



*Brent Lakatos*

Born and raised in Dorval, Quebec, Brent Lakatos' life changed dramatically at the age of six following a skating accident that left him with a spinal cord injury. Navigating a world that was often inaccessible, he developed the resilience, determination, and work ethic that would come to define both his academic and athletic success.

As one of the few students with a disability in his school, Brent learned early how to adapt and excel. A strong student with a passion for learning, he graduated with top marks before enrolling in the Science program at John Abbott College. One of his teachers described him as intelligent, conscientious, hardworking, and exceptionally motivated, noting his enthusiasm for learning, active participation in class, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Brent carried those qualities with him to the University of Texas at Arlington, where he earned a degree in engineering while competing as a wheelchair basketball athlete. Today, he works as a systems analyst and lives in the United Kingdom with his wife, Stefanie Reid, a British Paralympic medallist.

His journey in high-performance sport began with wheelchair basketball, representing Quebec at the 1999 Canada Games and again in 2003. After helping the University of Texas at Arlington capture a national championship in 2002, Brent made a pivotal decision to transition to wheelchair racing less than a year before the 2004 Paralympic Games, launching one of the most successful careers in Canadian Paralympic history.

Over six Paralympic Games, Brent has captured two gold, nine silver, and two bronze medals. His achievements also include 11 gold, five silver, and two bronze medals at the World Para Athletics Championships, as well as three gold medals at the Parapan American Games.

In 2017, Brent received the Jack W. Davies Trophy as Athletics Canada Athlete of the Year, becoming the first wheelchair athlete to earn the honour following an extraordinary performance at the World Para Athletics Championships that included four gold medals. A year later, he received the Chantal Petitclerc Award as Canada's Wheelchair Athlete of the Year.

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, Brent won four silver medals and was selected as Canada's flag bearer for the Closing Ceremony. With those performances, he further cemented his place among Canada's most decorated Paralympians.

Still competing at the highest level, Brent continues to inspire through his athletic excellence, perseverance, and commitment to pushing boundaries. His achievements on the world stage remain a source of pride and inspiration for the John Abbott community, demonstrating the extraordinary impact of determination, resilience, and excellence.