

SPARTANS SIGN LONDON-BOUND PARALYMPIAN



TRACK AND FIELD
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012
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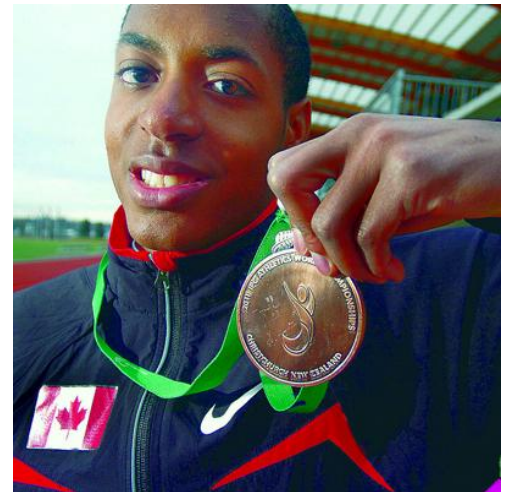
LANGLEY, British Columbia – The Trinity Western track and field team has added a world-class Paralympic sprinter and long jumper to its team as Spartans coach Laurier Primeau announced the signing of Canadian record-holder Braedon Dolfo (Langley, B.C.) Tuesday.

The junior-aged Dolfo, who has a visual impairment – although one that still allows him enough vision to compete and run without a guide – will be a contender at this year’s Paralympic Summer Games in London, which will be a crowning achievement in a career that has already seen him travel the world competing in a variety of major para-athletic competitions.

The 5-foot-11 graduate-to-be of Langley Secondary, who has been a member of the Canadian Para-Athletic National Team since 2010, is currently the Canadian record holder in long jump (T13) with a personal best of 6.40m, high jump (T13) with a personal best of 1.83m and 100m (T13) with a personal best of 11.34; the latter of which would have him ranked fifth in Canada amongst able-bodied junior athletes. Being classified in the T13 category means one has a visual acuity of above 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60 and or visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees.

With his high jump of 1.83m, he claimed the bronze medal at the 2011 Paralympic World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand. And while in Christchurch, he also anchored Canada’s 4x100m relay team to a fourth place finish. Dolfo also has a bronze medal in the 100m (T13) from the 2011 Para-Pan Am Games.

“We know Braedon will be a first-rate cultural fit with our team given that he has trained with us as part of an integrated group of athletes that includes our varsity squad and members of the Canadian Visually Impaired 4x100m relay pool,” said Spartans coach Laurier Primeau, who is also Canada’s para-athletics head coach. “His athletic gifts, his continued pursuit of excellence and his commitment to team are qualities that we value highly. Braedon comes to Trinity Western with a strong spiritual foundation and we welcome the opportunity to build on his attributes both within, and external to, the sporting context.”



In both 2010 and 2011, Dolfo was named BC Athletics Disabled Male Athlete of the Year and was nominated for Canada’s Outstanding Para-Athlete of the Year in Ambulatory Events award.

While Dolfo’s world-class level exploits have come competing within the para-athletics community, Primeau is bringing him in to Trinity Western knowing he will immediately become a contributing member of Trinity Western’s able-bodied track and field team.

In long jump, Dolfo will be very much in the mix to score points at the Canada West championships as his personal best would have placed him 10th at this past year's conference championships. He's also expected to be a valuable member of the Spartans relay teams and individual sprints.

"Trinity Western provides me a comfortable and supportive environment where I can grow and develop as an athlete and as a person," said Dolfo, who plans to study kinesiology. "The Spartans track team is on the rise and I'm glad to be part of the program."

ABOUT TRINITY WESTERN TRACK & FIELD

This fall Trinity Western will enter its third year back competing in the CIS after a six-year hiatus.

After the Spartans returned to track and field in the fall of 2010, the program has taken huge strides in becoming a competitive group at both the Canada West and CIS levels.

In 2011-12, the Spartans made a triumphant return to both the Canada West and CIS podiums as Trinity Western collected six conference medals and two national medals.

At the CIS Championships, high jumper Emma Nuttall claimed the Spartans first gold medal since 2002 when Laura Wilson won in the 60m with a season's best jump of 1.82m. On that same day, middle distance runner Fiona Benson captured a bronze medal in the 1500m with a time of 4:29.35.

On top of their double-medal effort at the CIS national championships, at the Canada West Championships the Spartans were also very productive as Calum Innes (60m) and Benson (1500m) won gold medals, Nuttall (high jump) and Benson (1000m) each captured silver medals and Blair Johnston (1500m) and Jake Powrie (pentathlon) earned bronze medals.

Over their history, the Spartans have a total of seven CIS medals, including two gold medals (Nuttall [high jump] – 2012 and Laura Wilson [60m] – 2002), one silver medal (Ian Sharp [1000m] – 2002) and four bronze medals (Benson [1500m] – 2012, Justin Beanblossom [600m] – 2002 and 2003 and Aleena Zibin [Shot Put] – 2003).

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Last Updated: 2012-05-01

Author: Mark Janzen

Email: Mark.Janzen@twu.ca