



Media Advisory

Consulate General of the United States of America • 360 University Avenue • Toronto

July 27, 2015

For Immediate Release

U.S. WHEELCHAIR TENNIS SPORTS ENVOY DAVID WAGNER IN ONTARIO

Scarborough and Guelph, Canada – As part of the U.S. Department of State's [Sports United Envoy Program](#), the U.S. Mission in Canada is programming Olympian Wheelchair Tennis Envoy David Wagner in Scarborough and Guelph from August 6 to August 9, 2015 as part of a mission-wide sports engagement strategy in relation to the upcoming the Para Pan Games (August 7-15, 2015). This Wheelchair Tennis Envoy program will provide life and sports skills for children of all ages, both with special needs and their siblings. The athlete selected for Mission Canada is David Wagner, who will travel to Variety Village at Scarborough on August 7, 2015 and KidsAbility in Guelph at the West End Community Centre on August 8, 2015 to participate in various sports clinics, teaching children tennis skills, drills, and conducting games in the field house.



David Wagner is an accomplished wheelchair tennis player, who is ranked #1 in the world in both Quad singles and Quad doubles. He has retained a top 3 position in the International Tennis Federation rankings since 2002. David has earned a total of six Paralympic medals, and won his first of 14 Grand Slam titles in 2010. The athlete became paraplegic in 1995 at the age of 21 while playing Frisbee on a beach in California. Attempting to jump over a wave to catch the Frisbee, David was pulled under and landed on his head, suffering a broken neck. Paralyzed from the mid-chest down, he began playing table tennis as part of a rehabilitation program. Having only 30 percent function in his hands, David tapes his racquet to his hand to play wheelchair tennis. By 1999, David was playing tennis competitively. Holding an Elementary Education degree from Walla Walla University, in 2004 he decided

instead to pursue tennis professionally. David Wagner is currently preparing to compete in the 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games, hoping to achieve a fourth gold Paralympic medal.

Media are invited to attend David's participation in the Parapan Am Torch Relay on August 7, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Variety Village (3701 Danforth Avenue, Scarborough) and are also welcome to join Wheelchair Tennis Envoy David Wagner for a reporting tour including brief interviews on-site and photo opportunities. For inquiries about the Variety Village programming, please contact Lynda Elmy, Director of Communication for the Variety Village, at lelmy@varietyvillage.on.ca. For inquiries about KidsAbility, please contact Dayna Giorgio, Communications Officer of KidsAbility Centre for Child Development, at dgiorgio@kidsability.ca. For media-related inquiries and more details on the schedule, please contact: Madina Turdieva, Media Specialist for U.S. Consulate General Toronto, at TurdievaM@state.gov.

[news-events/consulate-news-and-events/information-for-media.html](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/canada/164249/Toronto/WheelchairTennisEnvoyDavidWagner.pdf)

29 July 2015: Media Advisory – Biography of U.S. Wheelchair Tennis Envoy David Wagner

<http://photos.state.gov/libraries/canada/164249/Toronto/WheelchairTennisEnvoyDavidWagner.pdf>

23 July 2015: Press Release - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE SUPPORTS PANAMANIA THROUGH TWO ARTS ENVOYS

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/canada/164249/Toronto/ArtsEnvoys_PANAMANIA.pdf

23 June 2015: Media Advisory - U.S. SOCCER ENVOY MARY HARVEY IN SUDBURY

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/canada/164249/Toronto/Sudbury_SportsEnvoy.pdf

19 June 2015: Media Advisory - U.S. SOCCER ENVOY MARY HARVEY IN THUNDER BAY

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/canada/164249/Toronto/ThunderBay_SportsEnvoy.pdf

15 June 2015: Press Release - Fishackathon 2015 Toronto Winners Announced

<http://photos.state.gov/libraries/canada/164249/Toronto/FishackathonPR.pdf>