READING ACTIVITY

Read these interesting, amazing, and actual stories about people with special needs who made their dreams come true: they became professional sportsmen and even participate in the Para-Olympics Games!

After reading these texts, do the activities below.

Jessica Long - Swimming

Thirteen-time Paralympic swimming champion Jessica Long speaks to BBC Sport and describes how winning her first medal, aged 12, was "insane".

Long, who is now 27, was adopted from Russia as a baby, and had both legs amputated below the knee having been born with fibular hemimelia.

The second-most decorated Paralympian in US history, recalls her past and says she will "take herself back to that little Russian girl who believed she could do anything" as she prepares for the 2020 Games in Tokyo.



Melissa Stockwell – Para-triathlon

Para-triathlete Melissa Stockwell says her legacy as an athlete will be to inspire young girls with disabilities to take up sport and compete at the highest level.

The three-time Para-triathlon world champion, who was a second lieutenant in United States Army Transportation Corps, became first American female soldier to lose a limb in active combat, in roadside bomb in Iraq.

She says: "Maybe there's a 10-year-old girl who just lost her leg and doesn't know what she can do with her life and she turns on the TV or looks on her phone and says 'look at this girl, she's just like me, if she can do that, I can do it as well'."



Ryan Boyle - Para-cycling

Para-cyclist Ryan Boyle opens up to BBC Sport about his remarkable journey from a devastating road accident to world champion.

In 2003, age 9, he was hit by a truck and went into a coma losing a part of his brain after surgery. He had to learn to talk, eat and walk all over again, and wrote a book called 'When the Lights Go Out'. Boyle describes his recovery and how he trained to become an Olympic silver medallist in the Para-cycling road time trial at Rio 2016.

The 25-year-old is now aiming to go one better at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.



Matt Scott - Wheelchair basketball

Four-time Paralympic wheelchair basketball player Matt Scott shares his remarkable recovery from a life-threatening illness.

The 34-year-old, who plays professionally in Germany, says he came close to death but returned to the court after four months in hospital to make an emotional basket with his very first shot.



Activities

1. **Read these sentences and write in the blank spaces which athlete refers to those you have read in the texts. (Only the name, not the surname!)**
   Example: This athlete plays basketball: Matt

   a. This athlete was a member of the United States Army Corporation Corps:

   b. This athlete plays as a professional player in a German team:

   c. This athlete is one of the most decorated Paralympian in the history of the United States:

   d. This athlete was adopted and have to move to another country:

   e. This athlete wants to be a motivation to little girls that have to go through the same condition as her:

   f. This athlete won a silver medal in the Para-Olympics Games of Rio 2016:

2. **Read the following definitions and write next to each description the word of the text to which it refers.**

   a. A kind of illness that can cause the end of someone's life (noun):
   b. A person who has won in a competition (noun):
   c. A person who has won a medal in sport(noun):
   d. An arm or a leg of a person (noun):







Source of the original text: https://www.bbc.com/sport/disability-sport/49647992

The definitions used are adaptations from the *Cambridge Dictionary*