



# SHAMP BIONICS QUARTERLY

Three Generations of Prosthetic Care

Since 1957

## Some Amazing Feats Are Possible

The terms “blazing speed” and “amputee” don’t seem to belong in the same sentence. Neither do “Nordic skiing” and “limb loss” or “wakeboarding” and “disarticulation.”

But the fact is, a great many people with congenital or acquired limb deficiencies are turning in some amazing athletic performances these days in a variety of sports competitions. Moreover, for every “serious” competitor in organized events, there are a hundreds more amputees now competing in recreational sports from golf to soccer to snowboarding to baseball, thanks to steadily improving prosthetic limb designs.

Each year, the number and skill level of amputee athletes increases, aided by innovative specialized componentry designed specifically to boost their performance and enjoyment of life. Moreover, these improvements are blurring the line between “able” and “disabled” competitors.



*Courtesy Extremity Events Network*

Consider South African sprinter Oscar Pistorius, 20, who in April 2007 became the first bilateral amputee to run the 100 meters in under 11 seconds. Sprinting on carbon-fibre leaf-spring Cheetah “running feet,” Pistorius blistered the track in 10.91 seconds, a new amputee world record, then proceeded to establish new world standards in the 200 meters (21.58 seconds) and 400 meters (49.16 seconds) for good measure.

His times are so fast that “the fastest man on no legs” is considered by some to have an unfair advantage over “able” sprinters due to the advanced performance of his prosthetic limbs. How to relate the performances of prosthetically “enhanced” athletes with those of their able-bodied counterparts is a growing issue as componentry continues to improve.

Conceivably, top amputee athletes could begin competing in standard athletic events instead of separate competitions designed specifically for disabled participants, such as the Paralympics, O&P Extreme Games and others (see page 2). For our part, however, we

will leave those questions to the sports ethicists. As rehabilitation professionals dedicated to helping our patients

achieve all they can in life, we are excited at the new capabilities these advanced components are making possible.

Only a rare few amputees are capable of setting world records, of course. But these improvements have a trickle-down effect, making possible enhanced ability for “weekend warriors” who wear prostheses and even the far greater population of amputees whose great performance is simply being able to walk across the room.

In this issue, we examine sports and recreation prosthetic components and some of the unique competitive events and organizations established for amputees.

We hope you find the discussion informative and helpful.

### Prosthetics Today



*Advanced running foot*

*Courtesy Bionix Prosthetic Solutions*

### About Shamp Bionics

*Shamp Bionics Quarterly* is a newsletter published by Shamp Bionics to keep physicians, therapists and other rehabilitation practitioners abreast of developments in the prosthetics discipline. We hope you find our publication to be current, interesting and professionally relevant.

Shamp Bionics is now approaching its sixth decade of meeting the needs of amputees since its founding by Norm Shamp in 1957. Now, as then, our professional focus is on providing the highest attainable level of patient care, combining leading edge technology with a small family atmosphere. Norm’s grandson, certified prosthetist Mark Shamp, is now the company’s lead practitioner.

Shamp Bionics is conveniently located off I-77 at the Arlington Road exit. We welcome your comments, suggestions, requests for additional information and referrals. Call us at 330-644-4201 or visit us on the internet at [www.shampbionics.com](http://www.shampbionics.com).