



Media Contact
Beth Taylor (Geno)
248.451.2993
bgeno@extremitygames.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 Extremity Games: Extreme Sports for Athletes with Disabilities
Hosting athletes from around the world and Wounded Warriors

Waterford, Michigan (July 12, 2009) - Extremity Games 4 (eX4) rocked Michigan when the extreme sports competition, for athletes living with limb loss and limb difference, came to town July 9-11, 2009. eX4 competitions included skateboarding, rock climbing, wakeboarding, kayaking, mountain biking and motocross. Incredible athletes competed from all over the country, as well as a handful of competitors from far away places like France, Germany, and South Africa.



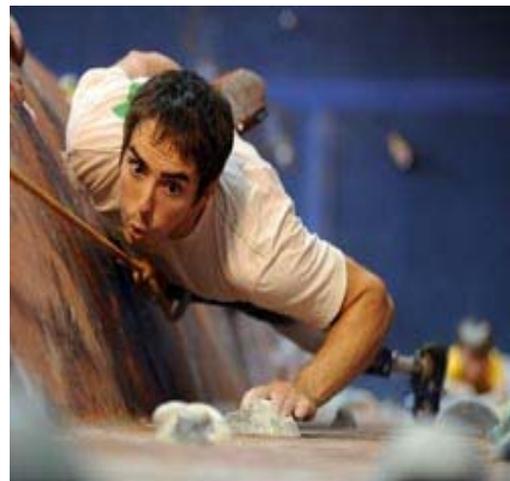
The Opening Ceremony welcomed athletes and fans; while officially kicking-off Extremity Games 4 on Wednesday, July 8 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan.

Skateboarding/Rock Climbing Competitions

The following day the skateboarders threw down some wicked tricks at host venue South Street Skate Park, in Rochester. Oscar Loreto caught air off every feature and landed a huge drop off the staircase to take first place. Evan Strong stalled and grinded the quarter pipe, then rode out the longest heelee of the event to take second place. Garry Moore snagged third place by kidnapping the clouds as he aired over the transition of the side by side quarter pipes.

The skateboarding momentum carried over to Thursday afternoon for an epic Rock Climbing competition at Planet Rock, in Pontiac. Craig DeMartino and McKayla Hanson scaled the walls with

speed that could cause altitude sickness to take first place in men's and women's Top Rope. Ronnie Dickson and Cara Fortunato grabbed the men's and women's Top Rope second place finishes with the grace of a seasoned climbers. Tyler Adams and newcomer Jacquelyn Farris snuck up their final routes to hold on to third place finishes in the men's and women's Top Rope competition. eX4 athletes dropped the harnesses for an intense Bouldering competition, also at Planet Rock in Pontiac. Craig DeMartino flew up each boulder problem like a caped superhero assuring a first place finish. Ronnie Dickson locked up second place with his trademark lunging grabs. While Evan Strong kept it short and low to round out the Bouldering competition with a third place finish.





Wakeboarding/Kayaking Competitions

On Friday, July 10, blue bird skies and a glassy smooth lake were the order of the day for the wakeboard and kayak competitions held at Holloway Reservoir, in Davison.

New to Extremity Games this year, Jim Bob Bizzell owned first place with insane air above the wake. Connor Howe ponied up some gnarly one handed tricks to pull out a second place finish. Returning athlete Chet Kuskowski hammered the wake to wake maneuvers taking third in the Wakeboarding competition.

Sunny skies and gentle breezes hung throughout the afternoon while the crowds geared up for the Kayaking competition.



Joel Berman and Kelly Allen leveled the competition as they battled the course and paddled into first place finishes for the men's and women's divisions respectively. George Rickman and Cara Fortunato propelled themselves like human-powered machines through the water and collared second place. Third place was a hard fought contest that netted awards for Chris Casteel and Brooke Artesi.



Motocross/Mountain Bike Competitions

Despite early morning thunderstorms on Saturday, July 11, mountain bike and motocross racers were eager to get things started on Baja MX's 85 acre facility in Millington, Michigan. Fans lined the fences as racer George Hammel charged all the way to the checkers for the win, closely followed by TJ Hiracheta in second and Sampie Erasmus of South Africa in third in the Motocross Lites competition.

In the Motocross Premier class, Chris Ridgeway made it look easy as he raced his way into the lead, taking the win and the top step on the podium. Mike Schultz finished with a hard fought second, while Jason Woods rounded out the podium for third. In mountain biking, the terrain was difficult. Anthony Zukowski regained his title as mountain bike champion taking first place, Chad Crittenden raced hard for second place and Stephan Buchler, of Germany, pedaled into third place.

ESPN® Super X Adaptive Finals Motocross Competitions

Once the dust settled and the racers had a chance to clean up, an awards ceremony followed, along with a special announcement from Motocross Coordinator Jim Wazny. "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 served as 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 competed at the Super X Adaptive Finals, which was televised live on ESPN. A repeat to Extremity Games, Chris Ridgeway took

first, Mike Schultz second and Jason Woods took third in the ESPN Super X Adaptive Finals motocross competition.

Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project

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 regain activity through sports.

Jeff Green Award

Southern Prosthetic Supply (SPS) and MLT Enterprises developed the Jeff Green Friendship Award in honor of their friend and colleague, the late Jeff Green. Jeff, an O&P professional and extreme athlete, tragically died in January 2006 in an auto accident. Ron May, President of SPS fondly remembers, "You just felt better when Jeff came into a room. His personality was contagious; his knowledge helpful to all." In honor of Jeff, SPS will provide a \$1,000 charitable donation in the name of the award recipient.

Nominated by fellow athletes and peers, the 2009 award winner is Craig DeMartino. Craig is described as a great guy who cheers and encourages everyone. He has the ability to help everyone with their climbing and assists other climbers to be the best they can be.

This event was made possible by the generous sponsorships of Easter Seals – Michigan, Trijicon, College Park Industries, Wright & Filippis, 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.

About the Extremity Games

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 call 248.451.2993.