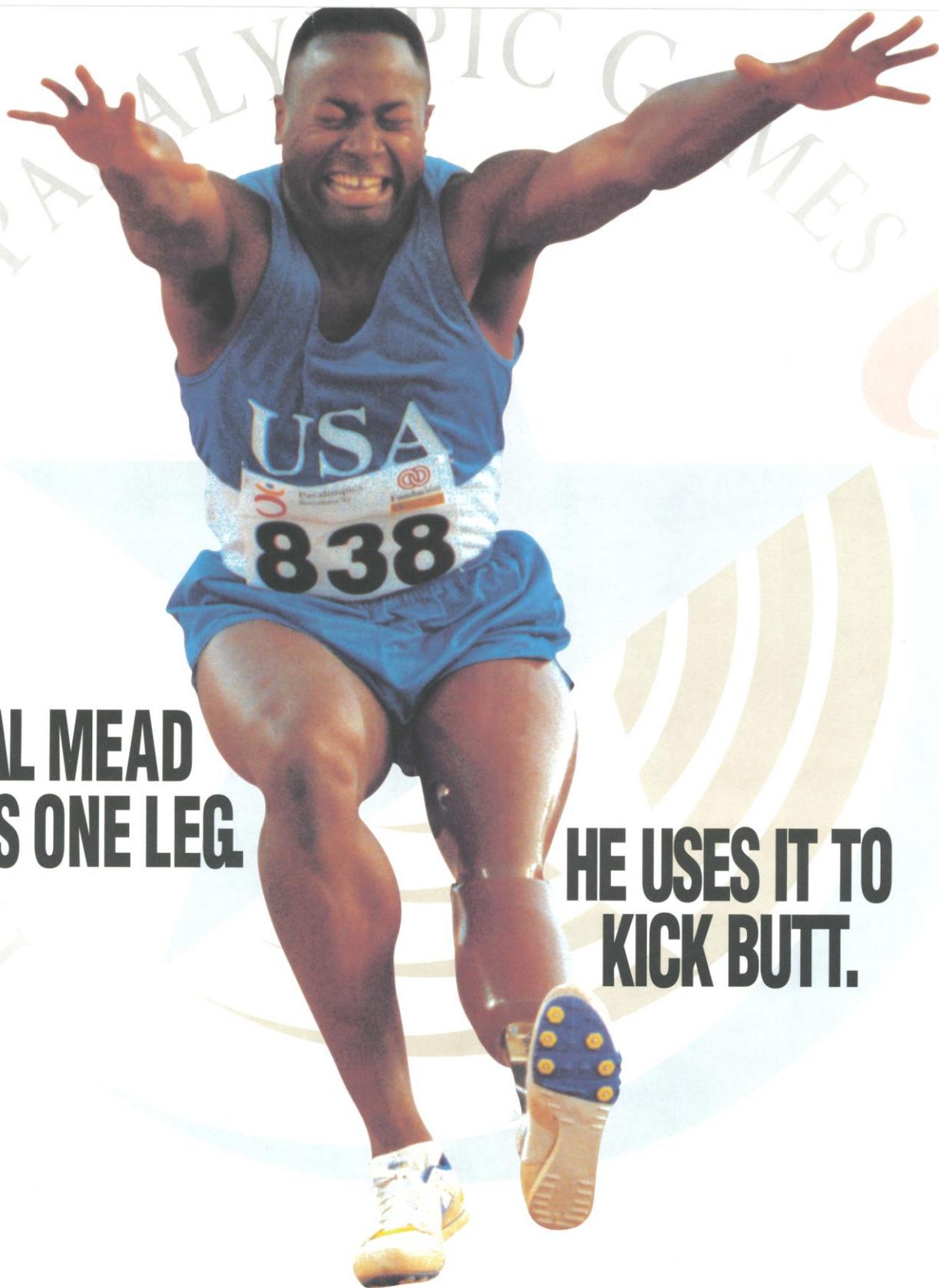


# History of equestrian events at the Games of the X Paralympics



Photo by Chris Fardham

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**AL MEAD  
HAS ONE LEG.**

**HE USES IT TO  
KICK BUTT.**



**THE 1996 ATLANTA PARALYMPIC GAMES.**  
AUGUST 15-25, 1996. FOR INFORMATION CALL (404)724-2800, TDD(800)724-2888.



## **Games of the X Paralympics Atlanta (USA), 16 – 25 August 1996**

### **The Parallel Olympics**

There have been several milestones in the Paralympic movement. From the 1948 Stoke Mandeville Games for the Disabled, in the United Kingdom organised by Dr Ludwig Guttmann, to coincide with the 1948 London Olympics; to the first official Paralympic Games, no longer open solely to war veterans, which was held in Rome in 1960.

The international Sports Organisation for the Disabled (ISOD) was founded in 1964 and was set up in order to administer disability sports in the same way that the IOC governs the Olympic Games and for the development of athletic opportunities for people with disabilities.

In 1982 this group became the International Coordinating Committee of World Sports Organisations for the Disabled (ICC), now with the added mandate of pushing for the rights of athletes with disabilities directly with the IOC. This cooperation between the ICC and IOC led to the 1988 Summer Paralympics in Seoul, South Korea, a milestone for the Paralympic movement as it was in Seoul that the Paralympic Summer Games were held directly after the Olympic Summer Games, in the same host city, and using the same facilities. This set a precedent that has endured and again increased the remit of the ICC to include the organisation of the Paralympic Games. In 1989 it was reorganised and renamed the International Paralympic Committee.

There were many outstanding performances at the 1996 Paralympic Games, with 269 new world records. The United States topped the medal table with 157 medals, of which 46 were gold. Next came Australia with 42 gold medals, and Germany with 40 gold medals.

The 1996 Atlanta Paralympics were also the first to attract worldwide corporate sponsorship. But the Games were more than an international sporting event. The third Paralympic Congress, held four days before the competitions, focused on the theme of political and economic empowerment of people with disabilities as well as global issues in elite sport. The Congress, from 12 to 16 August, brought together leaders of the disability civil rights community, the disabled sports movement and their able-bodied counterparts.

The Games also showcased a Cultural Pyramid, featuring the works of artists with disabilities across many creative disciplines. The Cultural Pyramid was initiated to widen the appeal and impact of the Games and to draw parallels between excellence in sport and in the arts.

### **Games facts & figures**

- 104 nations
- 20 Sports – 508 events
- 3259 competitors (2469 men, 790 women)
- 1,717 delegation staff from 104 countries
- 1577 medals awarded (518 gold, 517 silver, and 542 bronze)
- 388,373 spectators attended
- 2,088 media representatives were accredited (721 from the written press, 806 from the electronic media, and 114 photographers)
- The first Paralympic Games where athletes were given full medal status.

### **Equestrian facts & figures**

- 16 Nations (Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, USA)

Dressage competitions for riders with disabilities began in Scandinavia and Great Britain during the 1970's. It was in 1984 at the International Games for the Disabled in New York City that the first major International Dressage competition for those with a physical disability was held. But it wasn't until Atlanta 1996 that equestrian events were first held at the Paralympics Summer Games, with 68 riders representing 16 countries. At these games the host nation was required to provide the horses on which the riders would compete and this remained the norm until 2008 in Hong Kong where riders were allowed to compete with their own horses. Given the very specific requirements and training required of Para-Equestrian horses, the quality of horses provided for the Atlanta Games was not entirely up to the expected standard.

Competition rules were based on the FEI Rule Book, with adaptations to take into account Paralympic requirements which encompass a wide range of impairments and modifications to equipment/additional equipment etc.

Riders perform in a standard 20m X 40m or 20m X 60m Dressage ring depending on their grade and all riders are classified according to their disability (impairment), and judged according to their ability (skill). In 1996, athletes were classified into four grades – see below – where each grade has a set of progressive Dressage Tests, ranging from simple to 'Grand Prix' standard and have been written to take account of the capability within each Grade.

- Grade I - Mainly wheelchair users with poor trunk balance and or impairment of function in all four limbs, or no trunk balance and good upper limb function, or moderate trunk balance with severe impairment of all four limbs.
- Grade II - Mainly wheelchair users, or those with severe locomotor impairment involving the trunk and with good to mild upper limb function, or severe unilateral impairment.
- Grade III - Usually able to walk without support. Moderate unilateral impairment, or moderate impairment in four limbs, severe arm impairment. May need a wheelchair for longer distances or due to lack of stamina. Total loss of sight in both eyes, or intellectually impaired.
- Grade IV - Impairment in one or two limbs, or some visual impairment.

As there were four grades in 1996 and two sets of medals per grade as well as an overall team medal, there were 9 sets of medals distributed in Atlanta.

Great Britain began the first equestrian participation at the Paralympic Games with a team gold (although Denmark were a very close second) and have gone on to secure gold every four years since then.

Individually, Jo Jackson (GBR) in Grade IV and Ann Cecilie Ore (NOR) in Grade III picked up both the Championships and Freestyle medals, whilst Angelika Trabert (GER) and Anne Dunham (GBR) participated in their first of four Paralympic Games (1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008). Angelika Trabert won two individual silver medals in Grade II, and Anne Dunham the Grade II Freestyle bronze alongside her team gold.

## The Results (Borrowed horses)

### Grade I - Medals / Individual Championship

1. Gold	Brita ANDERSON (DEN)	Midlands Carousel	70.67
2. Silver	Diane TUBBS (GBR)	Music	61.33
3. Bronze	Sara RYDH (SWE)	Royal Aristar	60.00

### Grade I - Medals / Individual Freestyle Tests

1. Gold	Birgit DREISZIS (GER)	Miss Jane Marple	78.44
2. Silver	Brita ANDERSON (DEN)	Midlands Carousel	75.19
3. Bronze	Dianne TUBBS GBR)	Music	71.30

### Grade II - Medals / Individual Championship

1. Gold	Vickie SWEIGART (USA)	Miss Jane Marple	65.79
2. Silver	Angelika TRABERT (GER)	Amber	62.98
3. Bronze	Lauren McDEVITT (USA)	Dilettante	58.77

### Grade II - Medals / Individual Freestyle Tests

1. Gold	Vickie SWEIGART (USA)	Miss Jane Marple	72.07
2. Silver	Angelika TRABERT (GER)	Amber	72.00
3. Bronze	Anne DUNHAM (GBR)	Doodlebug	66.26

### Grade III - Medals / Individual Championship

1. Gold	Anne Cecilie ORE (NOR)	Victor Victoria	67.22
2. Silver	Elizabeth STONE (GBR)	Irish Classic	67.04
3. Bronze	Joop STOKKEL (NED)	Moel's Maximilian	65.93

### Grade III - Medals / Individual Freestyle Tests

1. Gold	Anne Cecilie ORE (NOR)	Victor Victoria	74.19
2. Silver	Frederic AGUILLAUME (FRA)	Vabanque	69.81
3. Bronze	Joan SALMON (IRL)	Schimmel Haasan	69.67

### Grade IV - Medals / Individual Championship

1. Gold	Jo JACKSON (GBR)	Irish Classic	67.92
2. Silver	Patricia STRAUGHAN (GBR)	Not a Penny More	63.89
3. Bronze	Britta SORENSEN (DEN)	Doctor Thomiss	63.19

### Grade IV - Medals / Individual Freestyle Tests

1. Gold	Jo JACKSON (GBR)	Irish Classic	73.37
2. Silver	Charlotte JENSEN (DEN)	The Anvil Baraque	69.70
3. Bronze	Britta SORENSEN (DEN)	Doctor Thomiss	68.93

### Medals / Team Placings

1. Gold	Great Britain	65.43
2. Silver	Denmark	63.79
3. Bronze	France	60.68