



USA

# Cheri Madsen

Omaha Tribe Paralympian



# First Native American Woman to Win a Bronze Medal



Cheri Madsen, a three-time paralympic wheelchair athlete, has medaled in the Paralympics Games eight times (two gold, four silver, two bronze). The Nebraska native and enrolled member of the Omaha Tribe was paralyzed at age 3 after a viral infection, and began wheelchair-racing as a teenager. She is the first Native American woman to win a bronze medal in an Olympic exhibition game. Cheri is greeted by family above returning from the Tokyo Paralympic Games in 2021.



# An Experienced Paralympian



Madsen has used a wheelchair since she was sickened by an unknown virus when she was three years old. She started wheelchair racing in 1994 and made her Paralympic debut in Atlanta two years later.

Tokyo was her fourth Paralympics, having started at age 19 in 1996 as Cheri Becerra at the Atlanta Paralympics, where she medaled in all four of her races.

She said the Tokyo Paralympics were her last, although she has said that in the past. She took a 13-year break at age 24 to start a family but returned to sports in time to compete in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.



# Paralympic Experience

- Four-time Paralympian (1996, 2000, 2016, 2020); Ten-time Paralympic medalist (2 golds, 5 silvers, 3 bronzes)
- Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, silver (400-meter), bronze (100-meter)
- Paralympic Games Rio 2016, silver (400-meter), 5th (100-meter)
- Paralympic Games Sydney 2000, gold (100-meter, 400-meter), silver (200-meter), 4th (800-meter)
- Paralympic Games Atlanta 1996, silver (100-meter, 200-meter), bronze (400-meter, 800-meter)
- Olympic Games Atlanta 1996, bronze (800-meter exhibition race)





# World Championship Experience

- Most recent: 2019 - bronze (100-meter), 5th (400-meter)
  - Years of participation: 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
  - Medals: 7 (3 silver, 4 bronze)
  - Silver - 2017 (100-meter, 200-meter); 2015 (200-meter)
  - Bronze - 2019 (100m), 2017 (400m), 2013 (200m, 400m)
  - Bronze - 2019 (100-meter); 2017 (400-meter); 2013 (200-meter, 400-meter)
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# Multimedia Content



**PARALYMPIAN CHERI MADSEN  
SHARES HOW HER FAMILY'S  
AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE  
SHAPED HER PERSONAL JOURNEY**

