the organization, based out of San Diego, Calif., distributed \$8.1 million to nearly 4,500 athletes ages 3 to 90 from all 50 states and 32 countries and participating in all levels of 105 sports, including wheelchair

Young athletes can apply for adaptive sports grants for sports like wheelchair softball, below left, and wheelchair tennis, below right.



TWO PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION



basketball, surfing, adaptive fitness training, cycling, wheelchair rugby, pickleball, alpine and Nordic skiing, sled hockey and outdoor recreation.

“There’s a real common misconception about CAF because our marketing has trended toward more elite athletes, so many people think they already have to be great to apply. The reality is the majority of the people we support in any given year are people who want to be active. They’re parents who want to get out and recreate with their kids or people who want to get out and feel better by getting out and moving,” Lawrence says.

Though among the largest nonprofit organizations focused on grant-giving, CAF is not alone in its goal of providing aid that could mean the difference between another day on the couch or a lifetime of activity and social outreach.

Each granting organization has its own specific interests and goals. While CAF provides grants for individuals with general mobility disabilities, motor control issues, muscular disorders and visual impairments, others like Kelly Brush Foundation ([kellybrushfoundation.org](http://kellybrushfoundation.org)), Spinal Cord Opportunities for Rehabilitation Endowment (SCORE) ([scorefund.org](http://scorefund.org)) and High Fives Foundation ([highfivesfoundation.org](http://highfivesfoundation.org)) focus more heavily on applicants with spinal cord injuries (SCI).

The Independence Fund ([independencefund.org](http://independencefund.org)) focuses on providing for U.S. military service members, combat veterans, their caregivers and families and allies who served alongside them in combat.

Since 2007, The Independence Fund has awarded more than 2,400 all-terrain Trackchairs, assisted more than 1,500 adaptive veteran athletes and developed its Mobility Program that provides assistance for injured veterans interested in hunting, fishing, shooting, golf and adaptive sports.

Kelly Brush Foundation offers grants and scholarships to those with spinal cord injury and disease to get more active. Through the Active Fund, they provide grants to people with SCIs to purchase adaptive sports equipment and have helped more than 1,900 people from 50 states purchase handcycles, mono skis, sports and racing chairs, sled hockey sleds and more. They also offer scholarships for beginner sports experiences and for interested athletes to test out a piece of equipment.

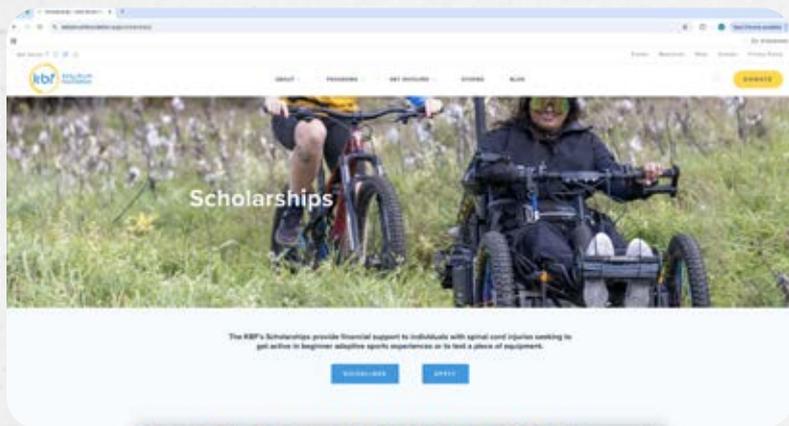
Meanwhile, popular photo entertainment website The Chive has Chive Charities ([chivecharities.org/recipient](http://chivecharities.org/recipient)), which targets veterans, military families, first responders and applicants with rare medical diagnoses. Qualifying applicants may receive support for therapy equipment from adaptive bicycles and tricycles and robotic walkers to service dogs, wheelchair-accessible vans and a wide range of mobility items; adaptive exercise and sports equipment;

Challenged Athletes Foundation offers adaptive sports grants to individuals with general mobility disabilities, motor control issues, muscular disorders and visual impairments.

Athletes can apply for grants to compete in sports such as adaptive fishing, below left, and wheelchair basketball, below right.



TWO PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHALLENGED ATHLETES FOUNDATION



Kelly Brush Foundation offers adaptive sports grants to those with spinal cord injuries.

physical therapy sessions not covered by insurance; and medical items and mobility aids, such as vehicle hand-control installation and activity chairs.

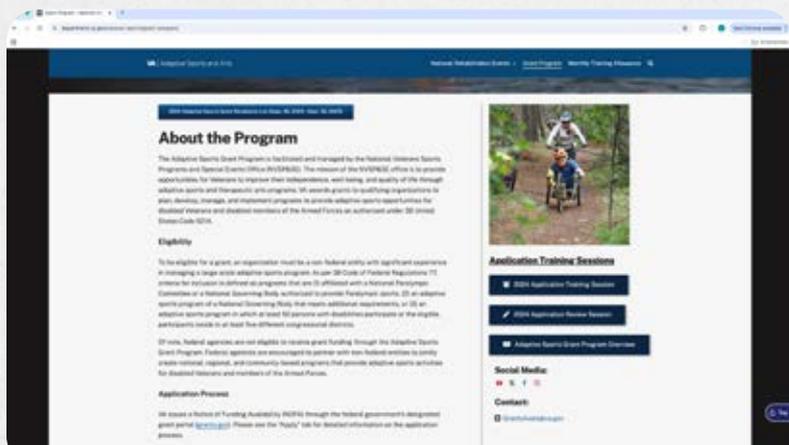
“Grants are wonderful things for many reasons. They do the public good. You see what it does for a community, for a population, whether it’s adaptive services, recruitment, getting vets aware of different services available, addressing mental health, socialization. No matter where you are, you need that connection to others, and grants make it possible,” says Grants Management Specialist Vanietta Armstrong at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events.

Established in 2016, the programs she oversees fund established adaptive sports organizations and equine therapy programs, which in turn support individuals. The department provides lists and links to all its grantee organizations at [department.va.gov/veteran-sports](http://department.va.gov/veteran-sports).

Notices of funding availability are posted annually at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) with specific details about how to and who should apply. Armstrong strongly encourages established nonprofits to check the site regularly to find funding opportunities and determine whether they meet the application criteria.

In addition, the agency offers a monthly assistance allowance for veterans with disabilities training in Paralympic sports, as well as certain veterans with

The Department of Veterans Affairs National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events offers grants that fund established adaptive sports organizations and equine therapy programs that then support individuals.



disabilities selected for or competing with the national Olympic team.

“We know the impact of sports for our veterans and others with disabilities, so we want to make sure it’s available in various states and sports,” Armstrong says. “We really want to invest and continue to make an impact with our grant program, and we’ve been doing that successfully.”

## Keep Your Eyes Peeled

Some organizations focus closer to home. IM ABLE Foundation ([imablefoundation.org](http://imablefoundation.org)) provides grants for adaptive equipment in the Mid-Atlantic region, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, New York and Washington, D.C. Their grants are awarded to applicants who face financial challenges or hardship and who have demonstrated a commitment to become more active.

Florida residents with SCIs are eligible for Quality of Life Grants from Tighten The Drag Foundation ([tightenthedragfoundation.org/scholarships](http://tightenthedragfoundation.org/scholarships)).

Remember that an incomplete application could be the difference between winning and losing financial awards. Be sure to fully read application packets for specific information on eligibility guidelines and the detail needed from applicants before consideration. Some require medical verification of a disability, financial documents for need-based scholarships or evidence of experience in an activity before providing grant money. Some want photos of the applicants in action, and others require letters of recommendation.

“Include information about surrounding circumstances,” Lawrence says. “If someone has a disability in a household with children or others who also have disabilities, that’s going to have an impact on their expendable income and their ability to afford adaptive equipment or recreational equipment. Since we prioritize financial need, this is important information.”

Look to regional hospitals and universities, as well. Those near Loma Linda, Calif., have local access to PossAbilities. It’s a free, nonprofit community outreach program operated by Loma Linda University to provide veterans and people with permanent physical disabilities support and resources to stay active and healthy. Their programs span from health and fitness activities to Paralympic training. It also awards grants ([teampossabilities.org/grants-scholarships](http://teampossabilities.org/grants-scholarships)) to organizations, schools or companies providing resources to PossAbilities members to meet their needs for adaptive equipment, mobility devices, educational scholarships or to fund athletic

activities, as well as travel to and/or participation in a sporting event.

Then, there's Move United ([moveunitedsport.org](http://moveunitedsport.org)), which annually distributes close to \$1 million in cash grants to its more than 250 associated organizations spanning interests from badminton to rock climbing. Use their website ([moveunitedsport.org/locations](http://moveunitedsport.org/locations)) to find organizations that pique your interest within striking distance of your home.

Many grant applications have specific deadlines or application periods for their various grant programs. For instance, CAF opens the grant application for its key program every fall, with distribution of funds each spring. GoHawkeye ([gohawkeye.org/grants](http://gohawkeye.org/grants)) runs two grant cycles ending May 1 and Nov. 1 annually.

In addition, organizations may offer more than one grant type. Make sure to apply to the specific program that meets your needs. GoHawkeye, for example, offers two grant programs; the Sports Experience Grant emphasizes camps offered by adaptive sports organizations, but the organization also considers individual experiences and a sports equipment grant for applicants who are motivated in fundraising to reach their goal.

This lesser-known nonprofit may seem relatively inconsequential with an IRS limit of \$25,000 per grant cycle, but every granting organization is worth a look, particularly for individuals nearing their funding goal. GoHawkeye particularly appreciates bringing projects out of the red.

Also keep in mind some organizations may offer both annual cycles, as well as rolling application periods, for ongoing programs. CAF offers ongoing grants for Össur-provided prosthetics for people with lower-limb loss. Operation Rebound is a rolling program for U.S. military and first responders. And the organization's Idaho chapter offers its own separate grant application for both sports and adaptive equipment, Lawrence says.

If individual grants still seem daunting, take the team approach by helping your club, team or other nonprofit program apply for grants that ultimately support their players, such as the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program ([christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits](http://christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits)). Since 1999, it has distributed more than \$46 million to more than 3,900 projects "that improve quality of life through inclusion, access, independence, opportunities for community engagement and other life-enhancing endeavors."

S'NS



COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Adaptive sports grants can be used to attend the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic, where athletes can participate in adaptive kayaking.

## WHERE TO LOOK?

Finding wheelchair and adaptive sports grants can be challenging. Here are just a few resources and websites to check out.

- **Challenged Athletes Foundation**  
[challengedathletesfoundation.my.site.com/Grants/s/](http://challengedathletesfoundation.my.site.com/Grants/s/)
- **Kelly Brush Foundation**  
[kellybrushfoundation.org](http://kellybrushfoundation.org)
- **Spinal Cord Opportunities for Rehabilitation Endowment**  
[scorefund.org](http://scorefund.org)
- **High Fives Foundation**  
[highfivesfoundation.org](http://highfivesfoundation.org)
- **Department of Veterans Affairs**  
[department.va.gov/veteran-sports/grant-program](http://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/grant-program)
- **Move United**  
[moveunitedsport.org](http://moveunitedsport.org)
- **The Independence Fund**  
[independencefund.org](http://independencefund.org)
- **Chive Charities**  
[chivecharities.org/recipient](http://chivecharities.org/recipient)
- **IM ABLE Foundation**  
[imablefoundation.org](http://imablefoundation.org)
- **PossAbilities**  
[teampossabilities.org/grants-scholarships](http://teampossabilities.org/grants-scholarships)
- **Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation**  
[christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support-grants-for-non-profits](http://christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support-grants-for-non-profits)

# On The Sidelines

## BASKETBALL

### Military Division Added

**M**ilitary members and veterans with spinal cord injury and disease now have a permanent national wheelchair basketball championship to play for each year.

The National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) announced in late January the formal adoption of a Military Division by a unanimous vote. The division has been in development for the last two years and looks to provide veterans an inclusive platform to engage and compete in wheelchair basketball.

A Jan. 30 press release from the NWBA says the new Military Division is designed not only to promote physical health but also support mental well-being and social connection among veterans and active-duty service members. The division will offer:

- Opportunities for active duty and veteran military personnel to participate in wheelchair basketball at multiple levels
  - Tailored resources and programs that address the unique needs of military athletes
  - Dedicated competitions and events that highlight the talent and commitment of military teams

“As a paralyzed veteran and previous NWBA board member, I am proud to see us return to our roots, paying tribute to the courageous men and women of the U.S. armed forces who have given so much in service to our country and to the foundation of our sport,” says Mark Shepherd, a long-standing member in the NWBA community, in the press release.

The NWBA will host its third annual Military Division National Championship April 25–27 at Turnstone in Fort Wayne, Ind.

### Hail To Michigan

**T**he National Wheelchair Basketball Association’s (NWBA) intercollegiate division is getting a big dose of maize and blue.

The NWBA announced in late January that the University of Michigan Wolverines will be joining its intercollegiate men’s division for the 2025-26 season. Michigan is transitioning to the college ranks after competing in the NWBA’s Adult Division III.

The Wolverines will be the 13th men’s collegiate program in the division and will initially compete as a co-ed team. Other nationally known schools in the division

include the University of Alabama, Auburn University and the University of Arizona.

“This transition is monumental for us,” says Michigan wheelchair basketball head coach Jessica Wynne in a Jan. 27 press release

from the NWBA. “We are deeply honored to

join the already outstanding college division and contribute to the growth of wheelchair basketball. The level of talent and potential in the world of wheelchair basketball is truly inspiring. We are thrilled to provide opportunities for athletes to compete at the college level while pursuing higher education at the University of Michigan.”

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

## FENCING

### Sport Gets A Rebrand

**W**heelchair fencing is entering a new era in 2025 with sport being rebranded as world para fencing.



JOHN GROTH





Announced in January, the World Para Fencing organization says the new name reflects the wide spectrum of people with disabilities who are practicing fencing around the globe and the inclusivity the international federation is striving to achieve.

The organization says the re-branding will help expand the sport, which has been part of the Paralympic Games since they started in 1960.

World Para Fencing also unveiled a new logo, featuring a modern twist on the iconic fencing mask, along with its new name.

The 2025 season will include a series of competitions. Events are set for Pisa, Italy, in March; Eger, Hungary, in May; Warsaw, Poland, in July; Jakarta, Indonesia, in September; and Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, in December. The world championships are set for Sept. 2-7 in Iksan, South Korea.

For more information, visit [parafencing.org](http://parafencing.org).

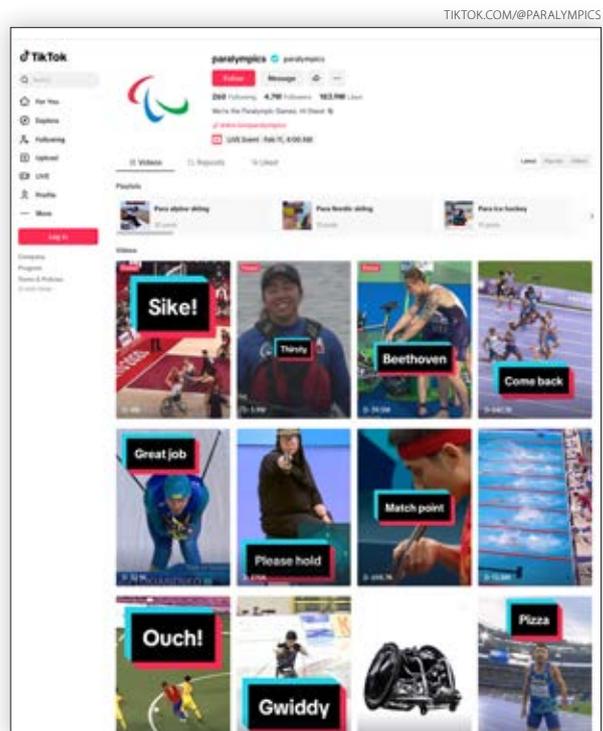
## PARALYMPICS

### Record Viewers

There were some record numbers when it came to viewers of the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) digital channels in 2024.

Aided by the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games in Paris, the IPC announced in January that it drew more than 1.6 billion video views last year. The IPC says that's an increase of 81% over 2021, when the Tokyo Games were held.

During the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the IPC says there were 305 million video views across its channels, which was a 35% increase compared to Tokyo 2020. The number of engagements grew to



## On The Sidelines

16.1 million, which was 24% more than the previous Summer Games.

The number of internet searches also broke the 1 billion barrier for the first time.

Across the whole year, the IPC's social media channels generated nearly 91 million engagements from more than 7,400 posts.

The IPC finished the year with more than 8.9 million followers across all platforms. The IPC says its TikTok channel is the most popular with 4.7 million followers, while both Instagram and YouTube achieved more than 1 million followers during 2024.

For more information, visit [paralympic.org/ipc](http://paralympic.org/ipc).

### Airbnb Grant

Paralympic and Olympic athletes are getting some big financial assistance to help with their competition and training accommodations around the world.

It was announced in late January that online accommodation marketplace Airbnb teamed up with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the fifth time to offer the Athlete Travel Grant 2025.

The program offered 1,000 athletes a \$2,000 grant to book Airbnb stays around the world to support competition- or training-

related trips, all with the aim of helping ease the financial strain of travel.

Athletes with disabilities can use Airbnb's enhanced search features to find accessible accommodations to fit their specific needs close to where they're competing or training.

The brief window for applications closed Feb. 13, with priority given to those training for the 2026 Winter Paralympics and Olympics to be held in northern Italy.

To read more about the program, visit [paralympic.org/news/airbnb-athlete-travel-grant-2025-edition](http://paralympic.org/news/airbnb-athlete-travel-grant-2025-edition).

Aqua Creek Products  
**ELEVATED AQUATIC ACCESS**  
Any color, any application.

MADE IN MONTANA

[aquacreek.com](http://aquacreek.com) • 888-687-3552 • [sales@aquacreek.com](mailto:sales@aquacreek.com) •



The U.S. Para Powerlifting program became part of the Lakeshore National Adapted Sports Organization in Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 1.

## POWERLIFTING

### New Home For U.S. Program

The United States' program for one of the fastest-growing sports in the Paralympic movement is getting a new home.

The U.S. Para Powerlifting program became part of the Lakeshore National Adapted Sports Organization (LNASO) in Birmingham, Ala., as of Jan. 1. The Lakeshore Foundation, LNASO and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee announced the move late last December.

The move provides the program access to Lakeshore's dedicated staff, cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art facilities. It will also mark a distinct shift in athlete development, allowing for a streamlined pipeline from which athletes of any experience level can benefit.

A U.S. Olympic & Paralympic training site since 2003, Lakeshore has produced more than 50 Paralympic athletes, coaches and staff. LNASO is also home to Team USA wheelchair rugby and boccia.

"Lakeshore just took Team USA Para Powerlifting from mission impossible to mission possible," U.S. Para Powerlifting athlete Bobby Body says in a Dec. 17, 2024, press release from the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

For more information, visit [lakeshore.org](http://lakeshore.org).

## SKIING

### Top Adaptive Resorts

One of the country's most popular ski resorts is also the nation's top destination for adaptive skiing.

Park City, Utah, was named the best place in the United States for adaptive skiing in a January article on [powder.com](http://powder.com). The online ski magazine listed six stand-out destinations for adaptive skiing, with the Utah winter sports mecca taking the top spot.

Park City got high marks from [powder.com](http://powder.com) for being home to

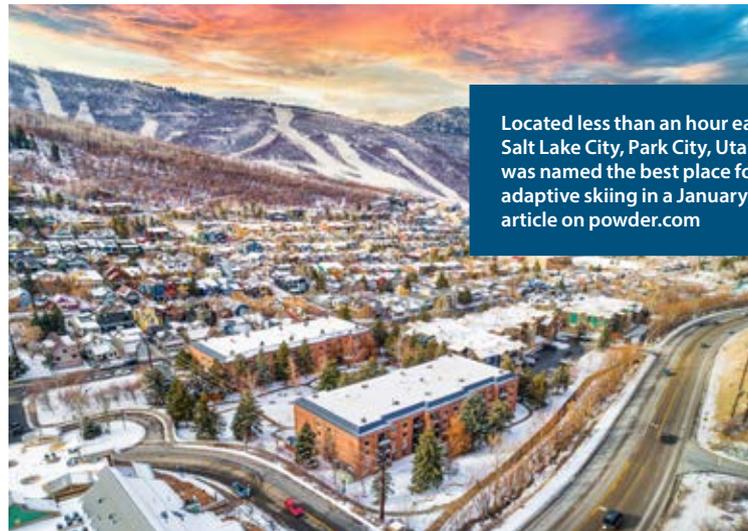
the National Ability Center's McGrath Mountain Center. The website notes that the more-than-20-acre facility has skilled adaptive ski instructors who provide about 4,000 lessons a year.

The complete list of top adaptive ski resorts from [powder.com](http://powder.com) includes:

- 1) Park City, Utah
- 2) Steamboat Springs, Colo.
- 3) Mount Bachelor, Ore.
- 4) Crested Butte, Colo.
- 5) Keystone, Colo.
- 6) Mount Snow, Vt.

To read more about these destinations, visit [powder.com/ski-resorts/best-resorts-adaptive-skiing](http://powder.com/ski-resorts/best-resorts-adaptive-skiing).

**S'NS**



Located less than an hour east of Salt Lake City, Park City, Utah was named the best place for adaptive skiing in a January article on [powder.com](http://powder.com)

© GETTY IMAGES/KRUCK20



# EVENT

## February 2025

Bayou Gulf States Boccia Tournament	February 1-2, 2025	Gulfport, MS
Central Florida Air Gun Tournament	February 8-9, 2025	Orlando, FL
PVA Wheelchair Rugby Invitational	February 14-16, 2025	Louisville, KY
Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament	February 19-21, 2025	Tampa, FL
USA Boccia Regional Tournament - hosted by PVA	February 28-March 3, 2025	Dade City, FL

## March 2025

Intro to Paracycling Camp - Stop 1	March 6-7, 2025	Phoenix, AZ
Tampa Pickleball Clinic	March 7, 2025	Tampa, FL
USA Boccia Regional Tournament - hosted by PVA	March 7-9, 2025	San Antonio, TX
Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament	March 14-16, 2025	Midlothian, VA
PVA Wheelchair Basketball Camp & Invitational	March 19-23, 2025	Colorado Springs, CO
Wisconsin Air Gun Tournament	March 21-22, 2025	Racine, WI
Bayou Brawl Bass Tournament	March 28-30, 2025	Westwego, LA
Wheelchair Football Camp	March 28-30, 2025	Tampa, FL

## April 2025

Citrus Slam Bass Fishing Tournament	April 4-6, 2025	Kissimmee, FL
USA Boccia Regional Tournament - hosted by PVA	TBD	San Diego, CA
Pocahontas Off-Road Spring Camp & Off-Road Classic	April 9-13, 2025	Chesterfield, VA
Mid-America Billiards Tournament	April 10-12, 2025	Oklahoma City, OK
Bluegrass Bash Bass Tournament	April 11-13, 2025	Kuttawa, KY

# SCHEDULE 2025

## April 2025 | Continued

National Air Gun Camp	April 14-18, 2025	Centreville, VA
Salt Lake City Pickleball Clinic	April 24-25, 2025	Salt Lake City, UT
Texas Bowling Tournament	April 30-May 2, 2025	San Antonio, TX

## May 2025

Puerto Rico Boccia Tournament (Year-end event)	May 2-4, 2025	San Juan, PR
Land of Lincoln Bass Tournament	May 2-4, 2025	Whittington, IL
Intro to Paracycling Camp - Stop 2	May 8-9, 2025	Salt Lake City, UT
Texas Trapshoot Tournament	May 9-11, 2025	San Antonio, TX
Intro to Paracycling Camp - Stop 3	May 21-22, 2025	Milwaukee, WI
Vaughan Trapshoot Tournament	May 23-25, 2025	Elburn, IL
Texas Air Gun Tournament	May 31-June 1, 2025	San Antonio, TX

## June 2025

Wheelchair Basketball Camp	June 6-8, 2025	Arlington, TX
Capital Clash Bass Tournament (Year-end event)	June 13-15, 2025	La Plata, MD
Colonial Pickleball Tournament	June 14-15, 2025	Perry Point, MD
Iowa Trapshoot Tournament (Year-end event)	June 20-22, 2025	Cedar Rapids, IA
Grand Teton Outdoor Experience	June 23-27, 2025	Jackson Hole, WY
PVA Bowling National Championship - Great Plains	June 27-29, 2025	Omaha, NE

## July 2025

National Veteran Wheelchair Games	July 17-22, 2025	Minneapolis, MN
-----------------------------------	------------------	-----------------



# People

## Following His Referee Calling

by John Groth

Already a high-achieving and successful wheelchair pickleball player, Anthony Ryan is swinging his love for the game in a different direction. After seeing all able-bodied referees on the courts for years, he thought he'd try out that aspect.

"That seems like a pretty fun gig. You know, to be there in the mix and a part of such an awesome growing sport at the highest level," Ryan says. "And so, I just kind of asked myself the question, like, 'Is there any reason I couldn't do that?' And I couldn't come up with one."

Now, the 42-year-old Foley, Ala., resident is taking on the challenge of becoming the sport's first certified referee who uses a wheelchair.

After making it through the verified trainee referee stage and becoming credentialed in Level 1 and Level 2 of the sport over the past year and a half, Ryan is aiming to hit the highest level this month as a certified referee. That means he'd be able to referee any professional pickleball match, including televised ones and ones for medals.

Ryan, who was born with spinal lipoma or a benign tumor that formed just under his belly button, had expected to have already completed the testing. But a nasty slew of viruses got in the way, knocking him, his wife, Christina, and their two 4-year-old children, Hattie and Hank, out of commission for a bit.

"Between the four of us, I was down almost a month. That put a kink in the plan to do a tournament or two in January, then go to Fort Lauderdale [Fla.] and have my evaluation. But I canceled my evaluation and will be reevaluated," Ryan says.



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID HOSTETLER  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF WHEELCHAIR SPORTS  
FEDERATION © GETTY IMAGES/GLEN EDWARDS

### AIMING FOR ANOTHER MILESTONE

Just a few months ago, Ryan was already coming off one major athletic feat. He won the 5.0 wheelchair singles, wheelchair doubles and hybrid doubles (one able-bodied player and one

wheelchair player) divisions at the November 2024 Biofreeze USA Pickleball National Championships at the Arizona Athletic Grounds in Mesa, Ariz.

He hopes it's time for another achievement milestone.

A former wheelchair tennis player, Ryan acknowledges the sport took a toll on his body.

He had two shoulder surgeries for a detached biceps tendon and decided

he'd try out pickleball. He loved it and has decided to do even more with

the sport.

Ryan started the push to become a certified pickleball referee in 2023. He began as a verified trainee, where he learned the official rulebook and officiating handbook, took an online player test and attended some referee training classes and observed matches.

He also found a mentor, certified referee trainer Norman Clinkscales, to



Anthony Ryan is aiming to become pickleball's first certified referee who uses a wheelchair.

COURTESY OF ANTHONY RYAN



A wheelchair pickleball player, Anthony Ryan is aiming for the highest pickleball referee certification.

guide him. Clingscales has served as a big motivator, along with his family.

A few months later, Ryan moved up to a Level 1 referee. Besides studying the rules, he also worked on writing down scores, using a stopwatch for timing breaks and then took the court to be a referee, where he honed his skills. He also took a series of tests, including a referee test, a line judge test, an officiating procedures and best practices handbook test and a player test, along with having his refereeing skills assessed and meeting the Level 1 requirements of the Tiered Referee Rating form.

After passing those, which allowed him to referee any amateur pickleball matches not for a medal, he moved on to becoming a Level 2 referee. Besides having to have proficient knowledge of the rulebook, he had to be able to handle most on-court situations and take more tests. This time, though, the evaluation was harder.

"They're expecting more — a deeper knowledge of the rules, nuances of the game, complexities of the match, whether someone's out of position, not missing foot faults," Ryan says.

Ryan successfully completed and passed that portion this past fall, allow-

ing him to referee all amateur pickleball matches, including medal matches, and professional pickleball matches, excluding medal matches.

During those periods, he became the first wheelchair athlete to referee a USA Pickleball match, doing so at the Atlantic Diamond Regional at the Opelika Sportsplex and Aquatics Center in Opelika, Ala. Ryan has also refereed multiple USA Pickleball Golden Ticket events, multiple Pro Tour of Pickleball events and some Association of Pickleball Players events.

#### DOING IT FOR FAMILY

Ryan is already partially on his way to obtaining a certified referee credential.

He's refereed more matches and has successfully completed an advanced training session. The harder part is yet to come, where he has to complete an interview with his certified referee coordinator, score 100% on all the online tests, submit a referee certification application, provide visual acuity documentation and then be scheduled for an evaluation by a USA Pickleball certified evaluator.

He says that comes at a tournament, and they will evaluate him over multiple days and matches on a variety of criteria.

“And so, I just kind of asked myself the question, like, ‘Is there any reason I couldn’t do that?’ And I couldn’t come up with one.”

— Anthony Ryan

"I want to do that for the people that have devoted time and money and energy and effort," Ryan says. "To me, Norman is my mentor. He spent a lot of his efforts and travel time and all to help develop me into a referee. And I want, for his sake, to make sure that I get to that certified level and make him proud."

But Ryan admits a lot of this wouldn't be possible without his wife's help. She takes care of their children when he's gone, and he says she's a big reason why he's succeeded in playing, and now refereeing, the sport.

"One of the first things Norman told me when I went and met with him, he said, 'Are you married?' I said, 'Yes.' And he said, 'What's your wife think about this?' And I said, 'Well, I think she's very encouraging, you know.' And he said, 'Well, I'll tell you right now, if you don't have a supportive wife, you're not going to make it.' And he was right," Ryan says. "It's a lot of time away from home. It's a lot of studying. It's a lot of devotion to something other than your wife and your family. And so, it would be wrong of me not to mention how much she sacrifices to allow me to chase that."

S'NS

# 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

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

Request a media kit: Steve Max  
 steve@max4media.com | 215-284-8787  
 www.sportsnspokes.com/advertise

Update your email to ensure delivery of **SPORTS 'N SPOKES**. Email your current email address to Cindy Mazanyi at cindy@pvamag.com. Use Email Update in the subject line.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**2015 SOUTHWIND DECK BOAT** for wheelchair user: 21 ft., 115 hp Yamaha with 2022 aluminum trailer, Asking \$35,000. Call for photos/info. 912-729-4438 (Kingsland, Ga.).

**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. Call or email cindy@pvamag.com

**Circulation Department,**  
**PVA Publications**  
 7250 North 16th Street, Suite 100  
 Phoenix, AZ 85020-5214 | 602-224-0500, ext. 109

## INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Aqua Creek Products .....	38
Abilities Expo .....	48
<i>The Editorials from SPORTS 'N SPOKES</i> 1975 – 2007 .....	45
Orion Medical Group Inc. ....	44
PVA Sports .....	40, 41
Raz Design Inc. ....	11
S'NS Junior Athlete of the Year .....	29

**JUMP START YOUR SEX LIFE**  
 Psychological benefits for singles and couples alike

**NEW VIBREX<sup>®</sup> PRO**

- Treats men with erectile dysfunction
- Treats SCI men with ejaculatory dysfunction



**Ferticare<sup>®</sup> 2.0**

- VA - approved, available through your Urology or Psychology Dept
- Strengthens cardio vascular system w/ weekly use in SCI
- Reduces UTI w/ weekly use
- Inexpensive alternative to fertility clinics
- Help with incontinence thru Kegel Exercise
- Treats ejaculatory & orgasmic dysfunction
- Only Available in Blue



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



**sportsnspokes.com**

# The Editorials from **SPORTS 'N SPOKES** 1975 to 2007 Cliff Crase

Edited by Nancy Crase

Take a peek into the history of wheelchair sports written as the events unfolded in a new book, *The Editorials from SPORTS 'N SPOKES 1975 to 2007*.

The editorials, written in Cliff's unique style of writing and a reflection of his charismatic personality, are presented in chronological order.

Photos published with the editorials are included, as are many additional unpublished photos from the *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* archives.

A comprehensive index allows a means to find a specific sport, event or person.

*"Cliff Crase had a way with words. He always seemed to capture the highlights of wheelchair sports along with the substance of current issues. He wrote about topics that mattered and celebrated the successes of a variety of athletes from beginners to experts. We are fortunate to have over 30 years of his observations all in one place. This book is a treasure!"*

Jean Driscoll, Olympic and Paralympic medalist, University of Illinois alumna

**\$23.97** Plus S & H  
280 pages  
8" x 10"  
Perfect bound softcover

To Order: [www.blurb.com/b/6516777](http://www.blurb.com/b/6516777)  
Proceeds benefit Paralyzed Veterans of America

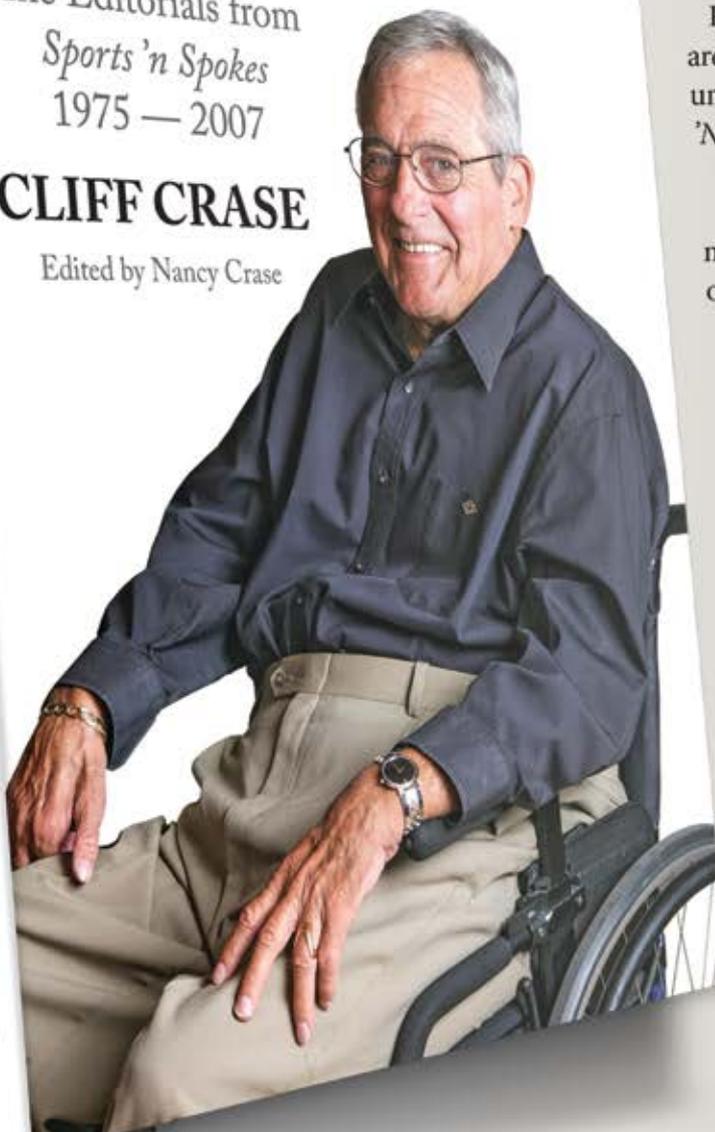
CLIFF CRASE

Editorials from *Sports 'n Spokes*

The Editorials from  
*Sports 'n Spokes*  
1975 — 2007

**CLIFF CRASE**

Edited by Nancy Crase



# SUBSCRIBE TODAY

## SPORTS <sup>IN</sup> SPOKES

### Print/Digital

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

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

### Digital only

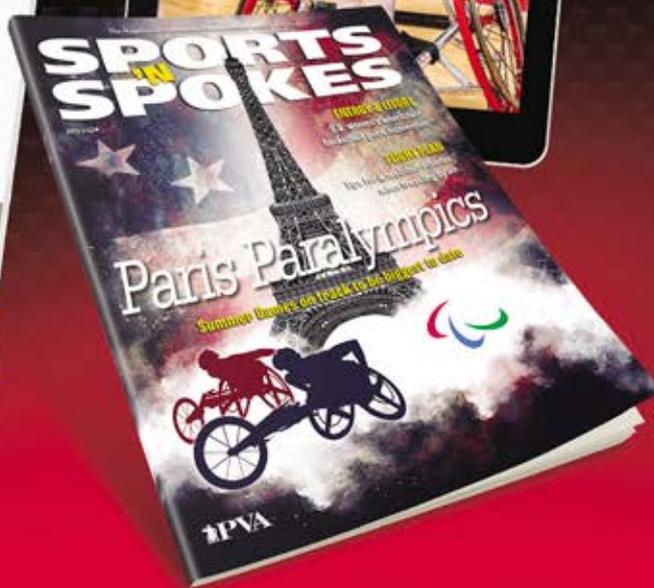
U.S. & Foreign: \$8 (one year/6 issues)

### To Subscribe

Visit: [sportsnspokes.com/magazine1](http://sportsnspokes.com/magazine1)

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

Call: 602-224-0500, ext. 109



# Final Frame



## S'NS FLASHBACK

Holland-born Feike Waque was the 1993 *SPORTS 'N SPOKES* Junior Athlete of the Year and our only international winner. Here, he poses with his award from his home in Denmark. Visit [sportsnspokes.com](http://sportsnspokes.com) to read what Feike has been up to since then. Photo courtesy of Feike Waque.

# Greater independence *starts with* **abilities** **expo**

**FREE**  
ADMISSION

## Discover what empowers YOU!

- Innovative products & tech
- Insightful workshops
- All-inclusive climbing wall
- Adaptive sports, dance & fun
- Service dogs & more

**Los Angeles**  
March 7-9, 2025

**New York Metro**  
May 2-4, 2025

**Chicago**  
June 20-22, 2025

**Houston**  
Aug. 1-3, 2025

**Phoenix**  
Sept. 5-7, 2025

**Ft. Lauderdale**  
Oct. 17-19, 2025

**Dallas**  
Dec. 5-7, 2025

**abilities.com** Get your free tickets!

