



A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

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2005 Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium Press Release

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ADAPTIVE ADVENTURES HOSTS U.S. SOLDIERS INJURED IN IRAQ AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN CYCLING OMNIUM

Denver Chapter of Disabled Sports USA and Boeing Sponsor Largest Fully Integrated Cycling Event over Memorial Day Weekend

DENVER, May 16, 2005-Adaptive Adventures today announced the Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium (RMO), an integrated cycling event featuring more than 400 athletes with and without disabilities, including a group of soldiers recently injured in the Iraq conflict. In its sixth year, the RMO will take place May 27-30, 2005, in Denver and the surrounding Rocky Mountain foothills. The RMO is the largest fully-integrated cycling event in the U.S. and includes educational programs that help recently injured athletes to learn adaptive cycling techniques from experts in the field. Continuing its long history of helping to rebuild the lives of disabled veterans, DS/USA's Denver chapter will host twelve U.S. soldiers who were severely injured in Iraq.

The RMO is a unique event that pairs able-bodied amateur and professional cyclists with disabled cyclists at the same venue, on the same courses, racing in front of the same crowds. Cyclists can compete either in the handcycling or able-bodied cycling division and take advantage of clinics led by expert Adaptive Adventures instructors, many of whom have disabilities themselves. The RMO's main event is the National Handcycle Championships, which features the best handcyclists in the world, including World Champion Monica Bascio and Paralympic silver medalist (2004, Athens) Alejandro Albor. The three-day cycling race -- which includes twelve different race categories for cyclists of all abilities -- features a time-trial, road race, and a criterium finale through the downtown streets of historic Old Towne Golden, Colorado, where crowds gather to cheer on the cyclists.

"DS/USA's athletic events, counseling programs and world-class instruction helped give me the confidence and determination that I needed to overcome my injury," said Captain Dave Rozelle, who lost his foot in Iraq while serving in the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and raced in the '04 version of the RMO. "The Adaptive Adventures Omnium is a phenomenal opportunity for injured soldiers, new amputees and athletes of all abilities to join together, conquer physical disability and have fun on wheels."

"As a disabled Vietnam veteran, I'm familiar with the challenges of learning to live with a permanent disability, and I know that participating in events like the Rocky Mountain Omnium builds valuable confidence to triumph over hardship," said Kirk Bauer, executive director of Disabled Sports USA. "Disabled Sports USA is honored to

work with our Denver chapter Adaptive Adventures to serve these fine young service members who have made great sacrifices for our country."

"Bringing able-bodied and disabled athletes of all abilities together for a weekend of learning, empowerment and fun, Adaptive Adventures is proud to host the sixth annual Rocky Mountain Omnium," said Ian Lawless, race director, Adaptive Adventures. "We look forward to hosting the thousands of fans and athletes that help make this race an exceptional event for everyone."

The RMO is sponsored by Boeing, Tuff Shed, Garceworks Video, The Wounded Warrior Project, Altitude Sports & Entertainment, Invacare Top End and Schwartz Communications, with support from DS\USA, the United States Handcycle Federation, the city of Golden, the Federation of Independent Associations for Cycling (FIAC) and the American Cycling Association (ACA).

For athletes interested in participating in the event, registration and additional background information can be found at <http://cycling.adaptiveadventures.org/omnium05.html>

About Adaptive Adventures

Adaptive Adventures is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities and their families through outdoor sports & recreation. The organization was created in 1999 by a group of physically challenged individuals who saw the need to increase awareness and participation in sports and recreation for the disabled, and is considered a national leader in the area of adaptive cycling, water-skiing, kayaking, and winter adaptive sports.

About Disabled Sports USA

Founded in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans, Disabled Sports USA provides opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to gain confidence and dignity through sports, recreation and educational programs. The organization is the nation's largest multi-sport, multi-disability organization and serves more than 60,000 people nationwide. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, DS/USA conducts regional, national and international training camps and competitions to prepare athletes for the Paralympic Games-the international Olympic-sanctioned competitions for athletes with physical disabilities. DS/USA also offers sports rehabilitation programs through its nationwide network of over 80 community-based chapters. More information is available at www.dsusa.org.