

SERBIAN PARALYMPIANS ON THE WORLD STAGE

Long-term support for top results

THE PARASPORT FOUNDATION, THE GENERAL SPONSOR OF THE PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SERBIA, PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN DOMESTIC PARALYMPIC SPORTS BY PROVIDING ATHLETES WITH BETTER CONDITIONS FOR TRAINING, PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS, AND CONTINUOUS ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, Paralympic sports in Serbia have seen continuous development, reflected in the growing presence of Serbian athletes on the international stage and the notable results they achieve across many disciplines. While years of hard work, dedication, and talent development lie behind every medal won and every performance, institutional support remains one of the most critical segments for final results, enabling them to develop their full potential.

This is confirmed by the example from this year's Paralympic Winter Games in Italy and the performance of Serbian Paralympian Luka Bilčar, who led the national delegation in alpine skiing. For Serbian Paralympians, simply participating in the Winter Games is a major achievement, which the young athlete reached following notable international results. These include a victory in the super-giant slalom at a FIS competition in Slovakia, making him the first Serbian athlete to triumph in this category. Prior to the Games, Bilčar also recorded successful performances at races in the Czech Republic, confirming the consistent form and quality that rank him among Serbia's most promising Paralympians. At the Milano Cortina Games, he finished 23rd in the slalom and 31st in the giant slalom.

"Behind me are three years of intensive training and competition. Going through the ups and downs and a lot of work on the snow, each season brought me new experiences and pushed my boundaries. Now, a long-held dream is coming true – representing Serbia at



"Our mission in the coming years is to provide athletes with disabilities with a sustainable system and support, because their courage, effort, and perseverance deserve first-rate training conditions. Thanks to our strategic partnership, athletes like Luka now have the chance to reach their highest potential on the global stage," says the founder of the Parasport Foundation, Oleg Boyko.

the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Games. This is a tremendous honor for me and a motivation to give my absolute best," stated Luka Bilčar.

Even the qualification of a domestic skier for the Paralympic tournament is a success for the entire team behind him, as well as for the nation, considering that Serbia has not had a representative at the Winter Paralympic Games since PyeongChang 2018. In the 2010, 2014, and 2018 Games, we were represented by a single athlete each time, without winning any medals. The only medal – a bronze that the nation still remembers – was brought home in 1984 by Franc Komar in the alpine combination, competing in Innsbruck as a representative of Yugoslavia.

The example of Luka Bilčar perfectly illustrates how the landscape of Serbian Paralympic sports has completely transformed, demonstrating that athletes' successes and opportunities are made possible through the support of the general sponsor of the Paralympic Committee of Serbia – the Parasport Foundation. The Parasport Foundation and the Paralympic Committee of Serbia recently signed a general sponsorship agreement, launching a long-term partnership aimed at supporting Serbian athletes with disabilities and preparing the national team for upcoming competitions.

Luka Bilčar tells NIN that the support of the Paralympic Committee carries a powerful message: "that you are a national representative of a country that proudly stands behind you." It also protects athletes and provides them with much-needed financial support, all so that they can be fully dedicated to their training and competitions.

"For us Paralympians, every initiative that improves working conditions and expands support is of immense value. We see the partnership between the Parasport Foundation and the Serbian Paralympic Committee as a vital step toward creating a more stable, organized, and inclusive system where we can train, improve, and achieve top results. I believe this is not just an administrative collaboration – it is a signal that our work, effort, and results are recognized, and that there is a clear intent to develop Paralympic sports in Serbia for the long term," Bilčar emphasized.

He says that better infrastructure, greater access to experts, and stronger community support directly impact the preparation and performance of Paralympians.

"As athletes who strive for progress



"LUKA BILČAR'S QUALIFICATION FOR THE WINTER PARALYMPIC GAMES IN MILAN IS A SUCCESS FOR THE ENTIRE TEAM BEHIND HIM, AS WELL AS FOR THE NATION, CONSIDERING THAT SERBIA HAS NOT HAD A REPRESENTATIVE AT THE GAMES SINCE PYEONGCHANG 2018."



every day, we believe this partnership will open new doors, attract additional resources, and allow us to focus on what we do best – representing Serbia at the highest level and winning medals. We are grateful that Paralympic sports are increasingly recognized as an important part of our society, and we look forward to the results we will achieve together," says the Serbian Paralympian.

The Parasport Foundation for

supporting Paralympic sports aims to provide assistance to athletes with disabilities in their pursuit of an active lifestyle. The foundation is actively involved in organizing international Paralympic competitions and fundraising campaigns, positioning itself as a stable institutional base of support for Serbian Paralympians, providing them with better conditions for training, participation in international competitions, and continuous athletic

development.

The Parasport Foundation was founded by Oleg Boyko, a philanthropist who has actively supported the development of Paralympic sports and the advancement of athletes with disabilities for many years. Through the foundation's work, his vision is focused on creating equal opportunities in sports and strengthening a support system that enables athletes to compete on an equal footing at the world's largest competitions.

"Our mission in the coming years is to provide athletes with disabilities with a sustainable system and support, because their courage, effort, and perseverance deserve first-rate training conditions. Thanks to our strategic partnership, athletes like Luka now have the chance to reach their highest potential on the global stage. For the Parasport Foundation, our collaboration with the Paralympic Committee of Serbia represents a vital step in developing sustainable, long-term support programs for athletes and promoting the values of equality and respect," stated the foundation's founder, Oleg Boyko.

The strategic partnership between the Parasport Foundation and the Paralympic Committee of Serbia provides financial support to the national team ahead of major international competitions, as well as a contribution to the stable development of the Committee's activities. This collaboration also includes a series of joint initiatives aimed at promoting Paralympic values, increasing the visibility of Serbian Paralympians, and developing an inclusive sporting environment.

The partnership will further strengthen the position of Serbian Paralympic sports, promote its values in society, and lay the foundation for long-term collaboration aimed at achieving elite sporting results and building an inclusive society where sports are accessible to everyone. Given that sports for people with disabilities are not just about competition and winning medals, but, above all, a powerful instrument for social integration, confidence building, and empowerment, the Parasport Foundation's support will open new opportunities and provide a boost for future generations of Paralympians.