Assessing the Oppression Women Face in Paralympic Sports
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Introduction
Athletes with disabilities participate in the Paralympics. However, female athletes and male athletes with disabilities seem to be treated differently according to the awards and media coverage of the Paralympics. These differences have raised many questions, so we would like to research the extent to which male athletes with disabilities are better supported than women with disabilities in the Paralympics.

Methods & Materials
- Cases of male and female athletes with disabilities in the 2012 London Paralympics (before, during, and after the Paralympics events) were compared.
- The awards and number of times athletes were on the media after they competed in the Paralympics were compared.
- The athletes from the Paralympics are Chuck Aoki (male), LIM Woo-Geun (male), Tucker Dupree (male), Sam Kavanagh (male), Guilhermina Terezinha (female), April Holmes (female), Shirley Reilly (female), and Arlen Victoria (female).

Findings

Chuck Aoki
- He is a member of the USA Wheelchair Rugby Team. He won the bronze medal in the 2012 Paralympics.
- He was born with a rare genetic condition, so he has been in a wheelchair since childhood.
- After competing in the Paralympics, he met President Obama and earned the title at the 2013 Denmark Wheelchair Rugby Challenge.

LIM Woo-Geun
- He competed in the 100m breaststroke at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, earning a gold medal.
- He cannot use his lower limbs because of brain damage when he was young.
- In the 2014 Asian Para Games, he was Korea’s flag bearer during the opening ceremony.

Tucker Dupree
- He was diagnosed with a rare disease called Leber’s Hereditary Optic Neuropathy.
- He competed in the world championship short course and was ranked 1st in 2009.
- Later, he was introduced to the Paralympics swimming team and won silver and two bronze medals in 2012 in London.
- He will compete in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Sam Kavanagh
- He represented Team USA, winning a Bronze Medal at the London 2012 Paralympic Games with an amputated leg.
- He was a track world champion in 2009 to 2011 for three years in row.
- He competed in the 100m Paralympics 2012 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Guilhermina Terezinha
- She was named the 2012 Athlete of the Year by the Brazilian Paralympics Committee after earning the gold medal in the 2012 Paralympics, with the world record in the 100 mile.
- She was born with retinitis pigmentosa.

April Holmes
- She competed in the 2012 London Paralympics with a Bronze Medal.
- She is the first female single leg amputee to run the 100m in under 13 seconds.
- Later she created a foundation for athletes with disabilities, supporting them with scholarships.

Shirley Reilly
- She participated in the 2012 London Paralympics. She won gold, silver, and bronze medals.
- She competed with a spinal cord that was injured when she was an infant.

Arlen Victoria
- She won a gold and three silver medals in the 2012 London Paralympics in swimming.
- New Hampshire’s government declared September 21 “Victoria Arlen Day.”
- She was diagnosed with transverse myelitis, a neurological disorder caused by inflammation.

Conclusion
- There is more attention by the media on male athletes with disabilities before, during, and after the 2012 London Paralympics.
- Our research does not show differences in the awards given to men and women athletes with disabilities. Both men and women achieved similar awards.
- Male athletes in Paralympics 2012 appear have had more opportunities to compete in more than one game.
- After competing in Paralympics 2012, men had more opportunities to compete in tournaments and world championships.

References