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CHALLENGE convention.

CHALLENGE barriers.

CHALLENGE yourself.

Show the world your support of CAF and its athletes by wearing the new CHALLENGE bracelet. Bracelets are sold in packs of 10 for \$20, plus shipping and handling. Order yours today at: <http://www.challengebracelet.kintera.org>



Embrace the Challenge!



Your purchase of CHALLENGE bracelets will help ensure that the Rudys and Jakes (pictured) of tomorrow are not left standing on the sidelines - and get a fair chance to explore and develop their athletic potential.

Wear the CHALLENGE bracelet and celebrate the achievements of those with the guts to live life to the fullest!

Special thanks to Land Rover Certified Pre-Owned for making the CHALLENGE bracelets possible.

CAF Athletes Embrace the Challenge!

Speaking of "challenging yourself" ... this weekend, CAF's Mario Solis pushed the envelope as the first wheelchair athlete to compete in one of triathlon's sternest tests, the Accenture Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon. In doing so, he set a new standard for what is possible. His undying motivation to step up to the "challenge" is an example of the inspiration this bracelet represents.



After a skiing accident in 1999 left him a paraplegic, Mario challenged himself to get back into extreme sports. Now seeking to conquer triathlon, he challenged himself again by completing 1.5-mile swim across the rough waters of the San Francisco Bay, where triathletes face the risks of strong currents, treacherous 55-degree waters and unwanted encounters with two-ton sea lions. Mario then handcycled the 18-mile "Great Highway Ride" with fierce determination. To complete the event, he partnered with 19-time Paralympic Gold Medallist Alpine Skier and below-knee amputee, Reinhild Moeller to do the 8-mile Baker Beach Run – composed of deep sand and the dreaded sand ladder. To tremendous applause by the awed crowd, the two crossed the finish line together in glory.



In addition to Mario and Reinhild, another team of CAF athletes “challenged convention” and reached the podium as the top overall relay. Consisting of three Paralympians – Rudy Garcia-Tolson (swim), Steve Cook (bike) and Willie Stewart (run) – they showed the world that all you need is a “brave heart” to reach your goals. Not only did they beat all the able-bodied teams, but also notched the 27th fastest overall time. Plus, CAF grantee Tony Theriault, finished first in the individual physically challenged division. Do they have the guts to “challenge barriers?” We think so!

Wear the CHALLENGE bracelet to help athletes like Mario, Rudy, Willie, Steve, Reinhild and Tony continue to reach for their dreams. Support them as they support other physically challenged athletes as role models and mentors, and help make the impossible possible.

A special thanks to Tri-California for making CAF the official charity of the Accenture Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon.

Photo Credit: Nicole Montoya



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