



**MEDIAGUIDE**  
**IBSF Para-Sport World Championships 2017**  
**3-5 February 2017 – St. Moritz (SUI)**



Sled Number	Athlete Name	Nation	Athlete Information
1	Alvils Brants	LAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53- year old male, works as the Regional Manager of a Chemical company in Latvia</li> <li>• Runner-up in the overall Para WC standings this season, having captured one gold medal, two silver and one bronze in World Cup racing</li> <li>• This is Alvil’s third season of Para-bob World Cup competition</li> </ul>
2	Christopher Stewart	SUI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 43-year old male, first-year Para-bob pilot</li> <li>• Chris is an identical twin</li> <li>• Born in the U.S. to a British father and a German mother, Chris currently resides near Zurich and is sliding on his home track. He and his wife Katrin were married in Celerina in March 2014</li> <li>• Best finish this season was a bronze medal in Park City, Utah</li> <li>• Having suffered his injury in 2011, he lives by his family motto “<i>Virescit vulnere virtus</i>” (Courage grows stronger with injury)</li> </ul>
3	Egerd Erreline	EST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30-year old male rookie pilot</li> <li>• 10-year veteran of the Estonian Defense Forces, he was injured by an IED explosion in Afghanistan in 2007.</li> <li>• In spite of his injury, he became the first injured Estonian soldier to return to active duty in Afghanistan in 2011</li> <li>• He finds Para-bobsleigh to be challenging, exciting, enjoyable, and a good source of new friendships</li> </ul>
4	Israel Blanco	ESP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39-year old male, third year Para-bob pilot</li> <li>• Israel was injured in an industrial accident while doing work for the Oresund Bridge between Sweden and Denmark</li> <li>• Until he started sliding three years ago, he thought the sport was “for crazy Jamaicans and people from Northern countries”</li> <li>• He is currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in overall Para WC standings</li> <li>• He lists “sun and beach” as his favorite vacations, and “Pulp Fiction” as his favorite movie</li> </ul>

5	Brian McPherson	CAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38-year old male pilot</li> <li>• Returned to sliding this season after missing the entire 2015-2016 season due to health issues, and immediately captured the gold medal in his first World Cup racing following his return.</li> <li>• This is Brian's 3<sup>rd</sup> Paralympic sport, following a successful career in Wheel Chair Basketball (Hall of Fame – 2005) and Sledge Hockey (Canadian national team member for three years)</li> <li>• His nickname is "Iron Brian"</li> <li>• Currently ranked third in overall World Cup points for the 2016-2017 season</li> </ul>
6	Jason Sauer (pronounced "Sawyer")	AUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44-year old male pilot</li> <li>• This season marks Jason's return to sliding after a multiyear absence during which he participated in seated Alpine skiing</li> <li>• Jason suffered a serious accident Christmas Day 2010 and had both legs amputated to save his life</li> <li>• Jason is passionate about sliding and at the end of his very first run down the track in 2012, he looked up wide-eyed and loudly exclaimed, <i>"Oh My God – I have never felt so alive in my entire life!"</i></li> </ul>
7	Jason Sturm	USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39-year old male pilot</li> <li>• Jason lost his left leg in a military training accident in 2002 and, although critically wounded himself, is credited with saving the life of another serviceman injured in the same accident. Jason is a true American hero</li> <li>• As part of his rehabilitation, Jason turned his sport focus to strength and conditioning training and competed in many running, powerlifting and cross-fit events</li> <li>• Jason began sliding in Para-bob in 2014 and achieved the World Cup overall point leader at the end of that first season</li> <li>• When not sliding or running his Cross-fit Training business, Jason works with the local police near his home in Virginia to rescue pit bulls from illegal dog fighting operations</li> </ul>

8	Dawn Macomber	USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dawn, age 46, is one of two female pilots participating in the Para World Championships and is a rookie pilot this season</li> <li>• After suffering debilitating back injuries in the Army, Dawn discovered Cross-fit Training and shifted her focus to weightlifting</li> <li>• In addition to Para-bob, Dawn is training for a Summer Paralympic spot in the Shot Put</li> </ul>
9	Corie Mapp	GBR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38-year old British wounded serviceman</li> <li>• Corie is supported by the British Help for Heroes program</li> <li>• Corie is currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in overall World Cup season standings, and captured the bronze medal in World Cup racing last week in Oberhof Germany</li> <li>• Corie was the runner-up in overall season standings in his first racing season in 2014-2015</li> <li>• The Olympia Bob Run in St. Moritz is Corie's favorite track</li> </ul>
10	Andreas Kapfinger	AUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andi is a 38-year old second year pilot</li> <li>• Prior to being introduced to Para-bob Andi was a multi-games Paralympian in monoski</li> <li>• Andi is currently ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the overall World Cup standings for the 2016-2017 season</li> </ul>
11	Kenneth Jorgensen	NOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 44-year old male pilot</li> <li>• Kenneth is in his second sliding season</li> <li>• In addition to his own sporting career, Kenneth is an avid recruiter encouraging other athletes to join the sport of Para-bob</li> <li>• In the last two seasons Kenneth helped organize Para-bob driving schools for athletes from Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland</li> </ul>
12	Arturs Klots	LAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At 25 years of age, Arturs is one of the youngest pilots in the sport and a reflection of the sport's future</li> <li>• He is currently ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in overall World Cup standings, but captured the gold medal in each of the two most recent World Cup races leading up to the Para World Championships, as well as the first-ever Para European Championship</li> </ul>

13	Jurij Savickij	LTU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another young slider, Jurij Savickij is a 24-year old student from Lithuania participating in his first year of sliding</li> <li>• He finds the sport to be exhilarating and is enjoying the challenge of learning to master the tracks in Europe this season</li> </ul>
14	Annija Krumina	LAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At just 20 years of age, Annija is the youngest athlete in the competition as well as the other female pilot to qualify for the Para World Championships</li> <li>• IBSF coaches have been very impressed with Annija's ability to learn in her first season of competition and believe that she will have a very bright sporting future</li> </ul>
15	David Nicholls	USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Nicholls, age 52, is the most experienced Para-bob pilot in the World Championship competition</li> <li>• David first began piloting 2-man bobsleigh in 2004 before being introduced to Para-bobsleigh World Cup competition in 2014</li> <li>• David is another active recruiter for the sport, and many of the athletes in the Para World Championships this season were first recruited to the sport by him</li> </ul>
16	Lonnie Bissonnette	CAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lonnie Bissonnette, age 51, is the most accomplished Para-bob pilot in this World Championship competition</li> <li>• His accomplishments include: current reigning Para World Champion, season overall World Cup standings leader the last two seasons, and current Canadian Para World Champion</li> <li>• Lonnie is an accomplished BASE jumper who was injured on his 1,100<sup>th</sup> jump. He continues BASE jumping after his accident and is the only person to jump off of all four objects (Building, Antenna, Span and Earth) both with and without a wheelchair</li> <li>• As one of the older athletes, Lonnie has been quoted saying, "I will keep at this until one of the young guys knocks me off." Arturs Klots of Latvia, and several others, will be trying to do precisely that.</li> </ul>

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