Seven 2004 Paralympic Champions Display Medals in Reno

January 28, 2005

What: The Paralympic games are the second largest sporting event in the world, conceding top honors only to the Olympics. This past summer the multi-sport competition showcased the talents and abilities of the world's most elite athletes with physical disabilities. Next week, seven world-class Paralympic athletes who have overcome challenges to become the best in the world will travel to Reno to be represented during the 2005 Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics Education Fair's opening ceremonies. Representatives from Team USA's medal-winning track and field, sitting volleyball, sailing, and swimming teams will grace center stage bearing various medals and dressed in their official Paralympic award ceremony track suits to kick-off the week's events.

About the Hanger Education Fair: The 2005 Hanger Education Fair places an emphasis on the role of technology and clinical care in prosthetics and orthotics. The Education Fair offers innovative courses featuring world-renowned engineers, physicians, and therapists as keynote presenters will address change by focusing on technological advancements, unique procedures, and new methodologies in orthotics and prosthetics. In attendance are more than 760 prosthetists and orthotists from Hanger facilities across the country and 275 vendor representatives from 108 manufacturers.

When: Paralympians will be featured during Education Fair opening ceremonies on Thursday, February 3, 2005 at 7:00 am. All media will have the opportunity to meet with the athletes following the ceremony. One-on-one interviews with Paralympians, various product manufacturers, and Hanger practitioners can be scheduled on Thursday until 11:00 am and then again on Friday, February 4, from 7:00 am - 11:00 am. Please contact below to schedule time in advance.

Where: John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel & Casino, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV 89431

Who: Lori Daniels, left congenital partial foot amputee from Fort Worth, TX, won the bronze medal at the 2004 Paralympics in Women's Sitting Volleyball

Ryan Fann, left Symes patient from Brush Creek, TN, Track T-44 class, member of the U.S. Paralympic 4 x 400 relay team who won a gold medal in the 2004 Paralympics and set a new world record with a time of 3.27.00; Fann also won the bronze medal in the T-44 400-meter race

Brian Frasure, below-knee amputee from Raleigh, NC, Track T-44 class, member of the U.S. Paralympic 4 x 400 relay team who won a gold medal in the 2004 Paralympics and set a new world record with a time of 3.27.00; also won a silver medal in the T-44 100-meter race

April Holmes, below-knee amputee from Camden, NJ, Track T-44 class, April Holmes came away from the 2004 Paralympics with a pair of world records and a bronze medal in the T-44 long jump;

awarded the 2004 USA Paralympic Spirit Award

Brad Johnson, above-knee and below-knee amputee from Fort Lauderdale, FL, U.S. Paralympic Sailing, played on the 2000 Paralympic Men's Sitting Volleyball team

Gina McWilliams, below-knee amputee from Flower Mound, TX, Captain of US Women's Sitting Volleyball team, won the bronze medal at the 2004 Paralympics

Jarrett Perry, bilateral below-knee amputee from Wichita, KS, Paralympic Swimming S9/SM9 class, took home the gold medal in the S9 100-meter backstroke with a time of 1:05.35 from 2004 Paralympics

CONTACT: On-site: Desiree Voinche of Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc., +1-301-280-4581 (up to January 31), +1-301-399-8742 (from February 1 to February 5), or dvoinche@hanger.com

SOURCE Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc.