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Members of Only National Team with Foot Drop Headed to Rio

Competitors aspired to reach their ultimate goal of competing in the Paralympics despite handicap

Rockaway, NJ- July 3, 2016 – Each of these competitors had one goal in mind – to reach Rio for the summer Paralympics. Following their Paralympic trials on July 2nd in Charlotte, it was announced that **Jamie Whitmore, Jill Walsh** and **Billy Lister** have all secured their roster spots to compete in the Rio Games on the U.S. Paralympic Cycling Team.

These competitors have never shied away from challenges: Jamie survived cancer, Jill is living with Multiple Sclerosis, and Billy suffered a stroke. As a result, something they all have in common is that they each live with a potentially debilitating condition called Foot Drop Paralysis, and they each found a brace that allowed them to continue to pursue their Olympic goals. Today, they are a part of TeamUP – a group of 14 inspiring people who all wear the dynamic response, carbon fiber orthotic device made by Allard USA. Each of these individuals is dedicated to raising awareness about advances in the treatment of foot drop in the hopes of helping others regain their mobility. These three athletes have overcome every obstacle in their way to achieve their dream to represent Team USA in Rio.

Jamie Whitmore finished 1st in 33:28 in the Women's C3 cycling category.

Jill Walsh finished 1st in 27:51 in the Women's T2 cycling category.

Billy Lister finished 1st in 31:29 in the Men's C1 cycling category.

About Allard USA:

Allard USA is a subsidiary of Allard International, recognized worldwide as a leader of innovative orthotic devices, privately owned by Peter Allard and based in Helsingborg, Sweden. Allard USA is committed to working together with Orthotic and Prosthetic facilities and medical professionals throughout North America to offer innovative orthotic solutions that will help improve function and quality of life for individuals with physical challenges.

About Foot Drop Paralysis:

Foot Drop or “Drop Foot” is a prognosis that millions of people live with but often goes under-treated because it is the result of other more serious conditions including Multiple Sclerosis, Stroke, Spinal Cord injury and Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disorder, to name a few. Foot drop not only causes extreme weakness and/or paralysis in the foot, ankle and/or leg, but because a person’s mobility is impaired it makes the simple act of walking or other physical activity a constant dangerous situation.

About TeamUP:

TeamUP is an alliance of 14 co-captains who have reclaimed their mobility thanks to the ToeOFF brace made by Allard USA. Each member has Foot Drop to varying degrees in one or both legs from a variety of physical diagnoses. They have all overcome enormous odds and are now champions in their efforts to raise awareness, provide pertinent information and instill renewed confidence in others.