

## Local Eugene Man Selected as Co-Captain of National Team For People with Foot Drop Paralysis

*TeamUP co-captains are chosen from across the U.S. to help educate and inspire others who live with the same condition they do to “Get Back Up”*

**Eugene, OR – February 10, 2015** – During a night out of driving around with a friend, Carl Brance’s life changed forever when his truck slid off the road and into a boulder. After surgery, including a spinal fusion to repair the damage to his lumbar vertebrae, Carl was diagnosed with incomplete paraplegia with foot drop paralysis in his left leg. Foot drop, or the paralysis of the lower leg, foot or ankle can severely affect mobility. However, Carl has gotten back up, and has recently been appointed as co-captain to the first and only national team of people with foot drop paralysis, Allard USA’s TeamUP.

Carl says, “After my surgery, I wore a plastic boot for two years. Despite having my family’s and friends’ support, I felt awkward and different. Then I found my current brace and it was love at first sight. Becoming a co-captain of TeamUP means I can share my story with other people with foot drop in hopes of inspiring them to get back up.”

Each of the 12 TeamUP co-captains live with paralysis in one or both of their lower legs, and each have overcome their mobility challenges with technologically advanced, carbon fiber orthotic devices made by Allard USA, known as the ToeOFF® family of braces.

A college student at the time, Carl found the ToeOFF and loved his brace so much that he changed his course of study to prosthetics and orthotics and would begin working for Allard USA as a District Manager, able to speak to patients with foot drop from his first-hand experience.

The TeamUP co-captains’ participation in public education efforts and athletic events support its Get Back UP Today movement, which is designed to encourage others with foot drop and other mobility issues to take back their lives.

Among the causes for the paralysis associated with foot drop are spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease (CMT) and many other very common conditions. Meet the TeamUP co-captains and learn more about their efforts to help others overcome foot drop at: [www.GetBackUPToday.com](http://www.GetBackUPToday.com).