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*The Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) is a non-profit, charitable, private organization that is recognized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). CPC is comprised of 40 leading national and provincial sport organizations. CPC delivers programs that strengthen the Paralympic movement in Canada, including sending Canadian teams to the Paralympic Games. The CPC empowers persons with physical disabilities, through sport, at all levels.*

# Marni Abbott

## Wheelchair Basketball

*Three time Paralympic Gold Medalist Marni Abbott is one of the worlds premier wheelchair basketball athletes.*

Marni was born and raised in West Kootenays. Her life changed in 1983 as a result of a downhill ski racing accident when she fractured her skull, broke her back, cheekbone and three of her ribs. Her strength and courage helped her overcome that obstacle. In rehab she met Rick Hansen who later introduced her to wheelchair sports and in 1985 she earned a spot on the national swim team for the Canadian Wheelchair sports Association. Marni was on the national swim team for 3 years.

Marni began playing wheelchair basketball in 1988 and it became her real passion. She made the national team in 1992 and won her first medal at the Barcelona Paralympic games that same year.

Marni's career highlights include being Canada's flag bearer at the 1996 Paralympics

in Atlanta, where she led the team to another gold medal. At the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, Canada was unstoppable and there Marni was able to take her third gold medal home.



Marni is a leader both on and off the court. In 1993 she was named the head coach for the B.C. Canada Games team in wheelchair basketball.

She has been coaching ever since.

### Major Achievements:

- 4 gold 1 silver in swimming at the Pan American Games in 1986
- 3 time Paralympic Gold Medalist, Wheelchair Basketball (1992, 1996, 2000)
- World Championship gold medalist, Wheelchair Basketball (1994, 1998, 2002)