



ALLISON JONES

PARALYMPIC SUPERSTAR

Allison Jones is one of the world's greatest Paralympic athletes with eight medals (2 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze) won in eight Paralympic Games, summer and winter, and only the second American woman to earn gold medals at the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games.

A Paralympian in both cycling and alpine skiing, Jones was honored as the USA flag bearer at the 2016 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony in Rio de Janeiro. Over her career, Jones also collected 22 medals at the world championships, 10 gold, 4 silver, and 8 bronze. She graduated from the University of Denver in 2007 with a degree in mechanical engineering and now lives in the Portland, Oregon area and where she designs precision automation equipment.

Jones fell in love with cycling the day she saw a man with no hands or feet climb aboard a track bike and race in Colorado Springs. She had become an accomplished skier by age 14 but needed something to do in the summer. "In 1998 the Para-Cycling World Championships were held in Colorado Springs" she said. "My mom brought me down to the races and I told her, 'this is what I want to do.' And I learned to ride a track bike before I learned to ride a road bike."

She was born with the birth defect proximal femoral focal deficiency which left her without a right femur. She underwent surgery at age 7 months to amputate her right foot allowing her to more easily wear a prosthetic leg and received her first prosthetic leg at 9 months of age.