

# 2019 U.S. Men's & Women's National Teams



## Parapan American Games Media Guide



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## **NWBA SPONSORS** 38

# NWBA LEADERSHIP

## NWBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Fox, President  
Ryan Martin, Vice President\*  
Bruce Fischbach, Secretary  
Mike Godsey, Treasurer  
Sarah Castle  
Stephanie Wheeler\*  
Doug Arambula  
Daniel Ferreira  
Lee Montgomery\*  
Steve Serio\*

*\*athlete representative*

## NWBA STAFF

Will Waller	Chief Executive Officer
Brandon McBeain	Director, Membership Services & Programs
Rebekah Markovitz	Communications Intern

## CHAMPIONS CIRCLE

Joe Roucco  
Brian Kurtz  
Nick Vojnovic  
Greg Smith  
Steven Curtis

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Frank Burns, Hall of Fame Committee  
Mike Woodard, Rules Committee  
Jen Ruddell, Classification Committee  
Tim Caldwell, Judicial Committee  
Bruce Fischbach, Ethics Committee  
Mike Godsey, Audit Committee  
Bruce Fischbach, Governance Committee

## DIVISION COMMISSIONERS

Collegiate Division: Jon Buford  
Adult Divisions (DI, DII, DIII): Buddy Barnes  
Junior Division: Mike Bauler  
Women's Division: Buddy Barnes

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# ABOUT THE NWBA

## WHAT IS THE NWBA?

The National Wheelchair Basketball Association is the longest standing and largest Disabled Sports Organization in the world. It was founded in 1948 to provide individuals with physical disabilities the opportunity to play and learn wheelchair basketball.

## WHAT DOES THE NWBA DO?

We are the organization that is responsible for growing and developing wheelchair basketball in the United States, and the selection and training of the Paralympic and ParaPan American Games teams, as well as major international competitions. The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee and the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation recognize the NWBA as the governing body for the United States.

## WHAT IS THE NWBA'S REACH?

The NWBA is currently in 42 states and has nearly 3,000 members and 225-plus teams. We have divisions for Men, Women, Collegiate, Division I, Division II, Division III, and Junior.

## HOW MANY COMPETITIONS ARE THERE?

There are nearly 200 NWBA sanctioned competitions annually throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Ontario and Quebec. The NWBA season is from October to April, culminating at a national tournament for each division.





# ABOUT THE NWBA



## Mission Statement

In its pursuit of excellence, the National Wheelchair Basketball Association provides persons with physical disabilities the opportunity to play, learn and compete in the sport of wheelchair basketball.

## The core values of the NWBA are to:

Strive for excellence in all aspects of the organization;

Act with integrity and respect;

Embrace diversity; and

Recognize the tradition of the NWBA.

# PLAYING THE INTERNATIONAL GAME

## BASIC RULES

The basic rules of wheelchair basketball are very similar to stand-up basketball (for example the height of the basket, distance to the foul line, three point line, etc., are the same measurements as in the game of stand-up basketball), but over time they have evolved as well. In 1964, basic international rules were adopted which included minor adjustments to meet the needs of the game in a wheelchair. Wheelchair basketball is played in accordance with the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) rules which have been modified from Federation Internationale de Basketball (FIBA).

## SCORING

A goal is credited to the team attacking the basket into which the ball has entered as follows:

- A goal from a free throw counts one (1) point;
- A goal from the two-point field goal area counts two (2) points;
- A goal from the three-point field goal area counts three (3) points.

Every team has 24 seconds to complete its attempt to score a basket. If the team with the ball exceeds this time limit, then the ball and the right of play is granted to the opposing team.

## DRIBBLING

A player may wheel the chair and bounce the ball simultaneously, however, if the ball is picked up and/or placed on the player's lap, he/she is only allowed to push twice before they are obligated to shoot, pass, or dribble the ball again. There is no double dribble rule in wheelchair basketball. A traveling violation occurs if the player takes more than two pushes while in possession of the ball without dribbling. A player is not allowed to touch the playing surface with his/her feet while in possession of the ball.

## FOULS

The wheelchair is considered part of the player's body in relation to establishing responsibility for contact on the court in the case of charging, blocking, going out of bounds, and other violations. An offensive player may not remain in the key area for more than three seconds.

In addition to the technical fouls that may be assessed from time to time as in stand-up basketball, a player lifting his/her legs to gain an advantage or lifting out of his/her chair is given a technical foul. The player must remain firmly seated in his/her chair and must not use his/her lower limbs to steer the chair or gain an unfair advantage. In the event that a player falls out of his/her chair, a referee may stop the play if in his/her opinion the player is at risk of being injured, otherwise play will continue. On an inbounds play, the offensive player is not allowed to go into the key until the ball is handed to the inbound player by the referee.

## CLASSIFICATION OVERVIEW

Wheelchair basketball classification is based on the players' functional capacity to complete the skills necessary to play – pushing, pivoting, shooting, rebounding, dribbling, passing and catching. It is not an assessment of a player's level of skill, merely their functional capacity to complete the task. In particular, the trunk movement and stability observed during these actual basketball situations, forms the basis for the assignment of a player to a particular class.

## CLASSES

Players are assigned points as their classification – 1, 2, 3, and 4 are the recognized classes, with 0.5 classes between for the exceptional cases which do not fit exactly into one class, and the 4.5 category for the player with least or minimal disability.

## TEAM BALANCE

The total number of points allowed on court at any time is 14.0. That is, the total points of all five players actually playing. If a coach allows the team to have over 14.0 points, they will incur a technical foul on the bench.

# COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Date	Sessions	Match No.	Gender	Group	Time	Schedule			Phase
24-ago	Session 1	1	Men	B	08.00-10.00	USA	vs.	Puerto Rico	Preliminary round
		2	Women	B	10.15-12.15	USA	vs.	Chile	Preliminary round
		3	Women	A	12.30-14.30	Canada	vs.	Colombia	Preliminary round
	Session 2	4	Women	A	16.15-18.15	Mexico	vs.	Argentina	Preliminary round
		5	Men	B	18.30-20.30	Peru	vs.	Brasil	Preliminary round
		6	Women	B	20.45-22.45	Peru	vs.	Brasil	Preliminary round
25-ago	Session 1	7	Men	A	08.00-10.00	Mexico	vs.	Argentina	Preliminary round
		8	Women	A	10.15-12.15	Colombia	vs.	Mexico	Preliminary round
		9	Men	B	12.30-14.30	Puerto Rico	vs.	Brasil	Preliminary round
	Session 2	10	Men	A	16.15-18.15	Colombia	vs.	Canada	Preliminary round
		11	Men	B	18.30-20.30	USA	vs.	Peru	Preliminary round
		12	Women	A	20.45-22.45	Canada	vs.	Argentina	Preliminary round
26-ago	Sesión 1	13	Women	B	08.00-10.00	Chile	vs.	Brasil	Preliminary round
		14	Men	A	10.15-12.15	Canada	vs.	Mexico	Preliminary round
		15	Men	B	12.30-14.30	Brasil	vs.	USA	Preliminary round
	Sesión 2	16	Women	B	16.15-18.15	USA	vs.	Peru	Preliminary round
		17	Men	A	18.30-20.30	Argentina	vs.	Colombia	Preliminary round
		18	Men	B	20.45-22.45	Peru	vs.	Puerto Rico	Preliminary round
27-ago	Sesión 1	19	Women	A	08.00-10.00	Mexico	vs.	Canada	Preliminary round
		20	Women	B	10.15-12.15	Brasil	vs.	USA	Preliminary round
		21	Men	A	12.30-14.30	Colombia	vs.	Mexico	Preliminary round
	Sesión 2	22	Women	A	16.15-18.15	Argentina	vs.	Colombia	Preliminary round
		23	Women	B	18.30-20.30	Peru	vs.	Chile	Preliminary round
		24	Men	A	20.45-22.45	Canada	vs.	Argentina	Preliminary round



# COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Date	Sessions	Match No.	Gender	Group	Time	Schedule	Phase
28-ago	Session 1	25	Men		08.00-10.00	Quarterfinals	
		26	Men		10.15-12.15	Quarterfinals	
		27	Women		12.30-14.30	Qualification round	
	Session 2	28	Women		16.15-18.15	Qualification round	
		29	Men		18.30-20.30	Quarterfinals	
		30	Men		20.45-22.45	Quarterfinals	
29-ago	Session 1	31	Women		08.00-10.00	Qualification round	
		32	Men		10.15-12.15	Qualification round	
		33	Women		12.30-14.30	Qualification round	
	Session 2	34	Men		16.15-18.15	Qualification round	
		35	Women		18.30-20.30	Semifinal	
		36	Women		20.45-22.45	Semifinal	
30-ago	Session 1	37	Men		10.30-12.30	Semifinal	
		38	Men		12.45-14.45	Semifinal	
	Session 2	39	Women		16.30-18.30	Bronze medal	
		40	Women		18.45-20.45	Gold medal	
					20.45-21.15	Medals Ceremony	
31-ago	Session 1	41	Men		14.30-16.30	Bronze medal	
		42	Men		15.00-19.00	Gold medal	
					19.00-19.30	Medals Ceremony	

# U.S. MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER



No.	Name	Hometown	Ht.	Classification	Date of Birth
8	Brian Bell	Birmingham, AL	6'1"	4.5	2/24/89
33	John Boie	Milton, WI	5'3"	1	2/11/91
42	Aaron Gouge	Wake Forest, NC	6'0"	2	11/3/85
16	Trevon Jenifer	Huntingtown, MD	3'0"	2.5	9/7/88
6	Matt Lesperance	Coleman, WI	5'4"	1	5/23/87
7	Ryan Neiswender	Lebanon, PA	5'1"	2	5/11/94
5	Michael Paye	Gross Pointe, MI	5'3"	3	3/24/83
1	Jorge Sanchez	Oakland, CA	5'9"	4	10/3/91
9	Matt Scott	Detroit, MI	5'8"	3.5	3/27/85
11	Steve Serio	Westbury, NY	5'4"	3.5	9/8/87
4	Josh Turek	Council Bluffs, IA	5'11"	3.5	4/12/79
2	Jake Williams	Milwaukee, WI	6'1"	2.5	8/2/91

## U.S. MEN'S STAFF:

Head Coach: Ron Lykins, Columbia, Missouri

Assistant Coach: Rob Taylor, Auburn, Alabama

Assistant Coach: John Sikora, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Team Manager: Scott Meyer, Columbia, Missouri

Medical Staff: Mary Vacala, Savannah, Georgia



# RON LYKINS

Born in Chicago, Illinois in 1961, Ron Lykins is an able-bodied wheelchair basketball coach who once played basketball at St. Francis DeSales High School. He never thought he would find himself coaching on the international level, and is one of the most respected wheelchair basketball coaches. He coached the U.S. Women's National team to back-to-back gold-medal performances at the 2004 and 2008 Paralympics Games. He has been the U.S. Men's National Team coach since 2013 and won a gold medal with his team in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.

Lykins was first introduced to the sport in 1980 when he needed to complete recreation administration field work for his studies at the University of Kentucky. He finished the 90 hours of required fieldwork in just two weeks, and as some say, the rest is history. In 1984 he decided to stay at the University of Kentucky to obtain his Masters degree. It was then that he started coaching the University of Kentucky men's wheelchair basketball team and that was the defining moment that cemented Lykins's desire to forever coach wheelchair basketball.

In 1985 Lykins transitioned to coaching the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater men's wheelchair basketball team. Under his tenure the team went on to win two runner-up titles in 1986 and 1992.

In 1990 another turning point in his wheelchair basketball coaching career came when he was offered the post of head coach of the U.S. Women's National Team.

He coached the team to the top of the podium at the 1990 World Championships in France. He continued his mark leading the U.S. Women's National Team to a silver medal in the 1992 Paralympic games, and coached the women for 18 years, winning gold at the 2007 ParaPan American Games and at the 2004, 2008, and 2016 Paralympic games.

From 2004, the U.S. Women's Team won Gold in the America's Cup in 2005, took silver at 2006 World Championships and a bronze at the Friendship games. In 2007 and 2008 they won gold at the ParaPan American Games, Friendship Games and Paralympic Games. To date, this was one of the most successful eight-year stretches for the Women's National Team.

Following the 2008 Paralympic Games, he began coaching for the University of Missouri men's wheelchair basketball team. In his first season with the Tigers, he led them to their first ever winning season. His team has gone on to win three Missouri Classic Championships and finished fifth twice at the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

He was appointed head coach of the U.S. Men's National Team in 2013. He led the men to a 2013 American Zone Qualification Tournament gold medal. In July of 2014, the men brought home the silver medal at the World Championships in Incheon, South Korea and subsequently followed with a gold-medal finish at the 2015 ParaPan American Games in Toronto, Canada, where Team USA qualified for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and went on to win the Gold. He was inducted into the NWBA Hall of Fame in 2018. Recently, he led the men to a silver medal at the 2018 World Championships.

Lykins currently resides in Columbia, Missouri, with his wife, Sandy.





# ROBB TAYLOR

With this team he won the NWBA Women's Division Championship in 2003, 2004 and 2006. In 2003, he started working with the U.S. Women's National Team.

After coaching in Phoenix, Taylor moved to Chicago to become the head coach for the Windy City Warriors. Under Taylor's coaching, the Windy City Warriors won back-to-back Illinois High School Association State Championships.

From 2005-2008 he was again an assistant coach for the U.S. Women's national team. They won gold at the America's Cup in 2005, took silver at World Championships and bronze at the Friendship Games. In 2007 and 2008 they won gold at the ParaPan American Games, Friendship Games and Paralympic Games.

In 2013 he moved from the U.S. Women's National Team to the men's program, where they started with a gold medal at the America's Cup. Taylor helped the men's team to a gold medal at the 2015 ParaPan American Games. He was a part of the team at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and went on to win the gold.

He and his wife, Sara, reside in Auburn, Alabama, with their two sons, Jeremy and Jaxson.

Robb Taylor is a wheelchair basketball coach from Auburn, Alabama, where he is the head coach for the Auburn Tigers Wheelchair Basketball team. He moved back to Alabama in order to grow and develop the wheelchair basketball program. His experience with coaching wheelchair basketball dates over 17 years where he has been involved in many different levels throughout the NWBA.

He originally started out as the assistant coach at the University of Illinois, and in 1999 won the NWBA Intercollegiate Division Championship. He then went on to be the head coach for the Phoenix Mercury in the NWBA.

# JOHN SIKORA

John Sikora has had a connection with wheelchair basketball since his own playing days that date back to 1977. He played just under 30 years with the Pittsburgh Steelwheelers. He was on the U.S. Men's National Team from 1989-1993, winning three gold medals and one silver while on the national team.

In 1983 Sikora was inducted into the City of Pittsburgh Sports by Ability Hall of Fame. Four years later, he was presented the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Federation of Independent School Alumnae. He has been inducted into two additional Hall of Fames and received three additional prestigious awards as a player.

He has since then dedicated his career toward improving the lifestyles of people with physical disabilities.

He is the current Executive Director for the HOPE Network, which promotes healthy lifestyles along with community integration for children and adults with physical disabilities.

Beginning in 2005, he became the assistant coach for the U.S. Women's National team. With Sikora, they won silver at the 2006 World Championships, gold at the 2007 ParaPan American Games and the 2008 Paralympics Games.

His current position as assistant coach for the U.S. Men's National Team began in 2013 and has been equally as successful. The men won Gold at the 2013 America Cup Qualifiers, silver at the 2014 World Championships, gold at the 2015 ParaPan Am Games and gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.





## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2005 and 2009 U23 IWBF World Championships, Gold medal
- 2014 and 2018 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- 2008 and 2010 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2014, 2016, and 2017 Italian League Champion
- 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2013 and 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal

**Height:** 6'1 / 185 cm

**Classification:** 4.5

**Date of Birth:** February 24, 1989

**Hometown:** Birmingham, Alabama

**College:** University of Illinois

## BACKGROUND

At 10-years-old, Brian lost his leg due to a train accident. After he recuperated and finished rehabilitation, he wanted to get back to playing his favorite sports: basketball and football. He played middle school football on his prosthetic for one year. When he was 12, he saw his first game of wheelchair basketball. His mom discovered the U.S. Paralympic Training Center and the Lakeshore Foundation, in Birmingham, Alabama, where he fell in love with the sport after attending sports camps for children with disabilities.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Louvenia Bell
- Has one step-sibling, Andreus Gulley
- Married to Diane and has four children: Kaylan, Lia, Myles, and Neo
- Hobbies include cooking, baking, and playing video games



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- 2010, 2011, and 2014 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal

**Height:** 5'3/160cm

**Classification:** 1.0

**Date of Birth:** February 11, 1991

**Hometown:** Milton, Wisconsin

**College:** University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

## BACKGROUND

Boie's injury is a T4/T5 incomplete spinal cord injury, suffered after a tractor accident. Boie began playing wheelchair ball when he was 11 years old after attending a summer camp at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Boie always loved sports growing up and competed against his able-bodied friends, so when wheelchair basketball came around he was instantly hooked. Boie said his favorite memory while playing for University of Wisconsin-Whitewater was defeating the University of Illinois by 41 points in the 2011 National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball championship game.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Crystal and David Boie
- Has a brother Scott and a sister Elizabeth
- Other sports: throwing an ultimate disc or a football and wheelchair lacrosse
- Hobbies include deer and turkey hunting, fishing, trivia, and spending time with his nieces





## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, Gold medal
- 2014 and 2018 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- 2015 and 2017 NWBA Division I National Champions
- 2016 and 2018 NWBA National Tournament Division I, runner-up
- 2007 and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2007 Player of the Year, University of Texas-Arlington

**Height:** 6' / 182 cm

**Classification:** 2.0

**Date of Birth:** November 3, 1985

**Hometown:** Wake Forest, North Carolina

**College:** University of Texas-Arlington

## BACKGROUND

Aaron started playing wheelchair basketball when he was 11 with a local team in Raleigh, North Carolina, just for fun. After a couple years, he began to get more competitive and started playing for the Charlotte Hornets. He went on to play at University of Texas at Arlington. Following college, he played professionally in France for two years. In 2007, the Mayor of Arlington officially declared November 2nd as "Aaron Gouge Day." He works for Per4Max (a wheelchair manufacturer and sponsor of the NWBA) on the final assembly of wheelchair basketball competition chairs.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Roger and Nancy Gouge
- Has an older sister, Amber
- He is married to his wife, Amber.
- Hobbies include hanging out with friends, watching movies and sports, and traveling.



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, Bronze medal
- 2009 IWBF U-23 Wheelchair Basketball World Championships, Gold medal
- 2014 and 2018 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- Two-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- 2011 and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal

**Height:** 3' / 91 cm

**Classification:** 2.5

**Date of Birth:** September 7, 1988

**Hometown:** Huntingtown,  
Maryland

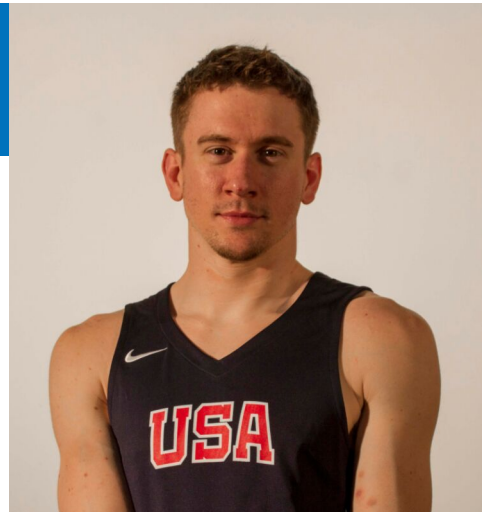
**College:** Edinboro University of  
Pennsylvania

## BACKGROUND

Jenifer was born without legs due to an extremely rare disorder called congenital amputation. Before focusing on wheelchair basketball in college, Trevon was a successful track athlete in his early years and a top wrestler in high school. He also penned an inspirational autobiography, 'From the Ground Up' at 17 years old. Jenifer has gone on to play professional basketball in Europe in the Euroleague. He has also gone on to be a Keynote Speaker for the Americans with Disabilities Act and Horace Mann School.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Constance Bullock and Eric Brown
- Has three brothers Paul, Marcus and Jamar, and a sister LaTarsha
- His partner is Laura Klass and they have a daughter Saraeya
- Hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with family and friends



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2008 Beijing Paralympics, 4th place
- 2010 IWBF World Championships, Bronze medal
- 2007, 2009, 2011 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2011 NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team

**Height:** 5'4/ 163 cm

**Classification:** 1.0

**Date of Birth:** May 23, 1987

**Hometown:** Coleman, Wisconsin

**College:** University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

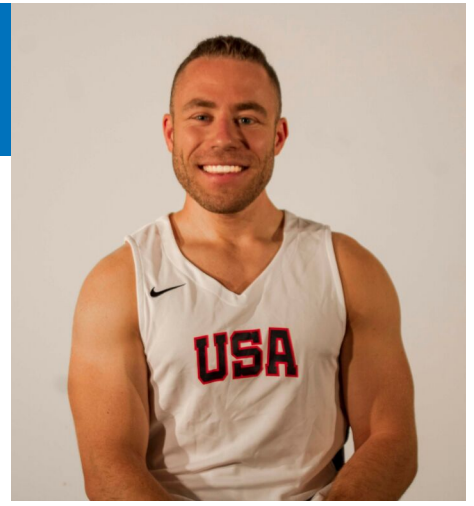
## BACKGROUND

Matt Lesperance has transverse myelitis and started playing wheelchair basketball at the age of nine. He loves to compete and has made great friends on and off the court. His proudest accomplishment is winning three National Championships with University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawks.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Tony and Brenda Lesperance
- Has a sister Heather
- Hobbies include watching movies and fishing





## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Four-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- 2013 and 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal

**Height:** 5'1/ 154 cm

**Classification:** 2.0

**Date of Birth:** May 11, 1994

**Hometown:** Lebanon,  
Pennsylvania

**College:** University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign

## BACKGROUND

Ryan was born with arthrogryposis and started playing wheelchair basketball in 2002. He is a four-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American. His proudest moment is representing the United States of America. He wants to be remembered as someone who is the same person in the gym that you meet outside of basketball.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Daryl and Peg Neiswender
- He is married to his wife Lauren
- He also has a sibling named Lauren Sirriannia
- Hobbies include reading
- His ideal superpower would be teleportation



**Height:** 5'3 / 162 cm

**Classification:** 3.0

**Date of Birth:** March 24, 1983

**Hometown:** Gross Pointe,  
Michigan

**College:** University of Texas-  
Arlington

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympic, Gold medal
- 2008 Beijing Paralympics, 4th place
- 2004 Athens Paralympics, 7th place
- 2006, 2014, and 2018 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- 2010 IWBF World Championships, Bronze medal
- 2006 IWBF All-World Team
- 2002 and 2006 NWBA Intercollegiate National Championships
- Two-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- 2006 NWBA Intercollegiate Player of the Year
- 2008 Champions Euro Cup, Silver medal
- 2007 and 2008 Deutschmeister Cup Winner
- 2007 Pokal Cup Winner
- 2007 and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2009, 2013, and 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal
- 2005 America's Cup, Silver medal
- 2008 North American Cup, First place

## BACKGROUND

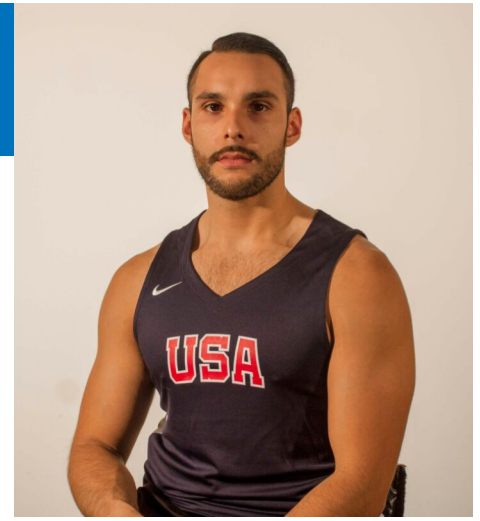
Michael Paye started playing wheelchair basketball competitively at around 12 years old in an adult league. He eventually went to the University of Texas at Arlington where he won two NWBA Intercollegiate Championships. After graduation, he moved to Germany and has been playing professionally for the past 13 years with RSV Lahndill.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Mike and Karen Paye
- Has two siblings, Bryan and Kim
- Married to Lena
- Hobbies include being with friends, watching football and other sporting events, and traveling

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 IWBF World Championship, Silver medal
- 2015 NWBA National Champion
- Three-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- 2013 and 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal



**Height:** 5'9 / 180 cm

**Classification:** 4.0

**Date of Birth:** October 3, 1991

**Hometown:** Oakland, California

**College:** University of Texas-Arlington

## BACKGROUND

Sanchez was diagnosed with Osteogenic Sarcoma at the age of 8. He had two years of chemotherapy, a total of 23 surgeries and many complications. Sanchez started playing wheelchair basketball at the age of 13, as a freshman in high school. He found the sport through a man while at Costco who invited him out. Sanchez was amazed and immediately fell in love with wheelchair basketball; the only part he didn't like were all the blisters on his hand after practice. He currently plays in Spain for Gran Canaria.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of María Elena and Jorge Sanchez
- Has a sister Alexi
- Likes to work out and try new food
- Huge GSW fan
- His biggest motivations are his fiancé and his family



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, Bronze medal
- 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, 4th place
- 2004 Athens Paralympics, 7th place
- 2006 and 2018 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- 2010 IWBF World Championships, Bronze medal
- 2010 IWBF All-World Team
- 2004, 2005, and 2007 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- Six-time European Champions Cup
- Four-time Kitakyushu Cup Champion
- 2007, 2011, and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2013 and 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal

**Height:** 5'8 / 170 cm

**Classification:** 3.5

**Date of Birth:** March 27, 1985

**Hometown:** Detroit, Michigan

**College:** University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

## BACKGROUND

Scott was diagnosed with spinal bifida at birth. He began playing wheelchair basketball in 1998 when he was 14 years old. Scott played throughout high school and in 2004 was recruited to be on the U.S. Men's National Wheelchair Basketball team. He was nominated in 2008 for an ESPN ESPY for "Best Male Athlete with a Disability." He currently plays professionally in Germany. He received national attention in a way no U.S. Paralympic athlete had done previously by starring in his own nationwide broadcast ad for Nike on New Year's Eve in 2007 and New Year's Day in 2008. He was also featured in an Apple Watch advertisement in 2017.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son David and Audrey Scott
- Has two siblings, Sherita and Alex
- Hobbies include spending time with loved ones, creative writing, traveling, listening to music, and reading



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, Bronze medal
- 2008 Beijing Paralympics, 4th place
- 2005 and 2009 U23 IWBf World Championships, Gold medal
- 2006, 2014, and 2018 IWBf World Championships, Silver medal
- 2010 IWBf World Championships, Bronze medal
- 2018 NWBA Division I National Champion
- 2008 and 2010 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2017 NWBA Division I National Championships, runner-up
- RSV Lahn dill (8 German Championships and 2 European Club Championships)
- 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2013 and 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal



**Height:** 5'4/ 162 cm

**Classification:** 3.5

**Date of Birth:** September 8, 1987

**Hometown:** Westbury, New York

**College:** University of Illinois

## BACKGROUND

When Serio was 11 months old, he had surgery to remove a spinal tumor which resulted in the compression of his spinal cord. Consequently, he was left paralyzed and is classified as an incomplete paraplegic. He began playing wheelchair basketball at the age of 14 as a sophomore in high school. Serio led his high school to a title and was named the MVP of the national tournament. After high school, he played for University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He led them to a national championship, winning player of the game, NWBA tournament MVP, and the NWBA player of the year in the process. He won the 2017 ESPN ESPY Award for Best Male Athlete with a Disability for his performance at the 2016 Rio Paralympics. He is also a Team Toyota Athlete.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Ed and Hilary Serio
- He has a younger brother Luke
- Hobbies include reading, exercising, and traveling.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, Bronze medal
- 2004 Athens Paralympics, 7th place
- 2014 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- 2001 IWBF U23 World Championships, Bronze medal
- Two-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- Multiple MVP and Top Scorer Awards in European Competition
- 2011 and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2002 SMSU Male Athlete of the Year



**Height:** 5'11 / 180 cm

**Classification:** 3.5

**Date of Birth:** April 12, 1979

**Hometown:** Council Bluffs, Iowa

**College:** Southwest Minnesota State University

## BACKGROUND

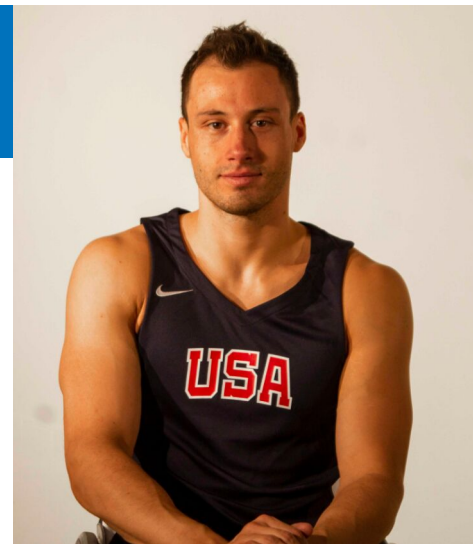
Josh comes from a family of top athletes. His brother, John, went to the University of Nebraska and plays professional basketball for various club teams in Europe since 2005. Sister, Elisha, played professional basketball in Spain from 2007-2010 after an illustrious career at Oral Roberts. Turek was named to First Team All-American in 2000 and 2002 and has won multiple MVP and top scorer awards in European Competition. He is a three time Paralympian, two-time gold medalist at Parapan American Games, World Championships silver medalist and gold medalist at 2016 Rio Paralympics. His proudest moment is winning gold at Rio.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of John and Luellen Turek
- He is recently married to Jarolon De Leon Reyes
- His siblings are Ulette, Rachell, John and Elisha

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2014 and 2018 IWBF World Championships, Silver medal
- 2018 IWBF All-World Team
- 2014 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2018 and 2019 European Champions Cup
- 2013 Bogota World Championship Qualifier, Gold medal
- 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2013 and 2017 America's Cup, Gold medal



**Height:** 6'1 / 185 cm

**Classification:** 2.5

**Date of Birth:** August 2, 1991

**Hometown:** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**College:** University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

## BACKGROUND

At age 16, Williams was hit by a car while riding his bike and the incident left him disabled. While in the hospital, Chris Okon, a player from the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, came to visit him and gave Williams the phone number to a local coach who helped him start playing four months after his accident. He played collegiately at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. One of his favorite quotes is, "People say not to bite off more than you can chew, I would rather choke on greatness than nibble on mediocrity."

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Son of Carson and Lisa
- Has five siblings, Heather, Elizabeth, David, Lorna and Alex

# TOYOTA U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER



No.	Name	Hometown	Ht.	Classification	Date of Birth
7	Josie Aslakson	Jordan, MN	5'4"	1	9/14/1995
4	Megan Blunk	Gig Harbor, WA	5'3"	3	9/12/1989
23	Abigail Dunkin	New Braunfels, TX	5'10"	3.5	11/24/1995
21	Kaitlyn Eaton	Houston, TX	4'8"	1.5	8/17/1994
15	Rose Hollerman	Elysian, MN	5'8"	3.5	12/25/1995
5	Darlene Hunter	Commerce Township, MI	5'4"	1	4/16/1982
1	Alejandra Ibanez	Murray, UT	5'6"	2.5	1/26/2000
43	Bailey Moody	Alpharetta, GA	5'6"	4	11/16/2001
12	Becca Murray	Germantown, WI	5'2"	2	3/15/1990
55	Courtney Ryan	San Diego, CA	5'4"	2	9/21/1990
8	Natalie Schneider	Crete, NE	5'9"	4.5	2/11/1983
24	Lyndsey Zurbrugg	Portland, OR	5'4"	2.5	9/22/1998

## U.S. WOMEN'S STAFF:

Head Coach: Trooper Johnson, San Lorenzo, California

Assistant Coach: Amy Spangler, Madison, Wisconsin

Assistant Coach: Adam Kramer, Northport, Alabama

Team Leader: Kearstin Gehlhausen, Whitewater, Wisconsin

Medical Staff: Karla Francon, Lexington, Kentucky



# TROOPER JOHNSON

Lawrence “Trooper” Johnson has been in the sport of wheelchair basketball longer than most. Having first been a player, U.S. Paralympian, and now coach, Trooper’s list of accomplishments is longer than most. In 2016, Johnson was inducted into the NWBA Hall of Fame for his numerous achievements and is considered the best long-range shooter in NWBA history.

Johnson first found the sport of wheelchair basketball after being involved in a car accident at the age of 17 that left him paralyzed. After that, wheelchair basketball was all he knew. He was a member of the Men’s National Team for 15 years. He competed in four Paralympic games, two world championships, 10 NWBA all-star games and is a two-time MVP and NWBA National Champion. He also assisted Team USA in winning nine gold medals and one silver medal in international play.

From all star player to all-star coach, Johnson went on to be the assistant coach for the 2013 USA Men’s Junior National team. Then he quickly took on the head coaching role for the Women’s Junior National Team in 2013. The women’s team won gold in the Youth Parapan American Games under his supervision. In 2015 he was the assistant coach for the US. Women’s National team that won gold in Toronto at the ParaPan American Games and another gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympics. He was named the head coach of the U.S. Women’s National Team in 2017.



He is also the Youth Sports Program Coordinator for Bay Area Outreach and Recreational Programs and a member of the National Advisory Board for Positive Coaching Alliance with a mission to empower young people through sports. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Northern California Olympians & Paralympians.

With so much experience, Johnson shares his story and gives presentations all across the country. His presentations are interactive and challenge students to truly understand people in wheelchairs and their unique abilities. He also tries to break down stereotypes as well as offer discussion in relation to drug and alcohol prevention.

Johnson is the iconic symbol in the NWBA logo. He and his wife, Megan, have a son Max, and triplets, Hank, Sam and Sophia. They all reside in San Lorenzo, California

# AMY SPANGLER



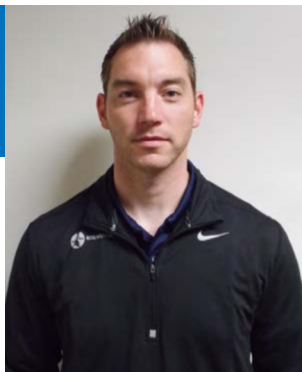
Assistant Coach Amy Spangler may be new to the Women's National team in 2016, but she is not new to the international game. Her coaching career dates all the way back to 1999.

Spangler attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where she obtained her Bachelor of Science- Education in Special Education. Being at UW, which happens to be a traditional powerhouse in wheelchair basketball, allowed Spangler to truly begin her coaching career in the sport. She began helping with the summer wheelchair basketball camps where she would supervise and coach campers.

Spangler fell in love with these instructional camps with young players who were eager and excited to grow as athletes. She became the lead instructor for similar camps all across the world. From 1998-2002 she led camps in Champaign, Illinois; Seattle, Washington; Tokyo, Japan; and Sapporo, Japan.

At all of these specific camps she instructed skill sessions, came up with drills and coached games that followed.

Not only was Spangler running camps, she then became the head coach for the Mad City Junior Wheelchair Basketball Team in Madison, Wisconsin, a grade school team. Shortly after beginning her coaching reign with the Badgers she was then selected in 2001 to be an assistant coach for the U.S. Women's National Team. She was an assistant for Team USA until 2004 and then went on to continue her career in Special Education and serve as the President of the Mad City Wheelchair Sports program until 2014.



# ADAM KRAMER

Adam Kramer joins the U.S. Women's National Team as an assistant coach for the first time starting in 2018, but has a long history in the sport. The 33-year-old from Northport, Alabama, has been coaching wheelchair basketball for over 10 years.

After graduating high school, Kramer took a job in business management and soon realized that it was not the field for him. While business requires considering profits and money as the most important thing, Kramer wanted to be in an industry where he could nurture relationships with others.

It was at this point that he decided to change his career path and get a degree in coaching. He was able to obtain an internship in adaptive sports with the Milwaukee Heat and after a few months, he knew that this was the industry he wanted to build a career.

Kramer has been an assistant coach for three seasons with the University of Alabama women's team and then became an assistant coach with their men's team. After many years of volunteering with the U.S. Women's National Team, he was named assistant coach. Kramer played basketball, soccer and baseball growing up. His hobbies include anything that has to do with the outdoors and traveling.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 IWBF U25 World Championships, Gold medal
- 2018 IWBF World Championships, 6th place
- 2016 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2014-2016 NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- 2014 NWBA Varsity National Champion
- 2009 NWBA Prep National Champion
- 2017 America's Cup, Silver medal



**Height:** 5'4 / 162 cm

**Classification:** 1.0

**Date of Birth:** September 14, 1995

**Hometown:** Jordan, Minnesota

**College:** University of Texas-Arlington

## BACKGROUND

Aslakson suffered a spinal cord injury after a car accident at the age of five. She started playing wheelchair basketball at age 13. She was recruited to a prep team when the varsity coach noticed her trying other sports at a recreational rehab facility. Aslakson has won a national championship in every NWBA division she's been apart of (prep, varsity, and collegiate). She loves the sport, the people, and how both have shown her how to be better on and off the court. Aslakson's proudest moment was winning national championships with her junior and collegiate teams. She wants to be remembered as a positive, hardworking teammate and a creative player.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Theodore Aslakson and Becky Miller
- Hobbies include writing, film, art, and traveling
- Ideal super powers: healing and teleportation

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### Wheelchair Basketball:

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2014 IWBF World Championships, 4th place
- 2015 Parapan American games, Gold medal

### Paralympic Canoe:

- 2014 Paralympic Canoe World Championships
  - Women's K1 TA- 4th place
  - Women's V1 TA- 4th place
- 2013 Paralympic Canoe World Championships
  - Women's K1 TA- Silver medal
  - Women's V1 TA- Silver medal



**Height:** 5'3/158cm

**Classification:** 3.0

**Date of Birth:** September 12, 1989

**Hometown:** Gig Harbor, Washington

**College:** University of Illinois

## BACKGROUND

Megan Blunk was in a motorcycle accident where she broke her back and became paralyzed from the waist down. She began playing wheelchair basketball at 19 years old. Blunk is a two-sport athlete that competed internationally for the U.S. Paralympic Canoe Team and won two silver medals at the 2013 World Championships. She made her Paralympic Games debut at the 2016 Rio Paralympics in wheelchair basketball.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Wendy Ricketts and David Blunk and her step mother Jackie Blunk
- She has four sisters, Kelci, Shanae, Monique and Alaisa



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, Gold medal
- 2019 IWBF U25 World Championships, Gold Medal
- 2019 IWBF U25 All-World Team
- 2018 IWBF World Championships, 6th place
- 2017 and 2019 NWBA Intercollegiate Nationals, runner-up
- 2016 and 2018 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- Two-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2017 America's Cup, Silver medal



**Height:** 5' 10" / 177 cm

**Classification:** 3.5

**Date of Birth:** November 24, 1995

**Hometown:** New Braunfels, Texas

**College:** University of Texas - Arlington

## BACKGROUND

Abby Dunkin underwent procedures that resulted in the use of a wheelchair. Dunkin discovered wheelchair basketball from a Youtube video of the 2012 London Paralympics and started playing as a junior in high school. Her first tryout for the U.S. Women's National Team was in January 2015. In March of 2018 she helped her college team, the Lady Movin' Mavs of the University of Texas at Arlington clinch their second title at the NWBA Intercollegiate National Championships. In the short time that she has been playing, Abby has made incredible strides and has proven that she has what it takes to play at the elite level. Wheelchair basketball has brought Dunkin lifelong friendships from all over the world. Her proudest moment was winning gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympics. Dunkin wants to be remembered as someone that was more than just an athlete, and someone that brought a little more love into the world.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Steve Dunkin and Melissa and Jim Daugherty
- Has a younger sister Alex Dunkin, and siblings Adrienne Weaver and Jimmy Daugherty
- Hobbies include music, travel, writing, and finding new coffee shops

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 IWBF World Championships, 6th place
- Three-time NWBA Intercollegiate All-American Team
- 2017 America's Cup, Silver medal



**Height:** 4'8 / 166 cm

**Classification:** 1.5

**Date of Birth:** August 17, 1994

**Hometown:** Houston, TX

**College:** University of Illinois

## BACKGROUND

Eaton has sacral agenesis and is missing her entire sacrum. She began playing wheelchair basketball when she was a high school sophomore in 2010. Eaton started playing because she wanted to be an athlete. She ended up falling in love with the game and never looked back. Her proudest achievement on the court is making the National Team, a goal she had since 2011. She also enjoys coaching basketball, serving as the assistant coach for the University of Illinois women's wheelchair basketball team. Eaton would like to be remembered as someone who works hard to accomplish their goals and as someone who can always make others laugh.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Jill Eaton
- Has an older brother Josh and a twin sister Kelsey
- Hobbies include hanging out with friends, and watching any sport on TV (mainly football, basketball and baseball)



**Height:** 5' 8" / 172 cm

**Classification:** 3.5

**Date of Birth:** December 25, 1995

**Hometown:** Elysian, Minnesota

**College:** University of Texas-  
Arlington

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, 4th place
- 2018 IWBF World Championships, 6th place
- 2011 and 2019 IWBF U25 World Championships, Gold medal
- 2009 IWBF U20 World Championships, Gold medal
- 2016 and 2018 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2009 NWBA Prep National Champion
- 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2014 NWBA Varsity National Champion
- Three-time NWBA Varsity MVP
- Three-time NWBA Intercollegiate Player of the Year
- 2011 and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- Five-time Intercollegiate All-American Team

## BACKGROUND

Rose Hollermann was involved in a car accident that took the lives of her two older brothers and left her with an incomplete spinal cord injury. She started playing basketball at the Courage Center in Minnesota when she was seven years old. Hollermann was the leading scorer in the gold medal game against Canada at the 2015 ParaPan American Games with 37 points. A multi-sport athlete, Hollermann has also participated in swimming, sled hockey, archery, track & field, and cross-country skiing.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of John and Michelle Hollermann
- Has three brothers: Shane, Ethan and Seth
- Hobbies include fishing, hunting, basketball, sled hockey and listening to music

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, 4th place
- 2010 IWBF World Championships, Gold medal
- 2018 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- 2016 NWBA Division II National Champion
- 2011 and 2016 NWBA Women's National Champion
- 2011 and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal



**Height:** 5'4/160cm

**Classification:** 1.0

**Date of Birth:** April 16, 1982

**Hometown:** Commerce Township,  
Michigan

**College:** University of Arizona  
(undergraduate), Texas Women's  
University (PhD)

## BACKGROUND

Darlene started playing wheelchair basketball in college in 2000. Before that, she was a track and field athlete that competed at the 1999 and 2001 World Championships. Darlene enjoys mentoring the new generation of players on the National Team. In addition to playing wheelchair basketball for Team USA, she works for The University of Texas at Arlington as Associate Professor in Practice in Social Work for schools. She is the regional coordinator for veterans and community programs at Texas Regional Para Sport and is the chair of the Women's Division of the NWBA.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Julie Sisko and Don Hunter
- Has a younger brother, Scott Hunter
- Hobbies include reading, playing Nintendo switch, and watching movies
- Her ideal superpower is invisibility



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 IWBF U25 World Championships, Gold medal
- 2018 IWBF World Championships, 6th place
- 2018 NWBA Junior Division All-Tournament Team
- 2014 NWBA Varsity National Championships, runner-up
- 2017 America's Cup, Silver medal



**Height:** 5'6 / 167 cm

**Classification:** 2.5

**Date of Birth:** January 26, 2000

**Hometown:** Murray, Utah

**College:** University of Illinois

## BACKGROUND

Ibanez has arthrogryposis, which is a condition from birth that affects the joints in the lower body, making them extremely stiff. She started playing wheelchair basketball the in the fall of 2013 after meeting the coaches and players of the Utah Rush Varsity team. Currently, she is a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Tiffanie and Sergio Ibanez
- Has six siblings Andrea, Gabe, Isaac, Elizabeth, Brooke, and her twin Elena
- Hobbies include drawing/sketching, rock climbing and reading mystery and crime novels



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Women's U25 World Championships, Gold medal
- 2018 IWBF World Championships, 6th place
- 2019 NWBA Varsity & Women's All-Tournament Team
- 2017 and 2018 NWBA Varsity National Championships, runner-ups
- 2015 NWBA Prep National Champion

**Height:** 5'6 / 167 cm

**Classification:** 4.0

**Date of Birth:** November 16, 2001

**Hometown:** Alpharetta, Georgia

**High School:** Providence Christian Academy

## BACKGROUND

Moody was diagnosed with osteosarcoma at the age of 10, resulting in the amputation of her right leg. Before her cancer diagnosis, Moody played doubleheaders in softball and multiple tennis matches and basketball games. She wears the number 43 in honor of Philip Lutzenkirchen, a former Auburn University football player who died in a drunk driving accident. Moody would like to be remembered for her hard work and integrity both on and off the court.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Patrick and Tiffany Moody
- Siblings: Luke, Emmy, Caleb, and Lexi
- Hobbies include participating in school plays and musicals

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2008 Beijing Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, 4th place
- 2011 IWBF U25 World Championships, Gold medal
- 2010 IWBF World Championships, Gold medal
- 2011 IWBF U25 All-World Team
- 2019 NWBA Women's Division MVP
- 2011 and 2012 NWBA Intercollegiate Player of the Year
- 2007 NWBA Junior National Championships
- 2016, 2018, and 2019 NWBA Women's National Championship
- 2007, 2011, and 2015 Parapan American Games, Gold medal
- 2012, 2013, and 2014 Intercollegiate National Champion



**Height:** 5'2/156cm

**Classification:** 2.0

**Date of Birth:** March 15, 1990

**Hometown:** Germantown, Wisconsin

**College:** University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

## BACKGROUND

Becca Murray has spinal bifida and started playing wheelchair basketball when she was six. Murray continues to play the sport because she loves the game and the team aspect of it. She wants to be remembered as a person who was kind to others and who was accepting of others.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Hobbies include basketball and hanging out with friends and family

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2014 IWBF World Championships, 4th place
- 2014 IWBF World Championships, Player of the Game
- 2015 NWBA Intercollegiate National Champion
- Seven NWBA Division I First All-Tournament Teams



**Height:** 5'4/160cm

**Classification:** 2.0

**Date of Birth:** September 21, 1990

**Hometown:** San Diego, California

**College:** University of Alabama

## BACKGROUND

Courtney Ryan suffered a spinal cord injury eight years ago due to a blood clot. Before Ryan's injury she played soccer at the collegiate level. She loved competing and the team atmosphere. After her injury, Ryan started playing wheelchair basketball in San Diego and it was an easy transition from there. On the court, she is proud to be representing USA and playing at the highest level. Off the court, she is proud to have started the only women's wheelchair basketball team in California. Ryan wants to be remembered as a player that always pushed hard and helped her teammates to push to their highest potential.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Kevin and Patti Ryan
- Siblings are Chris and Caitlin Ryan
- Hobbies include traveling with her partner, hand-cycling, and hanging out with her dog
- Ideal superpower: time traveler



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2016 Rio Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2008 Beijing Paralympics, Gold medal
- 2012 London Paralympics, 4th place
- 2010 IWBF World Championships, Gold medal
- 2018 and 2019 NWBA Women's Division Championship Game MVP
- 2011, 2015, 2018, and 2019 NWBA Women's National Champion
- 2011 Parapan American Games, Gold medal

**Height:** 5'9/170cm

**Classification:** 4.5

**Date of Birth:** February 11, 1983

**Hometown:** Crete, Nebraska

**College:** Doane College

## BACKGROUND

Natalie Schneider had osteosarcoma in her distal femur in high school and now has a titanium prosthetic implant. She started playing wheelchair basketball in 2005 and continues to play because she loves to compete and represent the USA. Schneider wants to be remembered as a great athlete and a phenomenal teammate.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Husband Daniel Schneider
- Daughters are Rowan (5), Hannah (3), and Tori (1)
- Daughter of Dennis and Nancy Nelsen
- Siblings are Dana Stark, Daryl Nelsen, and Chrystal Gard
- Hobbies include going to Nebraska football games, traveling, and playing lots of basketball



## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 IWBF U25 World Championships, Gold medal
- 2018 IWBF World Championships, 6th place
- 2017 America's Cup, Silver medal



**Height:** 5'4 / 162 cm

**Classification:** 2.5

**Date of Birth:** September 22, 1998

**Hometown:** Portland, Oregon

**College:** University of Wisconsin,  
Whitewater

## BACKGROUND

Zurbrugg has a spinal cord injury due to an undiagnosed tethered cord. She played six years of able-bodied basketball before she was injured in 2012. The 2013-2014 season was her first year of wheelchair basketball in the NWBA Junior division. Zurbrugg's most memorable game is from the 2017 America's Cup, where she went 6-for-7 from the field in the quarterfinal game versus Brazil.

## PERSONAL NOTES

- Daughter of Laura and Chris
- Has one brother, Collin
- Hobbies include piano, beekeeping, taxidermy, and sleeping

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