

Day 7 – Paralympic Torch Bulletin Board

Morning

Pontal Beach, in Recreio, West District of Rio de Janeiro, was the departure point of the Rio 2016 Paralympic flame, this Wednesday morning, September 7th, last day of the relay. Surfers, cyclists, people at the beach and from the neighbourhood paid tribute to the flame, which proceeded for the Barra beach, and early in the afternoon, is going to go through the shorelines of Leblon, Ipanema and Copacabana. In total, more than 180 torchbearers will make the relay throughout 25.34Km.

- Paralympic athlete Anderson Fonseca was one of the first torchbearers of the day. From the street matches with the football wrapped inside a plastic bag for coverage, he got to win the gold medal along with the national football 5-a-side team. “Through sport, I managed to visit 12 countries. For me, being here is yet another victory”, he affirmed.
- Friends Márcio Garibe and Geraldo Nogueira met for a different activity this holiday: carrying the Paralympic flame. “I hope that the awareness of Brazilians will change starting from the Paralympic Games”, said Márcio, who is a manager. “I want to represent all people with disabilities who are not athletes, but are athletes in life, struggling to overcome their own challenges”, affirmed Geraldo, lawyer and president of the OAB-RJ’s Defence of Rights for People with Disabilities Commission.
- At the start of the Barra da Tijuca shoreline, Carlos Arthur Nuzman, president of the Rio 2016 Committee, and Bernard Rajman, member of the International Olympic Committee, carried the Paralympic torch.
- The couple Trevor and Juliette Woolf chose a different name for their son: Rio. And the coincidences don’t end there. The boy, who had the lower part of his right leg amputated when still a baby, decided to become an athlete after the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Today, Rio is 8 years old and accompanied his mother, who carried the torch at Reserva Beach. “To be with you today is an honour for us. We hope this moment will inspire other people with disabilities to reach for the stars”, said the mother Juliette.

- Torchbearer Sandro Soares was a gold medallist in Beijing 2008 for football 5-a-side. To him, the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games may influence a change of attitude towards people with disabilities. “May we sweep away all kinds of discrimination and prejudice starting from Rio 2016”, he stressed.
- Luana and Luiz Phelipe Nobre founded, in 2007, AdaptSurf, an association without lucrative ends that promotes social inclusion of people with disabilities by means of adaptive surf and accessibility at beaches. They were also torchbearers at the Barra shoreline. “Today, I’m representing all people with disabilities. I’ll pass the flame to my husband, in a kiss of flames that will be full of passion, theme of the relay here in Rio”, she announced.
- One of the biggest stars of MPB (Brazilian Popular Music), singer and composer Herbert Vianna carried the Paralympic flame at the Barra beach. “I dedicate this to everyone who is sitting or lying down and to the people who help someone with a disability”, he said. - Ambassador of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, actor Paulo Vilhena was one of this morning’s torchbearers. “I wish for good luck to all our athletes and that they represent us with love and tenderness. The Brazilian nation needs you”, he declared.
- Marcos Lima is a football 5-a-side athlete, journalist and author of the blog Histórias de Cego, which tell in a light and fun way the everyday lives of people with sight disabilities. “I’m happy and moved for carrying the Paralympic flame”, he said.
- Early this morning, at 10:00AM, the Paralympic flame also paid a special visit to the Municipal Rehabilitation Centre, in Santa Cruz.

Afternoon

Early in the afternoon, the Paralympic Torch Relay went to the Leblon shoreline. Excited with the flame’s arrival, many people at the beach surrounded the torchbearers to take pictures. Tânia Andrade, president of the Apae-RJ, opened the relay at this South District neighbourhood. “I want to represent all Apaes in Brazil. I’m super happy”, she said.

- Maestro João Carlos Martins accompanied the relay throughout all seven days, in the six cities visited by the relay. He performed along with the Camerata Bachiana of São Paulo and the percussion group Patubatê at the celebration ceremonies. “I believe that the Paralympic flame will help raising our country’s self-esteem”, he affirmed.

- Ambassador of the Paralympic Games Cleo Pires also participated at the relay in Ipanema beach. “I hope the Paralympic athletes may always inspire us. I wish I had half their motivation”, admitted the actress.
- Copacabana was the last neighbourhood to welcome the Paralympic flame. Swimming athlete Tiago Sampaio, who has Down syndrome, ended the relay through the five regions of the country, The Paralympic flame was taken in a lantern to Maracanã, where it will shine at the opening ceremony of the Games.

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