

## 2006 Paralympic Winter Games Preview – Wheelchair Curling

***Curling's Paralympic History:*** Wheelchair curling will make its debut at the Paralympic Winter Games as a medal sport in 2006. In 1976, the Paralympic Winter Games were introduced in Sweden (the Summer Games were first held in 1960 in Italy).

***Team USA:*** The team members for the Paralympic team will be chosen at a special selection camp to be held Dec. 8-11 at the Utica Curling Club in Whitesboro, N.Y.

### ***2006 Paralympic Winter Games Facts***

- The Opening Ceremony for the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games will take place March 10, with the closing ceremony on March 19.
- Four disciplines are on the program for the 2006 Paralympics – alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, ice sledge hockey and wheelchair curling
- The curling event will take place in Pinerolo, the same venue being used for curling at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Curling's athletes will be housed in the Athlete Village in Torino, Italy.

### ***Website references:***

- [www.paralympicgames.torino.org](http://www.paralympicgames.torino.org), official website of the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.
- [www.usparalympics.org](http://www.usparalympics.org), official website of the USOC's U.S. Paralympics Division.
- [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org), the official website of the International Paralympic Committee.

### ***U.S. Olympic hopefuls:***

- **Wes Smith**, 65, Glenburn, Maine. Two-time world wheelchair participant (2004, 2002).
- **Sam Woodward**, 61, Surry, Maine. Two-time world wheelchair participant (2004, 2002).
- **Loren Kinney**, 46, Hallowell, Maine. Two-time world wheelchair participant (2004, 2002).
- **Danell Libby**, 36, Gray, Maine. Two-time world wheelchair participant (2004, 2002).
- **Mark Taylor**, 46, Deansboro, N.Y. Two-time world wheelchair participant (2005, 2004).
- **James Pierce**, 42, North Syracuse, N.Y. 2005 world wheelchair participant.
- **James Joseph**, 43, Frankfort, N.Y. 2005 world wheelchair participant.
- **Melissa Keiser**, 33, Sauquoit, N.Y. 2005 world wheelchair participant.
- **Bob Prenoveau**, 39, Chittenango, N.Y. 2005 world wheelchair participant.
- **Mary Dutch**, 52, Belfast, Maine. 2002 world wheelchair participant.