



Press Release

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Augusta Native Strikes Gold in Beijing Leads Men's Team with most Medals!

Lantz Lamback (Augusta, GA) accomplished what only a handful of athletes have ever done, won a Gold Medal and set a new World Record at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. On top of that he led the US Men's Paralympic Swim Team with a total of 4 medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze).

Lantz, who has cerebral palsy, won the 100 meter Backstroke, with an outstanding time of 1:12.09 which was five seconds faster than his personal best and nearly 2 seconds faster than the existing world record for class S7 of 1:14.06. "The race really starts after the turn. You can go out as hard as you want, but if you can't hold it up, you won't win," said Lamback. "I had a good turn and brought it home from there. The gold feels awesome."

The Gold medal was Lantz's second of the Games. Two days before, Lantz won a silver medal in the 100 free and set a new American and Pan-Am record with a time of 1:02.40. The day following his Gold medal performance, he won his second Silver medal in the 400 free by setting another American and Pan-Am record with a time of 4:56.

In his final swim of the competition he won a Bronze for his fourth medal of the games, the most medals earned by any of the men on the Team USA. His time of 28.81 in the 50 free was again an American and Pan-Am record.

Lamback is happy with his personal best times throughout the meet, but plans to come back fighting for more. "I still have to catch them in the other events," he said, referring to the highly competitive field of swimmers. The next summer Paralympic Games will be in 2012 in London.

Lamback, 22 years old, began his swimming career at the age of 14 as part of BlazeSports Georgia Blazer Swim Team. He currently trains in residence at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"Lantz's performance is a true example of the benefits a program like BlazeSports can have in developing high-level skills for athletes with a physical disability," said Fred Lamback, swim coach of the Georgia Blazers and Lantz's father.

The Georgia Blazers Swim Team just one of the many programs offered by BlazeSports America, the legacy organization of the 1996 Atlanta Summer Paralympic Games. BlazeSports

provides sports training, competitions, summer camps, leadership training, and recreational opportunities for youth and adults who use wheelchairs, have a visual impairment, have an amputation, or who have a neurological disability such as cerebral palsy.

About BlazeSports America

BlazeSports America advances the lives of youth and adults with physical disability through sport and healthy lifestyles. BlazeSports provides sports training, competitions, summer camps, leadership training, and recreational opportunities for youth and adults with spinal cord injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, muscular dystrophy, amputation, visual impairment or blindness as well as other physical disabilities. For more information visit our website at www.blazesports.org

About U.S. Paralympics:

U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, is dedicated to becoming the world leader in the Paralympic sports movement and to promoting excellence in the lives of persons with physical disabilities. Visit the U.S. Paralympics Web site at www.usparalympics.org