

Rochester Rookies

March 27, 2017

Adaptive Sports, USA
&
Tri-State Wheelchair Athletic Association

Dear Friends:

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I am stepping down as Director of the Rochester Rookies Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports Program.

I founded the program in 1976 after just having competed in the Paralympic Games. Having experienced competitive wheelchair sports, I was passionate about creating a junior program to provide that same opportunity to the disabled youth in our community. Over the past 41 years, we have seen four generations of athletes pass through our program, competing in regional, national, and international competitions. I am profoundly proud of each of their accomplishments.

After devoting much of my life to this program, it is important to me to ensure that it will continue to provide opportunities for generations to come. **Therefore, I am thrilled to announce that Ryan Chalmers will lead the organization going forward, as the new Program Director for the Rochester Rookies.**

Ryan started with the Rochester Rookies at the age of eight. He excelled in sports as a youth and went on to participate in college sports with the University of Illinois (track and basketball teams). He has experienced international competitions (IWAS) as a junior, and was a member of TEAM USA for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England. As the sole endurance athlete in Push Across America in 2013, Ryan pushed his racing chair 3,300 miles from Los Angeles to New York City. Throughout his athletic career, Ryan has continued to challenge himself. However, despite his many accomplishments, he is a down-to-earth and approachable young man, and I am confident that Ryan will be a valuable mentor and role model to the team members.

Additionally, I believe Ryan is up to the administrative challenges of our organization. He is experienced and skilled at fundraising, which is vitally needed to sustain and grow the Rochester Rookies. He also serves on numerous not-for-profit boards and understands the programmatic and operational components of the organization.

Our athletes, parents, staff and sponsors were elated to hear that Ryan is returning to the Rochester area and will be leading our program in the future. Since his recent return, Ryan has already recruited three new athletes and secured substantial funding for the program.

Please direct all future relevant correspondence (and update your website and social media sites) to the following updated contacts:

Ryan Chalmers
Rochester Rookies, Program
Director
11 Balsam Drive
Spencerport NY 14559
Cell: 585-301-1144
Email: Ryan@ChalmersGroup.org



Our staff consists of the following:

Gregg Chalmers, Head Coach
Gregg@ChalmersGroup.org

Kristin Marcott, Assistant Coach
KMarcott66@Yahoo.com

Chris Stavisky, Assistant Coach
Cjstavisky@Hotmail.com

If you should have any questions or concerns about this announcement, please do not hesitate to call me. I can be reached at 585-392-7182.

I have enjoyed a lifetime of wheelchair sports, and I look forward to seeing our young athletes continue to thrive during this exciting time. I expect great things under Ryan's leadership, and I am grateful for your support of the Rochester Rookies.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Ann Armstrong".

Jo Ann (Keyser) Armstrong
Rochester Rookies
Founder