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Olympic Hopeful Is Selected As Member of National Team for People with Foot Drop Paralysis

TeamUP members 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"

Colorado Springs, CO – January 15, 2016 – As a member of the United States Paralympic Cycling Team, Billy Lister never imagined that his life would turn out the way it has. Billy's life up until this point has been filled with unexpected occurrences when it came to his health. Right at the prime of his teen years, he was diagnosed with a rare and acute brain abnormality known as Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) which resulted in surgery. Although the surgery was a success, he started experiencing swelling on his brain. This swelling led to a rapid loss of function to the entire left side of his body.

Billy is now joining the ranks of an incredible group of 13 other individuals (both athletes and non-athletes) as a part of TeamUP – a group dedicated to raising awareness about their Get Back UP Today movement, which encourages others with foot drop paralysis to overcome mobility issues and take back their lives.

According to Billy, "What's so amazing about becoming a part of this team is knowing that we have all been beaten down by life, but what connects us is that we all have an unrelenting fervor for life and an unwillingness to ever give up."

Although Billy made remarkable strides to get his functionality back, at the age of 17 he had another major set-back. He suffered a stroke. The stroke caused this once active young adult to lose his ability to perform even the simplest of tasks such as typing on a keyboard, brushing his teeth and even walking. Due to the potential dangers of having additional surgeries performed, Billy was advised to allow his condition to take its course in order for his doctors to fully understand the extent of his impairment. The symptoms associated with his stroke eventually subsided, but left his entire left side neurologically paralyzed.

One might think this would be enough for someone who has been an athlete all of his life to hang up their hopes of competing on a national level. "I was only surviving life, I wasn't living it at this time." said Lister. He knew that this was a defining moment but it was not going to dictate his future.

Today, Billy is on the road to the 2016 Paralympic games in Rio de Janeiro. How he got here is not by mistake. Billy fought through his fears and limitations and got on a bike for the first time 12 years after he suffered from his stroke. That same tenacity led to him fully dedicating himself to the sport and competing on a grand scale. "I was living small for such a long time after my diagnosis (trying to hide my disability from others). There came a time in my life when I realized I could live BIG and I've been living a life that is infallible ever since." says Billy.

Billy can also attest that it wasn't just his strong will that helped him gain the confidence to get on a bike but it was also because as a young man with a disability he had to rely on advanced technology to assist him with his mobility. Through the assistance of the dynamic response, carbon fiber orthotic ToeOFF® brace made by Allard USA, Billy was able to experience just about anything another person his age could, even playing soccer.

Among the causes for the paralysis associated with foot drop are partial foot, cerebral palsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease (CMT), spinal cord injury and many other conditions.

Meet Billy Lister and his fellow TeamUP members and learn more about their efforts to help others overcome foot drop paralysis by visiting:

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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