

***Where Do I Fit?
Conflicts of Identity and
Recognition For Athletes with
Disabilities Nominated for
ESPN's New ESPY Award
Category Recognizing the Best
Disabled Athlete of the Year***

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Outline

- Athletes with Disabilities in Sport
- Awards and Recognition
- ESPY Award Overview
- Feedback on Best Disabled Athlete ESPY Category
- Identity and Value Analysis
- Recommendations

Athletes with Disabilities in Sport

- Disabled Athletes in Able-bodied Sport (Erik Weihenmayer)
- Disabled Athletes in Disability Sport (Sarah Will)
- Disabled Athletes Transitioned into Able-Bodied Sport from Disability Sport (Marla Runyan)
- Disabled Athletes in BOTH (Marlon Shirley)

Awards and Recognition

- Criteria for Inclusion
 - (Wolff, Fay, Hums, 2000)
- Very Few Recognition Opportunities for Disabled Athletes
- Isolated Categories
- Inspirational and Not Sport Focus

Awards and Recognition

- Laureus World Sports Award -
Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability
(Paralympic Athlete)
- Arete Sports Awards for Courage (Athletes
with Disabilities)

ESPY Award Overview

- Proposed by ESPN and supported by Sport in Society
- Established in 2001
- Rationale at time of Creation
 - Need to Recognize All Athletes with Disabilities in Major Sports Awards Show

ESPY Award Overview

- 2002 ESPY Award
 - Erik Weihenmayer, Rock Climber
 - Sarah Will, Paralympic Skier
 - Steve Pate, Paralympic Quad-Rugby

ESPY Award Overview

- 2003 ESPY Award
 - Marlon Shirley, Paralympic Track
 - Paul Schulte, Paralympic Basketball
 - Margaret Verneer, Paralympic Tennis

Feedback

- 4 Disability Sport Athletes
- 4 Disabled Athletes in Able-bodied Sport
- 2 transitioned into Able-bodied Sport from Disability Sport
- 2 involved in BOTH

Feedback

- Disabled Athletes in Able-Bodied Sport want Able-Bodied Sport Recognition
- Disability Sport Athletes , OK with disability sport recognition, but want recognition based within Sport
- Disabled Athletes involved in BOTH want disability sport recognition for disability sport accomplishments, and able-bodied sport recognition for able-bodied sport accomplishments

Feedback

- “It’s cool in a sense that they are recognizing disabled athletes, but I wonder at the same time -- in my mind I’d rather be recognized as a regular mountain climbing athlete”
- - Erik Weihenmayer

Athlete Feedback

- “While the Paralympics were wonderful, I knew I didn’t really belong there. ”

- Marla Runyon,

“No Finish Line: My Life as I See It”

Identity and Value Analysis

- Relationship to Able-bodied Standards and Disability Sport Standards
- Need to Value Disability Sport Standards

Continuum of Inclusion

- Segregation
- Marginalization
- Legitimatization
- Integration
- Inclusion

Anyone Remember Me?



Surely You Remember Me?



Where Do I Fit?



Where Do I Fit?



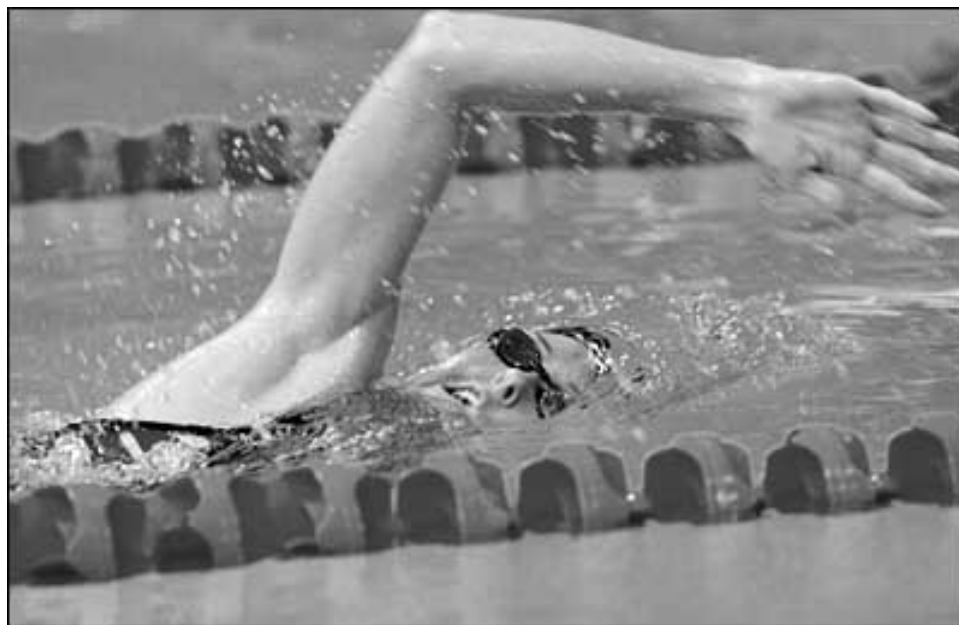
Wait, Wait Where Do I Fit?



How About Me?



Who am I and Where Do I Fit?



Got It Yet?



Anyone Want to Guess?



Hey Ladies, Let Me
Paddle in Here



I Love Speed!



Eureka!



Recommendations For Modifications of ESPY Awards

- Best Disabled Athlete Category for athletes with a disability in Disability Sport
- Each sport Category recognize Able-bodied male, able-bodied female and Disability Sport.
- Athletes with a disability competing in able-bodied sport should be considered in sport categories