



For Immediate Release

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National Para-Cyclist Champion Competes With Debilitating Paralysis

A world-class para-cyclist seeks Paralympic Gold in Charlotte

Winston-Salem, NC – May 2016 – This retired New York State Trooper and former IRONMAN competitor with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) competes this week in the upcoming hold her back from setting her sights on winning the Volkswagen Masters & Para-cycling Road Race, and then the Olympics.

Five years ago, after feeling dizzy and having balancing issues, Jill was diagnosed with MS. Along with these and other symptoms she also experienced weakness in her left arm and was left with a condition called foot drop. Foot drop is a condition in which a person experiences a weakness or paralysis in their foot or ankle that prohibits them from lifting the front part of their foot. Inevitably, a person's gait is affected where they have to compensate for this loss of mobility by over extending their hip muscles in order to not drag their foot.

Not shaken by these events, but strengthened by them, Jill refused to let up and continued to compete in her next IRONMAN competition. Jill says that she "... can only change what she has control of." She knew that if she wanted to continue to compete at a high level she needed a reliable and sturdy leg brace to help her to cycle and run. She discovered a dynamic response, carbon fiber orthotic brace, like the ones made by Allard USA and currently wears Allard's BlueROCKER and ToeOFF AFO braces. These braces have stabilized her so that her mobility has improved and has allowed her to continue to compete at a high level, winning the title of US National Para-Cyclist Champion leading Jill to represent the United States at the Para-Cycling World Championship where she received a silver medal in the road race.

This Week, Jill is competing in the Volkswagen Masters & Para-cycling Road National Championships here in the Triad. Although she is continually challenged by symptoms of

MS, she is determined to show others that life doesn't end when the unexpected happens, it just gives you an opportunity to Get Back UP even stronger.

Following the competition this week, Jill will continue to train on the Road to Rio by competing in the final time trials happening in Charlotte the first week of July. In addition to her Olympic dreams, Jill is also part of another team of incredible members who believe in getting back UP. TeamUP – the first national team brought together to raise awareness of Foot Drop - was started by Greensboro resident Beth Deloria, who also suffers from foot drop due to a spinal cord injury. It is this group of 14 people from across the country, who have come together to overcome obstacles in their individual lives and to be the beacon of hope for so many others who are struggling to find answers in theirs.

For more information about TeamUp and the Get Back UP movement, please visit:

www.GetBackUpToday.com

www.facebook.com/getbackuptoday

www.allardusa.com

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About Allard USA

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