

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **The Hartford And Local Firms Will Donate Six Sport Wheelchairs To Cincinnati's Recreation Commission On Friday, June 18** *Business professionals will try wheelchair basketball, sit volleyball and wheelchair races during The Hartford's Paralympic Experience*

**WHAT:** The [Cincinnati Recreation Commission's](#) Division of Therapeutic Recreation will receive six new sport wheelchairs during a Friday, June 18 event organized by The Hartford, [the founding sponsor of U.S. Paralympics](#). The Hartford partnered with Staples, TriHealth, Anthem, Midwest Benefits, Sedgwick CMS, and Staffmark to purchase the six sport wheelchairs, which will help provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities within the Cincinnati community.

Also, nearly 100 local business professionals will spin, sprint and spike as they compete against each other in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair races, and sit volleyball. Local professionals will be participating in The Hartford's Paralympic Experience, an immersion event in which able-bodied individuals experience what it's like to overcome a physical limitation to achieve success. Before they battle it out, they will hear U.S. Paralympians [Jeremy Lade](#) and [Brent Rasmussen](#), share how they have achieved success by focusing on abilities, not limitations.

**WHEN:** Wheelchair donation ceremony: 11:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Friday, June 18  
Paralympic sports competition: 9-11:15 a.m. and 2:30-4:15 p.m., Friday, June 18  
**Reporters can join the games, too.**

**WHERE:** University of Cincinnati (West Campus), [Campus Recreation Center](#), 2820 Bearcat Way, Cincinnati

**WHO:** The 100 professionals competing in Paralympic sports are employed by these local businesses: Home Depot, the Cincinnati Reds, Staples, Neace-Lukens, the University of Cincinnati, Staffmark, TriHealth, Anthem, and the Kroger Co.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission's Division of Therapeutic Recreation offers inclusive and specialized programs to support people with differing abilities in enjoying sports and recreational activities. The division offers specialized therapeutic summer day camps; recreation programs including dances, teen clubs, sport and fitness programs; adapted sports programming including baseball, football, tennis, and golf; and inclusive youth and adult programs. The division was recognized in 2008 by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association as the 2008 Institution of the Year.

Lade, of Madison, Wis., has represented the United States on the men's wheelchair basketball team at the 2008 and 2004 Paralympic Games. He played for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (UWW) wheelchair basketball team for five years and helped the team win two national championships. He is now the UWW director of wheelchair athletics.

Rasmussen of Omaha, Neb., is a champion in wheelchair softball and sit volleyball. His Nebraska Barons wheelchair softball team won its fifth national championship in 2009. He began playing sit volleyball in 2003 and has been captain of the U.S. Men's Sit Volleyball Team since 2004. He is also president of his mortgage firm, Mortgage Specialists, LLC.

**WHY:** The Hartford designed Friday's event with the City of Cincinnati to raise awareness about the city's programs and services for people with physical disabilities. As part of its U.S. Paralympics sponsorship, [The Hartford](#) holds more than 200 events throughout the nation to raise awareness about Paralympic sports and dispel misconceptions about people with disabilities.

**ON-SITE**

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