OPPORTUNITIES OF DUAL CAREER IN PARALYMPIC SPORT

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Sport has become a global phenomenon with many faces
CHALLENGES IN PARALYMPIC SPORT

- Sport system more important than the athlete (Legg&Wheeler, 1998)
- Athletes with a disability do not plan for their retirement/or transfer
- Factors impacting career:
  - Type and severity of disability
  - How the athlete with disability becomes Paralympic athlete (e.g., by chance, negative experience in PE in sport, starting in rehabilitation)
- The ultimate challenge – delivering the maximal product with minimal support
In 2007 the IPC joined with Adecco to develop the Athlete Career Program

Supports elite and Paralympic athletes with employment opportunities:

- Career development - customized program for athletes in defining career goals, creating CV/resume, interview techniques, networking tips etc.
- Job placement – making the right match between athletes and employers
- Regional offices in Vilnius, Klaipeda, Kaunas (Lithuania)

www.advantus.lt
Some of higher education programs are free
- E.g., Latvian Academy of Sport Education: participants of paralympic games receive extra 10 points in enrollment exams
- Studies for students with disabilities are free

No information on how many students with disabilities are studying in Latvia (including athletes with disabilities)

Challenges:
- Accessibility
- High costs
Lithuanian National Union of Students presented results of the survey on students with disabilities in higher education settings on 2011.

- 33 of 35 private higher education setting were involved
- Number of students with disabilities:
  - 2007./2008. – 915,
  - 2008./2009. – 980,
  - 2009./2010. – 1026
  - 2010./2011. – 944.
- 59% of students cover their education expenses
- Only 1/5 of higher education settings are accessible
Subsidized work places for persons with disabilities (since 2001)
- financial support for employer and employee up to 24 months
- Lower tax for employer of employee with disability for making accessible work place (person with disability must work at the company for at least two years)

However, not enough benefits/support from government to encourage employers to employ persons with disabilities
SURVEY OF ATHLETES

- **Instrument:** Modified survey A2B
- **Participants:** athletes representing paralympic sports – athletics, tennis, judo, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball.

![Graph showing survey results by sport and education level.](image-url)
SURVEY OF ATHLETES (CONT.)

Did you have to change education plans because of sport?

• Is it challenging to combine sport and education career?
What is impact of sport on your job career?

- Can sport career help in your future professional career?
What are your plans after sport career?
THANK YOU!

Questions

Comments

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