



# **TEXAS PARASPORT** TRACK & FIELD CLINIC

## COACHING CLINIC



**Cathy Sellers**  
Team USA Coach  
Board Member - USADA

Cathy Sellers' extensive 40-year coaching journey, ranging from high school and collegiate levels to Team USA, reflects a wealth of experience and dedication to track and field. Her roles at USA Track and Field and the USOPC, focusing on coaches' education and Paralympic development, highlight her significant impact on the sport's growth. As the Director of Paralympic Track and Field, Sellers played a crucial role in the team's success at the Rio Paralympics, earning 43 medals.

Currently, serving on the Board of Directors for the US Anti-Doping Agency, Sellers continues to contribute to the sports community. A former All-American with a strong academic background, she emphasizes the transformative power of sports, particularly the Paralympics, in empowering individuals and changing societal perceptions. Her recent retirement from Team USA allows her to explore the country in her camper van, marking a well-deserved chapter of adventure after a remarkable coaching career.

## OFFICIALS CLINIC



**Paul Johnson**  
Wheelchair Racing & Seated  
Throws  
34 years of Paralympic Coaching  
Experience

Paul Johnson's impressive 34 years of Paralympic coaching experience, international involvement with USA Teams, and leadership as the lead Paralympic Track and Field Official in Texas underscore his significant contributions to the world of adaptive sports. Paul coached his daughter, who was a 2004 Paralympian for WC Racing.

His role in organizing events like the Texas Regional Games and the Lone Star Para Invitational as well as his coaching of the DFW Racers highlights his dedication to fostering Paralympic talent at the regional level. Paul's extensive involvement has undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the success and growth of Paralympic Track and Field throughout Texas.

## THROWS COACHES



**Erica Wheeler**

Throws Coach – 1996 Olympian  
for Javelin and U.S. Paralympic  
National Team Coach

Erica Wheeler, a javelin thrower and Stanford graduate (1989), had a prolific career from 1985-2004, competing in the Olympics, World Championships, and Pan American Games. She claimed the title of USA Champion in 2003. After coaching roles at Ohio State University and Cal State Chico, she became the resident throws coach at the Olympic and Paralympic Training Center in Chula Vista from 2019-2021. As a U.S. Paralympics National Team Throws Coach, Erica trained both Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

Beyond her coaching achievements, she contributes to the development of wounded warriors, participating in numerous Warrior Games and Invictus Games. Erica has been coaching for the Air Force for 7 years and the Marine Corps since 2021, also training Navy Seal candidates at Coronado, CA from 2022-present.



**Joshua Jablon**

Coach Joshua Jablon's dedication to adaptive track and field for over a decade, from competing for the United States Marine Corps to coaching at Minnesota State University Mankato, showcases his passion for the sport. His coaching achievements, including numerous conference titles, All-American athletes, national champions, and a team national title, reflect his commitment to developing outstanding athletes. Beyond accolades, Jablon's focus on growing adaptive sports and witnessing athletes enhance their independence and careers underscores his broader impact. His involvement with the Junior Para World Championship team and ParaPan Am team highlights the significant contributions he has made to the sport.



**Siale Langi**

F43 Shot Put and Discus National  
Record Holder; Over 15 Years of  
Throwing and Coaching Experi-  
ence

Siale's journey from being a state champion discus thrower in high school to overcoming life-changing injuries and rediscovering his love for throwing is truly inspiring. His dedication to both adaptive and able-bodied events, along with his coaching involvement since 2017, showcases resilience and passion. He is currently coaching para athletes in the DFW area. Beyond his athletic pursuits, Siale finds immense joy in family moments with his wife Nicole, daughter Mia and son Gus. It's heartening to witness his positive spirit and commitment to both his sport and loved ones.



# **TEXAS PARASPORT** TRACK & FIELD CLINIC

## **AMBULATORY TRACK**



**James Ortiz**  
Ambulatory Track Coach

James Ortiz's journey from a devastating bicycle accident to qualifying for the U.S. Paralympic Trials in the 400-meters and setting a world record at 1500-meters is a testament to his incredible perseverance. Despite losing his lower right leg in 2006, Ortiz, a middle-distance standout at Texas State University, set records and won titles before the accident. His determination to return to running led him to the Paralympic movement, overcoming physical challenges with a walking and then running prosthesis. Despite narrowly missing the 2012 London Paralympic Games, Ortiz turned to coaching, including a 7 year tenure as a collegiate head coach which was highlighted by being named the 2014 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Indoor Track & Field Coach of the Year. He is now showcasing resilience and contributing to the sports community as the Head Cross Country and Track & Field Coach at Giddings High School (Texas).



**Shannon Utley**  
24 years of coaching experience,  
U.S. Paralympic National Team  
Coach

Shannon Utley has been the Head Track and Cross-Country Coach at Summit High School since 2010. Since taking over at Summit the Cross-Country teams have won four District Championships, reached the Regional meet 13 different times and has had six State qualifiers. Coach Utley specializes in the horizontal jumps and since joining Summit has had 10 jumpers qualify for the State Meet. Coach Utley was selected as the 2014-2015 5A-6A Track Coach of the Year by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Coach Utley was chosen to serve as an Assistant Jump/Sprint Coach for the US Paralympic Track & Field Team in 2015 ParaPan Games (Toronto), 2016 Paralympic Games (Rio de Janeiro), 2017 World Championships (London), 2019 ParaPan Games (Peru) and 2019 World Championships (Dubi), 2020 Paralympic Games (Tokyo) as well as various other National & International competitions.



# WHEELCHAIR RACING



## Saul Mendoza

Wheelchair Racing  
7 x Paralympian, 3 x Olympian  
8 Olympic/Paralympic Medals  
Mexico's Athlete of the Century

Saul's remarkable racing career spanning 27 years included winning the Olympic Exhibition 1500M Race at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Stadium. He earned 2 Olympic and 6 Paralympic medals, breaking 4 world records and securing over 200 road race victories. Saul's achievements led to him being named athlete of the year four times and honored as Mexico's Athlete of the Century in 2000.

Notably, he coached Cheri Madsen to silver and bronze medals at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Currently Saul is the head wheelchair racing coach for Texas Parasport and also coached for many of the service branch Warrior Games teams.



## Krige Schabort

Wheelchair Racing  
6 x Paralympian  
2 x Paralympic Medalist  
4-time World Champion  
2015 ESPY Award Winner

Krige Schabort's incredible journey as a 6-time Paralympian, 2-time Paralympic medalist, and multiple world champion, along with his victories in prestigious marathons and the Kona Ironman, reflects an outstanding athletic career spanning 29 years.

His achievements extend beyond sports, with an ESPY Award in 2015 recognizing his remarkable contributions. Krige's transition to owning Able Sports, a durable medical sales company specializing in sports wheelchairs, showcases his ongoing commitment to the adaptive sports community, both as an athlete and a business owner.



## Cheri Madsen

Wheelchair Racing  
4 x Paralympian, 2 x Olympian  
10 Olympic/Paralympic Medals

Cheri, who started racing in 1994, made history as the first Native American to win an Olympic Medal, securing Bronze in the 800m at the 1996 Atlanta Games. After a break to start a family, she returned in 2013, winning Silver at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and medals at subsequent world championships. Cheri added to her achievements with Silver and Bronze medals at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Cheri's legacy in the world of athletics is truly impressive.



**Jacob Allen**

Jacob Allen studied at the University of Arizona in Russian and Slavic Studies, with a minor in Sports and Recreation. Jacob spent 15 years of his life in Ukraine before being adopted in Texas in 2016. Jacob was born with spina bifida. He started wheelchair racing in 2017 as a freshman at Kingwood Park High School near Houston and won medals each year at the Texas UIL State Track and Field Championships. Over the summers, Jacob enjoyed competing for Texas Paraspport at the Move United Junior Nationals, where he earned medals in wheelchair racing, seated throwing events, and powerlifting (setting a US Junior record). One of Jacob's most exciting moments in high school was when he was selected to represent the United States at the Junior World Para Championships in Switzerland in 2019.

As a University of Arizona Adaptive Athletics Department member, Jacob now focuses exclusively on track and road racing. In 2021, he was invited to the US Paralympic Tokyo trials in the Twin Cities for the 100m and 400m races, and in 2022, he earned silver and bronze medals at the US Paralympic Track and Field Adult National Championships in Florida. Jacob also enjoys the Marathon. He won the 2022 Honolulu Marathon and has raced at the New York, Houston, and Boston Marathons. Jacob competed in the first NCAA 100m National Collegiate Title at the Drake Relays.



**Nick McCoy**

Nick's dedication to wheelchair racing, spanning both track and road races in the T52 class, is commendable. As an Army veteran, his representation as a U.S Paralympic Track & Field National Team member and participation in the Para Pan American Games in 2023 demonstrate his excellence in adaptive sports. Nick's success in the Run Disney marathon series during the off-season adds another impressive layer to his athletic achievements. His commitment to competition and resilience is truly inspiring.



**Denise Hutchins**

Denise Hutchins has had a long journey in ParaSports beginning as coach, official, meet director and classifier. As a physical therapist she has been able to bring a kinesiological background to her coaching, with emphasis on proper postures and stability needs for athletes in throwing events. Many years working with national and international coaches for Para-Athletics and USATF has expanded her knowledge base. She has had the opportunity to use those skills to be able to bring many athletes, especially junior athletes to the stage at national and international competitions.

She currently serves on the board of directors for Adaptive Track and Field, USA and on the Competition Committee for Move United Sports. She is also the meet manager for UCO Endeavor Games and co-competition director for track and field at The Hartford Nationals by Move United Sports.