



CHALLENGE MAGAZINE Summer 2009

eX4 Hosts Wounded Warriors, Athletes from Around the World

By Beth Geno, Extremity Events Network Board Member

Extremity Games 4 (eX4) rocked Michigan as the extreme sports competition for athletes living with limb loss and limb difference came to town July 9-11. eX4 competitions included skateboarding, rock climbing, wakeboarding, kayaking, mountain biking, and motocross. This year, Extremity Games hosted athletes from around the world, including France, South Africa, Germany, and throughout the United States.

The Opening Ceremony welcomed athletes and officially kicked-off Extremity Games 4 July 8 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint, Mich. The following day, the South Street Skate Park in Rochester hosted the skateboarding competition. Oscar Loreto took first place, Evan Strong came in second, and Garry Moore took third. Rock climbing followed the skate competition on Thursday at Planet Rock in Pontiac, with Craig DeMartino and McKayla Hanson taking first in top rope, Ronnie Dickson and Cara Fortunato in second, and Tyler Adams and Jacquelyn Farris in third. In bouldering, Craig DeMartino took first, Ronnie Dickson came in second, and Evan Strong took third.

On Friday, July 10, the lake was smooth as glass as the wakeboard competition began at Holloway Reservoir in Davison. New to Extremity Games this year, Jim Bob Bizell came in first, Connor Howe came in second and returning athlete Chet Kuskowski took

third. In kayaking, Joel Berman and Kelly Allen paddled into first, George Rickman and Cara Fortunato in second, and Chris Casteel and Brooke Artesi in third.

Despite early morning thunderstorms, the motocross and mountain biking events were ready for competitors at Baja MX in Millington. In mountain biking, Anthony Zukowski raced to win back his title for first place, Chad Crittenden of Survivor Vanuatu took second, and Stephan Buchler of Germany came in third. The engines were revved early in the day for motocross with George Hammel taking first, TJ Hiracheta in second and Sampie Erasmus of South Africa in third in the Motocross Light competition. In Motocross Premier, Chris Ridgeway continues to reign at the top winning first place. Mike Schultz followed in second, and Jason Woods in third.

Athletes with Disabilities Network, the organizers of Extremity Games, are excited to partner with Adaptive Action Sports, the official sports organizer for the Super X Adaptive Finals motocross competition at the ESPN X Games. This year, Extremity Games is the pre-qualifier for the Super X Adaptive Finals motocross competition with the top six riders at Extremity Games being officially invited to compete in the X Games race. Twelve riders total will compete at the Super X Adaptive Finals, which will be televised live on Friday, July 31, at 8:30 EST on ESPN.

Extremity Games is proud to work with Trijicon to welcome members of the

Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, where recovering wounded warriors can not only compete in extreme sports, but can also educate themselves on sports that they have never tried before. Extremity Games is an opportunity for our recovering wounded service members to help them get active again through sports.

This event is made possible by the generous sponsorships of Disabled Sports USA, Trijicon, Easter Seals - Michigan, College Park Industries, Wright & Filippi, Mary Free Bed, Riverside Kayak Connection, Ossur, Aristo-Cast, Ohio Willow Wood, Onyx Embroidery, Adaptive Action Sports, Amputee Coalition of America, Adaptive Adventures, Michigan Adaptive Sports, among dozens of other sponsors and partners.

Extremity Games is organized by Athletes with Disabilities Network (ADN), a subsidiary of Easter Seals - Michigan. Established in 2009, ADN's mission is to promote a better quality of life by creating opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities. ADN organizes Extremity Games, as well as Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame, which recognizes and honors men and women who have overcome physical challenges to become elite athletes and superior role models.

For more information on Extremity Games or Athletes with Disabilities Network, please visit www.extremitygames.com or call (586) 556-1761.

Extremity Games 4 Results

Skateboarding

Oscar Loreto
Evan Strong
Garry Moore

Rock Climbing Top Rope (Women)

McKayla Hanson
Cara Fortunato
Jacquelyn Farris

(Men)

Craig DeMartino
Ronnie Dickson
Tyler Adams

Rock Climbing Bouldering

Craig DeMartino
Ronnie Dickson
Evan Strong

Kayaking (Women)

Kelly Allen
Cara Fortunato
Brooke Artesi

(Men)

Joel Berman
George Rickman
Chris Casteel

Wakeboarding

Jim Bob Bizell
Connor Howe
Chet Kuskowski

Mountain Biking

Anthony Zukowski
Chad Crittenden
Stephan Buchler

Moto-X Light

George Hammel
Theodore Hiracheta
Sampie Erasmus

Moto-X Premier

Chris Ridgeway
Mike Schultz
Jason Woods

Brooke Artesi participated in the Kayaking Competition in the Extremity Games, organized by the Athletes with Disabilities Network.