



SOCHI 2014 CANADIAN PARALYMPIC TEAM

WHEELCHAIR CURLING ALTERNATE



MARK IDESON

DATE OF BIRTH	APRIL 10, 1976
AGE AT SOCHI 2014	37
BIRTHPLACE	PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO
HOMETOWN	PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO
RESIDENCE	LONDON, ONTARIO
COACHES	JOE REA
LANGUAGES	ENGLISH
PARALYMPIC HISTORY	NONE

Sochi will be Mark's first Paralympic Winter Games which is amazing, given that he only took up the sport in 2010. He says he was inspired by an interview he saw on television with the charismatic Canadian skeleton athlete, Jon Montgomery, after his historic and memorable victory during the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games. When Montgomery spoke of taking up a sport that he could excel at and represent Canada on the world stage, Mark knew that he too needed to find his sport. Luckily for Canada, Mark chose wheelchair curling and he hasn't looked back since his first on-ice experience just three short years ago.

Mark's journey into wheelchair sports began in 2007 when a helicopter he was piloting crashed in a field near Cambridge, Ontario. As an able-bodied athlete, Mark was involved with a variety of team sports, but in his new life he began to miss the sense of community and belonging. Parasports and in particular, wheelchair curling, are once again giving him the pleasure of being part of a team and competing at a high level. He enjoys the opportunity to create new friendships with people he meets across the globe and he also enjoys the challenges of the game.

Mark says, "To be representing Canada at the Paralympics is not something I would've ever imagined in my wildest dreams. I'm honored to do so and will proudly represent wheelchair curlers across Canada."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1st 2013 World Wheelchair Curling Championships (Sochi, Russia)... 1st 2012 Ontario Provincial Wheelchair Curling Championship... 3rd 2012 Canadian National Wheelchair Curling Championship.





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HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Canada won gold at the 2010 and 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

PERSONAL

FAMILY:

Mark is married to Lara and has two young children, Brooklyn (age eight) and Myles (age five).

GETTING INTO THE SPORT:

Mark was asked by a friend to give wheelchair curling a try just around the time of the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. He remembers being concerned that he would not have enough strength to propel the curling rock down the ice, but he did and has been addicted to the game ever since.

ODDS AND ENDS:

Mark studied environmental science at the University of Western Ontario where he was lucky enough to meet his wife Lara, who has been his constant companion through his lowest moments and highest achievements.

Before his accident, Mark played hockey, was an avid golfer and competed in long drive competitions.

Mark describes himself as motivated, dedicated and stubborn.

NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

YEAR	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	WORLD CUP	PARALYMPIC GAMES
2013	1 ST	--	--

