

ATHLETE BIOS

Patrick McDonald is 50 years old and a devoted husband and father to his wife, Carrie, and his two kids, Andie and Kalen. He grew up around sports, loved being active, and then, when he was older, enlisted in the military. He was stationed in South Korea in 1991 when he experienced an accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down. This did not stop him from participating in sports and joining the Paralympic team. As a Paralympic Winter Games athlete in Wheelchair Curling, Patrick placed fourth in the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and fifth in 2014.

Paralympian Patrick McDonald not only beat his limitations in Wheelchair Curling—he also beat cancer. In 2018, he is taking a break from the upcoming Paralympics, but he won't be prevented from staying active in sports. He is getting back in there and coaching his daughter's curling team. Patrick McDonald stated, "I get to live through the team, and sometimes being on this side of the glass is more stressful than being on the other side of the glass." He hopes to win a medal at both the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games and one day make the Paralympic shooting team.

<https://www.teamusa.org/Athletes/MC/Patrick-McDonald>

Penny Greely is 46 years old, works in Wisconsin as a case worker, and plays as a Paralympic Wheelchair Curler in the winter and a Paralympic Sitting Volleyball player in the summer. Penny is married with one son and loves to fish, swim, and golf. She joined the Team USA family in 2004, when she joined the Sit Volleyball team and won the bronze medal at the 2004 Summer Paralympics. She continued to participate in the Paralympics, and in 2014, placed fifth as a Wheelchair Curler. Today, Penny and her team are going for gold in this year's 2018 Winter Paralympics.

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-curling/athletes/Penny-Greely>

Jack Wallace, a 19-year-old studying Biomedical Engineering at the College of New Jersey, lost his right leg in a 2008 boating accident. A year later, he was introduced to Sled Hockey while attending Camp No Limits in Maine. He fell in love and went on to join a local New Jersey team. In 2013, he participated in the U.S. National Development Sled Hockey Team. In 2016, he was given the chance to compete on the 2018 Paralympic team. His dream is to become a pilot. Just like any other person, he has dreams, hobbies, and a hard-working mentality to always push forward no matter the circumstance.

<https://www.teamusa.org/para-sled-hockey/athletes/Jack-Wallace>

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Mia Zutter is 18 years old and was diagnosed with Stargardt disease, a degenerative eye condition, in 2011. Mia is studying Psychology at the College of Saint Scholastica and competes on the ski team. She enjoys hiking, figure skating, swimming, and photography. When she is not competing, Mia aspires to work with visually-impaired students. Her role models are US cross-country skier Jessica Diggins and US Para rower and cross-country skier Oksana Masters. This is her very first Paralympic games, and she is looking forward to her events in the Para Biathlon and Para Cross-Country on the Nordic Skiing Team.

<https://www.teamusa.org/para-nordic-skiing/athletes/Mia-Zutter>

Andrew Kurka is a 26-year-old Paralympic Alpine Skier. He enjoys fishing, cycling, hunting, cooking, spending time with family, wrestling, American football, and bodybuilding. He began skiing at the age of 15. When he was 13, he broke his back in a four-wheel motorbike accident, but this did not stop him from participating in sports and starting a life for himself. (Today, Andrew works as a radio DJ and host for Classic Country 100.9, a radio station in Alaska.) He was told by his doctors that there would be limits to what he could do following his accident, but he was determined to prove them wrong. After three months of training, he was able to go to his office, take off his leg brace, and do a full somersault. Andrew lives the motto, “Life’s short, live it fast.” He is determined to win a medal at the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletes/biographies>

Amy Purdy is 38 years old and a Paralympic Snowboarder. At the age of 15, she took up snowboarding. At 19, Amy was rushed to the hospital due to bacterial meningitis and was in a coma for three weeks. The doctors had to amputate both her legs below her knee, but she was determined to find a way to continue snowboarding after her illness. By age 30, she began competing professionally in Para Snowboarding. A philosophy that she lives day by day is, “Never allow defeat to defeat you. You become truly disabled when you choose not to overcome your obstacles.” Amy won the bronze medal at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games and plans to win in the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games as well. She appeared on the television series, “The Amazing Race” and “Dancing with the Stars.” She also wrote a book titled, “On My Own Two Feet: From Losing My Legs to Learning the Dance of Life.”

<https://www.paralympic.org/asp/lib/theasp.asp?pageid=8937&sportid=581&personid=1150774&refreshauto=1>