

PLAYER PROFILES

MEN



GUSTAVO FERNANDEZ (ARG)

BIRTHDATE:	January 20, 1994
BIRTHPLACE:	Rio Tercero, Argentina
RESIDENCE:	Rio Tercero, Argentina
PLAYS:	Right-handed
SPONSORS:	Yonex, Invacare, Enard, Batex, Hardem

Gustavo Fernandez finished 2017 as the No. 1 ranked wheelchair tennis player in the world and was named the 2017 ITF World Champion in the men's division. He is seeking his first NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters crown. In 2018, he has captured the Open de France and Rome titles. Fernandez turned pro in 2008 and had his first major breakthrough in 2011, when he won the singles gold at the Parapan Am Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Fernandez also represented Argentina in the 2012 Paralympics in London and in Rio in 2016, where he reached the singles quarterfinals both times. He has played for his country in the World Team Cup 11 times as a pro player and as a junior player. In doubles, Fernandez peaked at No. 5 in the world in May 2016 and holds two Grand Slam doubles titles. He has been in a wheelchair since he was just over a year old, when he fell out of a chair and suffered a spinal cord injury. Fernandez comes from an athletic family, as his father was a successful professional basketball player in Argentina and his brother played basketball for Temple University in the U.S.



JOACHIM GERARD (BEL)

BIRTHDATE:	October 15, 1988
BIRTHPLACE:	Limelette, Belgium
RESIDENCE:	Court-Saint-Etienne, Belgium
PLAYS:	Right-handed
SPONSORS:	Babolat, FILA, Brussels South Airport, Partenamut, Orthopedie Toussaint, Pareto

Joachim Gerard became disabled after contracting polio as a child. At age 12, he started playing wheelchair tennis, and turned pro in 2006. He has competed in three Paralympic Games, taking the bronze medal in singles in Rio. He also reached the final of the 2016 Australian Open in singles and won the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters in 2015 and 2016. He became No. 1 in the world in December 2016. Gerard has represented Belgium in the World Team Cup eight times (2010-2011 and 2013-2018) and has won more than 800 singles and doubles matches in his career.



STEPHANE HOUDET (FRA)

BIRTHDATE: November 20, 1970
BIRTHPLACE: Saint-Nazaire, France
RESIDENCE: Paris, France
PLAYS: Right-handed
SPONSORS: Babolat, SpringCourt, Liboez, Bell&Ross, Corima, Chablot Orthopedie, Honda

Stephane Houdet was the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters Champion in 2011 and is seeking his second title here this year. He is the No. 1 ranked doubles player in the world. In November 2010, he became the first player to beat Kunieda in three years, ending Kunieda's 106-match winning streak; Houdet skyrocketed up the rankings shortly thereafter. Houdet has also ranked No. 1 in singles, first peaking at the top spot in June 2012. As the top French wheelchair player, Houdet is a two-time Roland Garros singles champion (2012 and 2013). He is also the winner of every Grand Slam event in doubles and won the calendar Grand Slam in doubles in 2014 after winning the US Open. Overall, he holds 19 Grand Slam doubles titles. Houdet captured the gold medal in doubles at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing and the 2016 Games in Rio. At the 2012 Paralympics in London, he won the silver medal in singles and the bronze medal in doubles. Throughout his career, Houdet has represented France in 11 World Team Cup competitions, winning six team titles, and capturing more than 1,000 singles and doubles matches. Houdet became an amputee (above the knee) after a motorcycle accident in Austria in 1996. He was first a top-ranked disability golfer in Europe before picking up wheelchair tennis. He is the father of two sets of twins and earned a Veterinary degree from Sciences Po Paris in 2007.



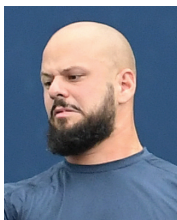
SHINGO KUNIEDA (JPN)

BIRTHDATE: February 21, 1984
BIRTHPLACE: Tokyo, Japan
RESIDENCE: Chiba, Japan
PLAYS: Right-handed
SPONSORS: UNIQLO, YONEX, Honda, BNY Mellon, ANA, Reitaku Univ, at home, IRC

Shingo Kunieda was the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters Champion from 2012-2014. He is the current world No. 1 and has amassed 22 Grand Slam singles titles, including nine Australian Open titles, seven Roland Garros titles and six US Open titles. He has also won 20 Grand Slam titles in doubles, including the 2007 and 2014 US Open doubles titles. Kunieda has also won three Paralympic Games gold medals – in singles at the 2008 Beijing Games and the 2012 London Games and in doubles at the 2004 Athens Games with Satoshi Saida. In 2007, Kunieda won his first Grand Slam wheelchair tennis title at the Australian Open and posted a three-year, 106-match winning streak from November 2007 to November 2010. Playing wheelchair tennis recreationally as a teenager after becoming paralyzed from a spine tumor surgery, Kunieda later began training with top wheelchair tennis players, including Saida. Kunieda graduated from Reitaku University in Japan with an economics degree.

PLAYER PROFILES

MEN



STEFAN OLSSON (SWE)

BIRTHDATE:	April 24, 1987
BIRTHPLACE:	Sunborn, Sweden
RESIDENCE:	Djurås, Sweden
PLAYS:	Right-handed
SPONSOR:	Wilson

Stefan Olsson won the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters in 2008 and 2010 and is going after his third title this year. Olsson won his first Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon in 2017, and again took it this year. He won two additional Grand Slam doubles titles at the US Open in 2009 and Wimbledon in 2010. Olsson also claimed gold in doubles at the Paralympic Games in London in 2012 and the silver in Beijing in 2008. He also competed in Rio in 2016 and Athens in 2004. Olsson peaked at No. 2 in the world in singles in February 2011 and No. 4 in doubles in May 2009. He has represented Sweden in the World Team Cup 16 times, winning two titles. Olsson has athrogyposis, which means his ligaments are stiff and he lacks muscle fiber in his legs. Olsson's interests off the court include carpentry and mechanics, which have led him to build furniture and porches.



NICOLAS PEIFER (FRA)

BIRTHDATE:	October 18, 1990
BIRTHPLACE:	Strasbourg, France
RESIDENCE:	Sarreguemines, France
PLAYS:	Right-handed
SPONSORS:	Babolat, Lacoste

Nicolas Peifer was the No. 1 ranked junior player in the world from 2006-2008. He is seeking his first NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters title this year. He has reached four Grand Slam singles finals (2010 US Open, 2011 Roland Garros, 2012 and 2017 Australian Open). He has also captured five doubles titles including the 2011 US Open with Stephane Houdet. Peifer competed in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, as well as London in 2012 and Rio in 2016. He won the doubles gold medal with Houdet in Rio and the doubles silver medal in London with Frederic Cattaneo. He has also represented France in the World Team Cup as both a senior and junior more than 10 times. In his career, Peifer has more than 1,000 career wins in singles and doubles. As a young philanthropist, Peifer helps young children realize their dreams. He is also one of ten children.



GORDON REID (GBR)

BIRTHDATE: October 2, 1991
BIRTHPLACE: Helensburgh, Scotland
RESIDENCE: Glasgow, Scotland
PLAYS: Left-handed
SPONSORS: Wilson, UNIQLO, RGK Wheelchairs, Tennis Foundation, Tennis Scotland, Sport Scotland Institute of Sport, Aberdeen Standard Investments

Gordon Reid stormed onto the wheelchair tennis scene at only 16 years old, representing Great Britain at the Paralympics in Beijing in 2008. Reid, who was a strong, able-bodied junior tennis player, started playing wheelchair tennis in 2005 after contracting transverse myelitis before his 13th birthday. Shortly thereafter, he won the junior title at the 2006 British Open and was part of the Great Britain team that won the junior title at the 2017 BNP Paribas World Team Cup, becoming Great Britain's youngest national champion later the same year. In 2008, Reid also competed in Wimbledon and in 2009, he became the top-ranked junior wheelchair tennis player in the world. He won his first Grand Slam singles title at the 2016 Australian Open and followed that up by winning Wimbledon that same year. He also holds nine Grand Slam doubles titles, including the 2017 and 2018 US Open titles and three Wimbledon titles. Reid reached the quarterfinals at the 2012 Paralympics in London and then went on to capture the gold medal in singles in Rio in 2016, as well as the doubles silver medal. He first became the men's singles world No. 1 in September 2016 and No. 1 in doubles in November 2015. He is seeking his first NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters title this year. Besides tennis, Reid has had the honor to represent Scotland in wheelchair basketball as well. He has also met the Queen four times.



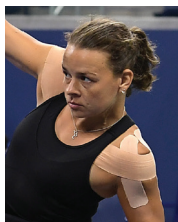
TAKASHI SANADA (JPN)

BIRTHDATE: June 8, 1985
BIRTHPLACE: Saitama, Japan
RESIDENCE: Saitama, Japan
PLAYS: Right-handed

Takashi Sanada is contesting his third NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters after making his debut in the event in 2014 and also qualifying to play in 2015. Sanada has won three singles titles in 2018, at the Kobe Open, the Busan Open and the Barcelona Open and he was also a member of the victorious Japan men's team at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup. Most recently he was a silver medallist for the second time behind his compatriot Shingo Kunieda at the Asian Para Games, where he also partnered Kunieda to a second successive men's doubles gold medal. Sanada is a two-time Paralympian, having played in both London in 2012 and Rio in 2016. A single leg amputee following a motorcycle accident, he made his international debut in at the 2007 Japan Open, having taken up taking up wheelchair tennis in 2000. Sanada reached his career best men's singles ranking at No. 7 in May 2015 and his career best doubles ranking in September 2014. He is a three-time Super Series doubles finalist.

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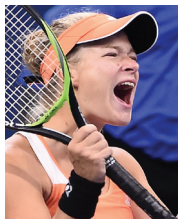
WOMEN



MARJOLEIN BUIS (NED)

BIRTHDATE:	January 11, 1988
BIRTHPLACE:	Nijmegen, Netherlands
RESIDENCE:	Beuningen, Netherlands
PLAYS:	Right-handed
SPONSORS:	Dunlop, Rovinij, Professor Grunschabel, Peak's Free From, ARN, Novio Packaging, PHCBI, VX Company, D&MS

Marjolein Buis will be attempting to achieve her first NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters title this year. She turned pro in September 2010 and has quickly climbed up the wheelchair tennis rankings, peaking at No. 3 in singles in May 2012 and reaching No. 1 in doubles in November 2012. Buis competed in her first Paralympic Games in 2012 in London and won the gold medal in doubles with compatriot Esther Vergeer. Buis also reached the singles quarterfinals in London and in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, while winning the silver medal in doubles in Rio. Her career-best Grand Slam singles result came in 2016 when she won the French Open. She also won multiple Grand Slam doubles titles. Buis was born with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a connective tissue disorder.



DIEDE DE GROOT (NED)

BIRTHDATE:	December 19, 1996
BIRTHPLACE:	Woerden, Netherlands
RESIDENCE:	Utrecht, Netherlands
PLAYS:	Right-handed
SPONSORS:	Sunrise Medical, Yonex

Diede de Groot is currently the No.1 player in the world in singles and doubles and the reigning NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters Champion. She is also the reigning US Open and Wimbledon champion in singles and doubles. De Groot, who was born with a shorter right leg, started playing wheelchair tennis at age 7 and later became the No. 1 ranked junior in the world. Storming onto the wheelchair tennis scene, de Groot reached 18 finals in 2016 and won the silver medal in doubles at the Paralympic Games in Rio with Marjolein Buis. De Groot then made her Grand Slam debut at the Australian Open in 2017 and reached the doubles final. She won her first Australian Open singles title in January this year. Off the court, de Groot enjoys spending time with her pug.



SABINE ELLERBROCK (GER)

BIRTHDATE: November 1, 1975
BIRTHPLACE: Bielefeld, Germany
RESIDENCE: Bielefeld, Germany
PLAYS: Right-handed
SPONSORS: ProActiv, Schwalbe Tires, Babolat, Gauselmann

Former world No. 1 Sabine Ellerbrock has been playing wheelchair tennis for over ten years since she lost the use of her right foot after a 2007 surgery that caused compartment syndrome. Prior to her injury, Ellerbrock taught tennis to able-bodied players, which helped her pick up the game of wheelchair tennis very quickly. She won the consolation bracket in her first tournament at the 2009 Bavarian Indoor Open. Later that year, she won her first singles event at the Bavarian Outdoor Open and has gone on to win more than 30 singles titles, including her first Grand Slam singles title at the 2013 French Open and her second Grand Slam singles title at the 2014 Australian Open. Ellerbrock became the third woman in 2013 to top the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Rankings and held onto the No. 1 ranking for part of 2014. Ellerbrock reached the semifinals at the 2012 Paralympics in London but could not compete in Rio in 2016 due to illness. She made her first trip to New York City and the US Open in 2013, where she reached the singles final. She also competed in the 2014 and 2015 US Open and has played in seven World Team Cup competitions. Ellerbrock works with German tennis players and officials to raise awareness of wheelchair tennis. She also juggles her tennis career with the demands of being a full-time math and science teacher and leverages her vacation time and unpaid leave to travel and compete.



YUI KAMIJI (JPN)

BIRTHDATE: April 24, 1994
BIRTHPLACE: Akashi, Japan
RESIDENCE: Akashi, Japan
PLAYS: Left-handed
SPONSORS: Srixon, Fila, avex

In 2017, Kamiji finished the year as World No 1 and was named ITF Women's Wheelchair World Champion for the second time in her career (also 2014). She also won the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters back in 2013 and is seeking her second title this year. Kamiji, who has spina bifida, was also formerly the No. 1 ranked wheelchair tennis junior in the world. Kamiji turned pro in 2013, and in her sophomore season captured both the singles and doubles title at the US Open in 2014.

Kamiji and doubles partner Jordanne Whiley completed the Grand Slam in doubles after winning all four events in 2014. That year, Kamiji also claimed her first Grand Slam singles title at the French Open before winning in New York. In total, Kamiji has won 20 Grand Slam singles and doubles titles. Kamiji also competed in the 2012 Paralympics in London and reached the singles quarterfinals in her Paralympic debut. She then competed in Rio in 2016 and won the bronze medal in singles. Kamiji first became No. 1 in the world in singles in May 2014 and No. 1 in the world in doubles in June 2014. She has also competed for Japan in the World Team Cup on eight occasions.

PLAYER PROFILES

WOMEN



KGOTHATSO MONTJANE (RSA)

BIRTHDATE:	June 7, 1986
BIRTHPLACE:	Polokwane, South Africa
RESIDENCE:	Pretoria, South Africa
PLAYS:	Left-handed
SPONSOR:	Babolat

Kgothatso Montjane (KG) is seeking her first NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters title this year. She made her Grand Slam debut at the 2013 Australian Open and became the first-ever African player to compete in the women's draw of the Australian Open wheelchair championship. Montjane first made history in 2012 when she became the first player from Africa to qualify for both the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters and the Doubles Masters. She also competed in the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Paralympics, winning her first round match in 2012 and 2016. Montjane, who peaked at No. 5 in the world in singles in June 2013 and No. 5 in doubles in June 2014, has been South Africa's top-ranked women's open singles and doubles player since 2005. Montjane was born with a congenital deformity in one leg and in both of her hands, and her foot was amputated when she was 12 years old. She has been a role model for able-bodied and disabled South Africans alike, being named the 2011 South African Disabled Sportswoman of the Year. Off the court, Montjane holds a degree from the University of Johannesburg in Recreation and Leisure Studies.



LUCY SHUKER (GBR)

BIRTHDATE:	May 28, 1980
BIRTHPLACE:	Doha, Qatar
RESIDENCE:	Hampshire, Great Britain
PLAYS:	Right-handed
SPONSORS:	Babolat, Invacare Top End, Toropro Tape, Parkside Suite, Path to Success, Wimbledon Debenture Holders, GLL Foundation, Moore Blatch, Team Hybrid Handcycles

Top-ranked women's British wheelchair tennis player Lucy Shuker was a standout badminton player for her county before a motorbike accident left her paralyzed in 2001. Paralympian Peter Norfolk introduced Shuker to the sport of wheelchair tennis and lent her a chair. Since then she has climbed up the wheelchair rankings. Shuker won the bronze medal in doubles at the 2012 Paralympics in her native country with Jordanne Whiley. In turn, Whiley and Shuker became the first British women's players to win a medal in the Paralympic tennis event. The duo also reached their first Grand Slam doubles final together at Wimbledon in July 2012. Shuker has reached the Wimbledon doubles final four times and the Australian Open doubles final twice. She also captured the bronze medal in doubles at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio with Whiley. Shuker was ranked as high as No. 5 in singles in March 2013 and No. 3 in doubles in June 2013. She has also competed in 11 World Team Cup competitions for Great Britain, where the team won the silver medal in 2009, 2013 and 2014. Shuker holds a degree in Science and Management of Exercise and Health from a university in Great Britain.



ANIEK VAN KOOT (NED)

BIRTHDATE: August 15, 1990
BIRTHPLACE: Winterswijk, Netherlands
RESIDENCE: Dinxperlo, Netherlands
PLAYS: Left-handed
SPONSORS: Dunlop, BCD Travel, Ostermann, Klomps, Volvo Harrie Arendsen

Aniek van Koot is a former world No. 1 player and won the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters in 2014. In 2013, van Koot won the career Grand Slam in doubles, capturing the US Open, Wimbledon, French Open and Australian Open titles with Jiske Griffioen. Van Koot first reached No. 1 in January 2013, overtaking the No. 1 ranking from retiree Esther Vergeer. She first became No. 1 in doubles in July 2010. Van Koot captured the silver medal in both singles and doubles at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, losing to Vergeer in both matches. She then won the gold medal in doubles and the silver in singles in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio. Van Koot has won more than 800 singles and doubles matches in her career and has also represented her country in 14 World Team Cups, winning the title 13 of the 14 years. Van Koot, who was introduced to tennis by her mom, has a passion for international languages and enjoys shopping and traveling the world.



GIULIA CAPOCCI (ITA)

BIRTHDATE: May 7, 1992
BIRTHPLACE: Terranuova Bracciolini, Italy
RESIDENCE: Terranuova Bracciolini, Italy
PLAYS: Right-handed

Giulia Capocci has enjoyed a breakthrough year on the UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour and is making her NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters debut in Orlando. She won her biggest title to date, the ITF 1 Sardinia Open, on home Italian soil in September and has also won the Czech Open and two further titles in Italy in 2018. She was also a Super Series semifinalist at the Open de France and the US Open USTA Championships after beating higher ranked opponents at both tournaments. Capocci reached her career best singles ranking at No. 6 following her Sardinia Open victory. Formerly a talented non-disabled player who first took up tennis at the age of 11, Capocci took up wheelchair tennis at the age of 24 after complications following a knee surgery. She played her first international wheelchair tennis tournament in 2016.

PLAYER PROFILES

QUAD



DYLAN ALCOTT (AUS)

BIRTHDATE: December 4, 1990
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne, Australia
RESIDENCE: Victoria, Australia
PLAYS: Right-handed
SPONSORS: Babolat, Nike, Toyota, Outsourced Client Solution (OCS), ANZ

Dylan Alcott played wheelchair tennis as a junior from 2004 to 2006 and then stepped away from the game to play wheelchair basketball for Australia. He won a wheelchair basketball gold medal at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing and silver medal in wheelchair basketball in London in 2012, as well. He returned to wheelchair tennis in 2014 and ascended the rankings to become the No. 1 quad wheelchair tennis player in the world in June 2015. Alcott won the gold medal in quad singles and doubles at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio. Off the court, he is a radio personality for Triple J Radio, Australia's largest station, and a motivational speaker.



ANDY LAPTHORNE (GBR)

BIRTHDATE: October 11, 1990
BIRTHPLACE: Hammersmith, England
RESIDENCE: Middlesex, England
PLAYS: Left-handed
SPONSORS: Head, Fila

Born with cerebral palsy, Lapthorne took up wheelchair tennis after first trying the sport at the United Kingdom's Tennis Foundation wheelchair tennis camp. After a successful career as a junior and gaining his men's singles world ranking, Lapthorne was classified into the quad division at the end of 2008. In 2009, he made his quad doubles debut partnership with fellow Brit and Paralympic champion Peter Norfolk. Lapthorne won his first two international quad singles titles in 2009 and was part of the Great Britain team that won the quad title at the World Team Cup in Nottingham. He ended 2010 by partnering with Norfolk to win the quad event at the Doubles Masters and in 2011, Lapthorne and Norfolk became the first all-British partnership to win a wheelchair tennis Grand Slam doubles title by capturing the Australian Open doubles title. Lapthorne also became ranked No. 1 in doubles in 2011. Lapthorne started 2012 by partnering with Norfolk to retain their Australian Open quad doubles title, which was the first of four titles they won together that season. They then won the quad doubles silver medal at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London in their home country. Lapthorne started 2013 by reaching his first Australian Open quad singles final. He then went on to claim his first career Super Series singles title by winning the South Africa Open in April to peak at No. 2 in the world. In 2014, Lapthorne partnered with American David Wagner to win the Australian Open quad doubles title and then captured the US Open quad singles title. In 2017, Lapthorne won his fifth Australian Open quad doubles title and his third partnering with Wagner. In 2016, Lapthorne won another silver quad singles medal at the Paralympics in Rio, defeating Wagner in the semifinals. Off the court, Lapthorne is a "sports fanatic" and is a season ticket holder for West Ham United. He is also a Washington Redskins fan. He hopes to work in sports media after his wheelchair tennis career.



DAVID WAGNER (USA)

BIRTHDATE: March 4, 1974
BIRTHPLACE: Fullerton, Calif.
RESIDENCE: Hillsboro, Ore.
PLAYS: Right-handed

SPONSORS: Nike, Babolat, Sunrise Medical, Oregon Action Sports, BARD

David Wagner has won the last six NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters and is the reigning quad champion. Wagner suffered a spinal cord injury in 1995 after breaking his neck in an accident on the beach which left him paralyzed from the mid-chest down, retaining only 30 percent feeling in his hands, therefore categorizing him as a quadriplegic. After he took up table tennis as part of his rehabilitation efforts, Wagner picked up a tennis racquet in 1999 and soon began to compete competitively. By 2003, he became the No. 1 ranked quad wheelchair tennis player in the world and has held the No. 1 ranking for a number of periods in his career. He is currently ranked No. 1 in both singles and doubles. Wagner has competed in four Paralympic Games and captured eight medals in the quad divisions, including three doubles gold medals with Nick Taylor (Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, and London 2012) and a singles silver medal in Athens and London and a bronze medal in Beijing. In the 2016 Rio Paralympics, he won the silver medal in quad doubles and the bronze in singles. Wagner has represented the U.S. in the World Team Cup numerous times, and helped the U.S. capture the quad title nine times, the last coming in 2015. He holds over 1,250 career singles and doubles wins. Wagner grew up in Walla Walla, Wash., where he graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from Walla Walla University in 2000. Off the court, Wagner is a motivational speaker to fellow athletes and disabled people and is a fan of the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Mariners.



LUCAS SITHOLE (RSA)

BIRTHDATE: September 30, 1986
BIRTHPLACE: Johannesburg
RESIDENCE: Johannesburg
PLAYS: Left-handed

Lucas Sithole is contesting his fifth NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters after being a finalist in the quad singles in both 2013 and 2015. So far in 2018 Sithole has reached two finals, finishing runner-up in the Melbourne Open and the French Riviera Open. Sithole made history in 2013 when he became the first African player to win a wheelchair tennis Super Series singles title and then later the same year he became the first African player to win a wheelchair Grand Slam title when claiming the US Open quad singles crown in New York. As the result of winning what is still his only Grand Slam singles title to date Sithole reached his career best quad singles world ranking of No. 3 in early September 2013. Sithole was run over by a train when he was ten years old, which resulted in him becoming a triple amputee. He started playing wheelchair tennis at the age of 18. Apart from winning the 2013 US Open quad singles title he also won the 2016 Australian Open quad doubles title partnering the USA's David Wagner.

PLAYER PROFILES

QUAD



KOJI SUGENO (JPN)

BIRTHDATE: August 24, 1981
BIRTHPLACE: Saitama, Japan
RESIDENCE: Saitama, Japan
PLAYS: Left-handed

Koji Sugeno makes his NEC Masters debut in Orlando at the end of an impressive second season in the quad singles ranks in 2018. By the end of October he had reached ten singles finals, winning seven titles, the biggest of which was his first Super Series title at the BNP Paribas Open de France. He also won his first ITF 1 singles title at the Open de L'Île de Re in France in June. Among his achievements this season Sugeno was quad singles silver medallist at the Asian Para Games, where he also partnered compatriot Mitsuteru Moroishi to win the quad doubles gold medal. He made his debut inside the world top four in the quad singles rankings in September, having achieved a career best doubles ranking of No. 8 in August.



HEATH DAVIDSON (AUS)

BIRTHDATE: May 9, 1987
BIRTHPLACE: Rosebud, Australia
RESIDENCE: Melbourne, Australia
PLAYS: Right-handed

Heath Davidson made his NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters debut in 2017, finishing third. He began 2018 by winning his first Grand Slam title after partnering fellow Australian Dylan Alcott to win the quad doubles at the Australian Open. He has since won his second successive ITF 1 Daegu Open singles title and reached the final of the Belgian Open. Davidson contracted the neurological condition transverse myelitis at the age of five months. He discovered wheelchair tennis aged 14 and, after playing as a junior, he returned to the sport after a 10-year break, encouraged by childhood friend Alcott. Davidson and Alcott won the BNP Paribas World Team Cup quad title for Australia in 2016 before going on to win the quad doubles title at Rio 2016. Together they led Australia to a second World Team Cup title this season. Davidson reached the top four in the quad singles world rankings for the first time in April this year, having achieved a best of No. 2 in the quad doubles rankings in March.