Athletes’ Perceptions of People with Disabilities
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Introduction
This study evaluates whether there is a difference between men and women’s perception of athletes with disabilities. Athletes’ perceptions of people with disabilities is important because we want to find out how athletes perceive people with physical disabilities. This is to help the reader understand the extraneous challenge people with physical disabilities may face to be perceived as equal. The main focus of this research project is to figure out whether athletes would think of others that have disabilities as inferior, being that the athletic community is a complex and competitive environment. The results of our study and research from articles show that perceptions do vary amongst different athletes.

Methods & Materials
- We surveyed 100 people who identified themselves as athletes (50 male and 50 female).
- Each individual was given a series of questions that would test their perception of athletes with disabilities.
- Each person asked to rate each question on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is strongly agree and 5 is strongly disagree.
- We also analyzed articles to compare them to the results of our collected surveys.

Findings
We found that of the 50 males surveyed, 94% felt there should be more opportunities for athletes with disabilities to play sports. Of that 94%, 54% of the athletes agreed strongly. Also, we found that 58% of the males surveyed showed strong agreement with being comfortable participating with a person in a wheelchair, or any other disability. The results we came across determined that many of the males seemed open to athletes with disabilities and that they should be equal even when it comes down to prize money. Very small percentages of the males felt that athletes with disabilities should not receive the same prize money as people without, keeping the reward amount fair for people fully able-bodied or not.

Numerous professional athletes entertain us with their strength and competitive spirit. But then, there are those who inspire us with their ability to overcome hardship. Athletes with disabilities face an inflexible problem when it comes to playing sports. But that’s never a problem when it comes to playing the sport they love. There’s nothing in the world that can stop them from accomplishing that goal. These outstanding individuals are a force to be reckoned with and they should not be degraded because of their physical appearances or by their mental disabilities. Athletes with disabilities have touched the live of numerous people because although they may have a disadvantage, they use everything else they have as a way to become the best at what they do. Whether it’s running, jumping, climbing or crossing the finish line; these athletes are collectively a true picture of strength and determination.

Charts

Findings
The study of female athletes’ perspectives on athletes with disabilities shows another interesting set of information, including that of the 50 female athletes interviewed inside the school, over half the amount of total females strongly agreed to having equal amounts of prize money for all able-bodied and disabled athletes alike. This is ultimately significant compared to the men’s chart above; although the statistics are similarly related, there are many more women with a stronger feeling on the subject than there were men on the prize money factor. Additionally, the females displayed a sense of willingness to watch and gain knowledge of disabled athletes in sports as well as their own games designed specifically for them. This finding is shown to be true through the comparison of males’ and females’ responses to questions 5 and 6, where both questions showed a significantly high amount of females saying they would be interested in watching the Paralympic Games and reading about these athletes.

Conclusions
Numerous professional athletes entertain us with their strength and competitive spirit. But then, there are those who inspire us with their ability to overcome hardship. Athletes with disabilities face an inflexible problem when it comes to playing sports. But that’s never a problem when it comes to playing the sport they love. There’s nothing in the world that can stop them from accomplishing that goal. These outstanding individuals are a force to be reckoned with and they should not be degraded because of their physical appearances or by their mental disabilities. Athletes with disabilities have touched the live of numerous people because although they may have a disadvantage, they use everything else they have as a way to become the best at what they do. Whether it’s running, jumping, climbing or crossing the finish line; these athletes are collectively a true picture of strength and determination.

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