

Practice with Purpose

Inspiring Athletes

Bethany Hamilton

Bethany was born into a family of surfers in Kauai, Hawaii. She had a knack for surfing from an early age and began winning competitions when she was eight years old. In 2003, Bethany was attacked by a shark. Her left arm was torn off just below her shoulder. Bethany was determined to get back on her surfboard. She taught herself how to surf with one arm and went back to surfing competitively. In 2004 she won the ESPY (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) Award for Best Comeback Athlete.

Diana Golden

Diana was born in Massachusetts and started skiing when she was five years old. When she was 12, she lost a leg to bone cancer. Right after her surgery, Diana asked the doctors if she would be able to ski again. She was back on the slopes in six months. Diana later won many competitions as part of the U.S. Disabled Ski Team. She also won two gold medals at the Paralympic Games.

Kerri Morgan

Kerri was only one year old when a virus attacked her spinal cord, leaving her permanently impaired from the chest down. After graduating from college, she began playing quadriplegic rugby, a sport similar to soccer and football. The sport is co-ed, but few women ever play. Kerri was determined to change that. In 2009, she became the first female member of the U.S. quadriplegic rugby team.

Jean Driscoll

Jean was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a disease called spina bifida that made her unable to walk. When she was 15, she began using a wheelchair—and fell in love with wheelchair sports. She was recruited by the University of Illinois to play wheelchair basketball for them, and also joined the school's wheelchair track and field team. She won the Boston Marathon in 1990, and then followed it with seven more wins. She was the first eight-time winner of the marathon.