

Culture Unit 5

Achievers: paralympic stars

1 Complete the definitions with the words and phrases in the box.

blind condition dressage injury service dog represent
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- 1 A(n) _____ is harm done to a person's body, e.g. in an accident.
- 2 Being _____ means that you can't see.
- 3 To _____ your country in a competition means to take part and try to win for your country.
- 4 A(n) _____ is an animal that helps people who have disabilities.
- 5 _____ is the art of riding and training a horse to be obedient, flexible, and have good balance.
- 6 A medical _____ is an illness or other medical problem.

2 Read the text. Where are the athletes from?

3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 How old was Samantha when she was injured?

- 2 When did Samantha learn her sport?

- 3 How do people play sledge hockey?

- 4 When did Brody start playing in an adult team?

- 5 Why is Journey an unusual athlete?

- 6 Why does Sydney need Journey?

4 Find out about another Paralympic athlete. Think about these questions and write in your notebook. What sport do they play?

- How is the sport played?
- What country do they represent?
- Were they injured? If so, how?
- Have they won any medals?

Olympic success



In 2010, Samantha Kinghorn was clearing snow from a path when some snow and ice fell on her from a roof and broke her back. She was only fourteen. Samantha can't walk now, but she is still a star athlete. She started wheelchair racing after her injury, and is now the British Junior Champion. Samantha is one of the fastest wheelchair racers in the country, and part of the Great Britain Paralympic team.



Brody Roybal is seventeen years old, and he is a star sledge-hockey player. He's the youngest athlete on the US Paralympic hockey team. Brody was born with no legs, but he started playing sledge hockey when he

was seven. The players sit in sledges and use sticks to move around the ice. Brody was so good at the sport that he joined an adult team when he was twelve. He won a gold medal at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

Five-year-old Journey is an unusual Paralympic athlete. He's a service dog, and he helps seventeen-year-old Sydney Collier to compete in dressage events. Sydney has a rare medical condition and she is partially blind and can't move her left side. But Sydney loves riding her horse, Wentworth, and she doesn't want her condition to stop her. In 2014, she was the youngest rider at the World Equestrian Games, and she now wants to join the US Paralympic team. Sydney, Journey and Wentworth are going for gold!