



IDAHO

PRESS RELEASE

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Challenged Athletes Foundation Women's Handcycling Team to Race at ASWD Twilight Criterium this Weekend

Paralympic and Olympic Medalists, World Champions, National Champions planning to compete throughout the weekend

BOISE – July 11, 2019 – The [Challenged Athletes Foundation \(CAF\)](#) Women's Handcycling Team will compete in the new handcycle race at the *2019 ASWD Twilight Criterium* on Saturday. The competitive CAF team roster includes Paralympic Medalists, World Cup Champions and Paracycling National Champions. Many of these elite handcyclists are training to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 US Paralympic Team. The team is coached by CAF mentor, [Carlos Moleda](#), a two-time National Handcycling Champion and a four-time Hawaii Ironman Champion. A \$5,500 prize purse is on the line in the handcycle race through funds raised by CAF-Idaho.

"While our team may be led by true champions, the essence of the team is about teamwork, sportsmanship, selflessness, and sacrifice," said **Carlos Moleda, Head Coach, CAF Women's Handcycling Team**. "Our main objective in working as a team is to encourage and inspire others, with a focus on getting more women on bikes and involved in sports. These women are ambassadors for athletes with disabilities on so many levels, and for women's cycling and women's sports overall."

Through a unique partnership this weekend, the 2017 and 2018 defending champions of the Twilight Criterium women's pro race, Team Sho-Air TWENTY20 UCI Professional Cycling Team, is riding in support of the Challenged Athletes Foundation. In 2011, the program was the first American UCI team to recruit a paracycling athlete to the roster of a professional squad and has continued to support physically challenged athletes. After a medal-winning success in London their athletes went on to repeat in Rio. The team is now focused on Tokyo 2020. CAF Athlete and Paralympic Medalist, [Jamie Whitmore](#), has been an integral part of the team program for more than five years.

"It's an honor to be representing Challenged Athletes Foundation and to help shine a light on the work they are doing here in Idaho and in the sport of cycling," said **Nicola Cranmer, Team Founder and General Manager, Sho-Air TWENTY20 UCI Professional Cycling Team**. "Our team principles directly align with the Challenged Athletes Foundation in that we wholeheartedly believe involvement in sports at any level increases self-esteem, encourages independence, and enhances quality of life. CAF's focus on providing individuals with physical challenges greater access to sport provides the very foundation to build on in this regard."

Challenged Athletes Foundation Women's Handcycling Team Roster – contact for athlete bios.

Name: [Oksana Masters](#), Born in Ukraine. Now lives in Louisville, KY

Sports: Paracycling, Nordic Skiing, Rowing

Key Achievements: Current USA Paracycling National Champion, 4x Paralympian (2012,2014,2016,2018), 2x Gold - 8x Paralympic Medalist, 9x World Champion

Name: [Alicia Dana](#), Putney, VT

Sports: Paracycling, Monoskiing, Wheelchair Basketball

Key Achievements: US National Team since 2011, 2x Paralympian – Silver Paralympic Medalist, 2014 World Champion in the Time Trial, numerous National Championship and World Cup titles.

Name: [Gabrielle Platt](#), Tulsa, OK

Sports: Paracycling, Wheelchair Basketball

Key Achievements: Silver and Bronze Medalist at Paracycling National Championships

Name: [Lera Deoderlein](#), Born in Russia. Now lives in San Diego, CA

Sports: Paracycling, Sled Hockey, Swimming

Key Achievements: Member of Phoenix Coyotes and San Diego Ducks Sled Hockey Teams

Name: [Valette Britt](#), Colorado Springs, CO

Sports: Paracycling

Key Achievements: Air Force Veteran, Redlands Cycling Classic participant

Name: [Danielle Watson](#), Long Island, NY

Sports: Paracycling, Monoskiing, Wheelchair Basketball

Key Achievements: NYC Marathon finisher

Name: [Edie Perkins](#), Los Angeles, CA

Sports: Paracycling

Key Achievements: NYC Marathon finisher

The Challenged Athletes Foundation launched [CAF-Idaho](#) this past May to provide Idahoans with physical challenges further access to sports. CAF-Idaho offers a year-round grant program for eligible individuals with physical challenges to apply for adaptive sports equipment, training and competition expenses. Since its introduction, CAF-Idaho has provided grants to athletes who reside in all corners of the state of Idaho and participate in a wide variety of sports from alpine skiing, wheelchair basketball and cycling, to rock climbing, track and field, triathlon and wheelchair rugby. Without this critical funding, participation in sports would be unattainable due to insurance practices that rarely cover these items and the high cost of adaptive equipment required to get in the game. In addition, CAF is looking to expand their Operation Rebound (for injured veterans and first responders) and mentorship opportunities across the state of Idaho.

Special thanks to the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation for their partnership and support of Challenged Athletes Foundation-Idaho, and to team sponsor, [Ashworth Awards](#).

About Challenged Athletes Foundation – Idaho

The Challenged Athletes Foundation® (CAF) is a world leader in helping people with physical challenges lead active, healthy lifestyles. CAF believes that participation in physical activity at any level increases self-esteem, encourages independence and enhances quality of life. Since 1994, more than \$110 million has been raised and over 26,000 funding requests from people with physical challenges in all 50 states and 70 countries have been satisfied. Additionally, CAF's outreach efforts impact another 60,000 individuals each year. In 2019, CAF launched a new initiative (CAF-Idaho) to provide Idahoans with physical challenges further access to sports. Whether it's through adaptive sports camps and clinics, a \$2,500 grant for a handcycle, helping underwrite a carbon fiber running foot not covered by insurance, or arranging enthusiastic encouragement from a mentor who has triumphed over a similar challenge, CAF's mission is clear: give opportunities and support to those with the desire to live active, athletic lifestyles. To learn more, visit challengedathletes.org/idaho

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