



—○ANDREW BOGDANOV○—

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

CONTACT

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RANKING

- ITF [International Tennis Federation | ITF \(itftennis.com\)](http://itftennis.com)
- USTA [Player Profile \(usta.com\)](http://usta.com)

NATIONAL RANK	3
SECTION RANK	1
DISTRICT RANK	1
NAME	Andrew Bogdanov
TOTAL POINTS	4980
CITY	Chino Valley
STATE	AZ
SECTION	Southwest
DISTRICT	Northern Arizona

Andrew Bogdanov's Road to the Paralympics

Eight years ago, my life changed forever... On Valentine's Day of 2014 I broke my neck snowboarding which paralyzed me from the chest down. As I nearly faced death, I realized that life is too short to feel sorry for myself.

Life would never look the same again. Despite having to use a wheelchair daily, I knew I could still thrive. I would just have to find ways to adapt and overcome.



Two years ago, I picked up a tennis racket for the first time... I immediately fell in love. I always loved sports, but tennis was something special. When I am out on the tennis court, I forget that I even have a disability. I wanted to go out and play every day. I decided to enter my first wheelchair tennis tournament in the C division. To my surprise, I won. I knew that this could be a good thing for me. I decided to hire a coach and train every day. I continued playing tournaments and climbing the ranks. I moved up from the C Division to the B Division. After finishing in the top 5 of the B division, the USTA asked me to move up to the A division. I moved up and continued to do well. The competition was more challenging, but this helped me improve my game. I

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continued to climb the ladder and am now ranked 3rd in the Nation in the A Division. This includes wheelchair players of all function levels. I have been classified as a quad player.



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Although my hard work has started paying off, this is just the beginning of my tennis journey. Wheelchair tennis is one of the few adaptive sports where you can make a living. In order to compete for prize money, you have to be classified into the Open Division by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). There are 3 Open Divisions in wheelchair tennis; Men's Open, Women's Open, and Quad Open. In the Quad Open Division you need to have impairment in the upper and lower body to qualify.

Andrew Bogdanov's Road to the Paralympics

Last month I flew out to Montreal Canada and the ITF classified me into the Quad Open Division. This gives me the opportunity to play internationally and compete for prize money. This will also allow me to chase my dreams of becoming a Paralympian and playing in the Grand Slams! (US Open, Wimbledon, French Open, and Australian Open)

This is where I need YOUR HELP! To achieve my dreams of becoming one of the top wheelchair tennis athletes in the world I need funds to travel to 13 tournaments in 2023. These tournaments will help me get points so I can climb the world rankings and compete in the Paralympics in Paris in 2024. My 2023 tournament schedule includes 2 tournaments in Great Britain, 6 tournaments in the United States, 3 in Spain, and 2 in Canada. Each tournament includes flight, hotel, and food expenses. My expenses on average will be around \$1115 per tournament or \$14,500 for the year.

My hopes are to off-set these expenses with prize money that might be won as well as gain ranking points to qualify for the Grand Slam events.

I hope to achieve this as soon as possible and become monetarily self sufficient playing the sport of tennis at the highest level.

Andrew Bogdanov's Road to the Paralympics

For business or organizations, I'd be happy to wear apparel or logos during my tennis matches as well as market your brand on my social media platforms.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I am so excited to be on this journey and extremely grateful for any support given.

2023 Tournament Schedule

BOLTON INDOOR ITF3 WHEELCHAIR TENNIS TOURNAMENT

17 Feb to 21 Feb 2023

Great Britain

Bolton

ITF 3 Series

Indoor - Hard

BOLTON INDOOR ITF2 WHEELCHAIR TENNIS TOURNAMENT

22 Feb to 26 Feb 2023

Great Britain

Bolton

ITF 2 Series

Indoor – Hard

GEORGIA OPEN

08 Mar to 12 Mar 2023

USA

Georgia

ITF 1 Series

Outdoor - Hard

CAJUN CLASSIC

14 Mar to 19 Mar 2023

USA

Baton Rouge

ITF Super Series

Outdoor – Hard

INDIAN WELLS TENNIS GARDEN WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS

13 Apr to 16 Apr 2023

USA

White Plains

ITF 3 Series

Outdoor – Hard

UH COUGAR OPEN

20 Apr to 23 Apr 2023

USA

Houston

ITF 3 Series

Outdoor – Hard

WEST TEXAS PRO TENNIS ROLLING DUST BOLL

05 May to 08 May 2023

USA

Lubbock

ITF Futures Series

Outdoor – Hard

XI TORNEO FUNDACION EMILIO SANCHEZ VICARIO

11 May to 14 May 2023

Spain

Madrid

ITF 2 Series

II CATALONIA OPEN

17 May to 21 May 2023

Spain

Barcelona

ITF 2 Series

Outdoor - Clay

TRAM BARCELONA OPEN

22 May to 27 May 2023

Spain

Barcelona

ITF 1 Series

Outdoor – Clay

SAINT-HYACINTHE INTERNATIONAL

08 Jun to 11 Jun 2023

Canada

Saint-Hyacinthe

ITF Futures Series

JANCO STEEL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

13 Jun to 16 Jun 2023

Canada

Grimsby Ontario

ITF Futures Series

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SECTIONAL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

10 Aug to 13 Aug 2023

USA

Salem

ITF Futures Series

Outdoor – Hard

Tournament	Flights	Hotel	Registration	Meals	Coaching
BOLTON INDOOR ITF3 WHEELCHAIR	\$750	\$630	included	included	\$200
BOLTON INDOOR ITF2 WHEELCHAIR	^	\$630	included	included	^
GEORGIA OPEN	\$300	\$550	\$300	included	\$360
CAJUN CLASSIC	\$350	\$550	\$364	included	^
INDIAN WELLS TENNIS GARDEN WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS	\$250	\$400	\$300	included	\$320
UH COUGAR OPEN	\$325	\$350	\$300	included	^
WEST TEXAS PRO TENNIS ROLLING DUST BOLL	\$350	\$250	\$300	included	\$160
XI TORNEO FUNDACION EMILIO SANCHEZ VICARIO	\$1,224	\$600	included	included	^
II CATALONIA OPEN	^	\$600	included	included	^
TRAM BARCELONA OPEN	^	\$600	included	included	^
SAINT-HYACINTHE INTERNATIONAL	\$561	\$450	included	included	\$360
JANCO STEEL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS	^	\$450	included	included	^
PACIFIC NORTHWEST SECTIONAL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS	\$266	\$379	\$300	included	\$440
	\$4,376	\$6,439	\$1,864		\$1,840

**Coaching expenses are \$40 a lesson and added up for the days I will be home and training

Total
\$14,519

Andrew Bogdanov: Up-and-coming tennis wheelchair champion

Who is Andrew Bogdanov and how did your injury occur?

On Valentine's Day of 2014 I was snowboarding at Arizona Snowbowl in Flagstaff and hit a jump going too fast, lost control and landed on my neck which paralyzed me from the chest down. I was flown to Flagstaff Medical Center where they did surgery on me and was in ICU for 2 weeks. I was told that I would be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life and had to adjust and teach myself a whole new lifestyle.

Post injury, how did you come to terms with this new type of living?

I had to count my blessings and realize I was still alive and had been given another chance. The accident served as a wake-up call for me. It gave me a new sense of direction and made me appreciate life more. I decided to go to college, get my degree, buy a house and help start a gym for people with disabilities. I wanted purpose and to help people that were in similar situations as me. I also wanted to be involved with sports - now in an adaptive way.

What sports are you involved with currently and what role do they play?

I am currently involved in tennis, softball, cycling, football, and monoskiing. They are incredibly important to my life and a part of who I am. They contribute to my physical and mental help and serve as a form of therapy.

And the game of tennis?

I was involved in adaptive sports after my accident and had heard about tennis. A good friend of mine plays for the Canada National Tennis team and he told about his adventures in traveling, training, and competing in tournaments around the world. This intrigued me. Covid-19 team sports were cancelled for us and I decided to try tennis because it was out-

CHRIS HOWARD
Courier Columnist



and I would go out a few times a week, hit balls and have a blast! It became my sport of choice.

It seems you've developed many tennis friendships with other wheelchair players, bringing many to the game?

Being a part of a community with others that are experiencing the same type of challenges that you are is healing. I currently run an Adaptive Fitness Center at New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center and our goal is to help others with disabilities live an active and independent life. I spend my days at work hanging out with others in chairs/with disabilities, we play sports and workout. With tennis, I've been able to introduce the sport to others and get them involved whether it's through my gym or other friendships. Everybody that's come out loves it and it's a great way to be active and forget about your disability.

At the age of 26 what are your goals with tennis and otherwise?

First and foremost, I love the sport. I've been to 3 tournaments and have met so many other amazing and inspiring athletes. Since I've started I have moved up a division and played against some really competitive players. Reaching the point of playing open tournaments or the Paralympics is a goal.

How expensive is it to go play a national tennis tournament and how do you find that money and time to do those things?

It isn't cheap. Tournaments have a registration fee, flights, hotels, rental

quickly. I have had some sponsorship help from a gym called Ability 360 which is for adaptive athletes in Phoenix. They have supported me but a lot of what I pay still is out of pocket. Additional sponsorships would be helpful.

Is playing professionally in wheelchair tennis a possibility?

I would love to play professionally someday. It would take a lot of training, competitive play and commitment.

Would a chair made for tennis help?

I have a sports chair that I use but it's not a tennis chair. A tennis chair is lighter, allows you to turn quickly and move around the court with ease. A tennis chair is upwards of \$3500.

What are a few of your life and sporting goals?

I would love to travel and compete more, have a family someday, help others with disabilities and live an active and healthy life. I've been put in a position where I can really help others. Being in a chair is tough and I know some people out there feel alone. I try to tell people with disabilities you can do anything you did before, it just looks different. I drive, but with hand controls, I work, go to school, have a beautiful girlfriend, and so much more. Life is not over.

What else about you do you think the readers would like to know about you?

I am thankful for the life I've been blessed with. If anyone wants to come by and check out the gym at New Horizons in Prescott Valley, it's free to use! We are a non-profit and here to help others with or without disabilities.

Chris Howard is a USPTA Tennis Professional with over 50 years in the racquet and fitness industry. He can be reached at 928-642-6775 or

Andrew Bogdanov to begin pro wheelchair quad tennis career

It's been a whirlwind month for local wheelchair tennis player Andrew Bogdanov (28) who flew to Montreal, Canada, Nov. 2-4, to get classified in the division of either an "Open" player or a "Quad" player. What

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the testing does, by the International Tennis Federation, is to go over your medical records, give you strength tests, and watch you play. Andrew wanted to get qualified as a "Quad," and made it by one point on their testing scale.

This is huge in now getting to go after his dream of becoming a professional wheelchair tennis player, where he'll have the chance after collecting enough ranking points from playing tournaments all over the world to qualify to play the four grand slams, the Australian, French, Wimbledon and U.S. Open.

So what's next?

To give you a little insight into Andrew's work ethic, before he went to Montreal, he drove to San Diego where he was lined up to play in the 22nd annual Hendrickson Classic at the Balboa Tennis Club.

On Nov. 2, he flew from San Diego to Montreal, got classified, flew back to San Diego late the night of Nov. 3 and played all day both Saturday and Sunday (5th) in singles and doubles in the "Open" divisions (para and quad players) and made it to the finals in both.

He lost his singles to up and coming para player Charlie Cooper 6-3, 5-7, 10-7. Charlie was the only junior to be invited to play in the U.S. Open this year and cracks the ball harder than many able bodied players.

Andrew and partner Randy Corbett from Boise, ID were also finalists in the "Open Doubles."

Late Sunday afternoon, Andrew and his girlfriend Sharon Lou jumped in their car and drove back to Prescott to begin regular work on Monday morning.

That is some crazy scheduling and time management.

I do want to mention there was very good representation of wheelchair players from the Arizona area for this tournament. Matt Orsburn, from Prescott Valley, Jordan Koeninger from Tempe, Arizona, Oby Serrano from Prescott Valley, Katie Garcia from Buckeye, and Tommy Schroeder who just moved from Arizona to Nampa, Indiana. They all had some great matches!

So now for Andrew the hard part begins. Making a plan of action to obtain enough ranking points on the wheelchair tour to get into the top 10 players in the world. Along with that, help from different entities to create the financing to help the cause and getting enough good match play to compete at the highest level ... and staying healthy.

There's a National Wheelchair Tennis Clinic being put on by "Ability 360" with former top ten player and paralympic Kaitlyn Verferth December 1st-4th at the Phoenix Tennis Center that will include the top wheelchair coaches, and the No. 4 ranked USA player Dave Wagner.

There's a very good chance that Andrew will get a chance to hit with and maybe play a little with Wagner, sizing up his playing abilities to give him an idea if he should play bigger tour events right away or build up with smaller ones as he works on attaining ITF ranking points.

To give you an idea of the time frame it might take here are some examples: Wagner at #4 in the world currently has 2009 ranking points:

Futures Event: Draw of 32: 95 points for winning/67 for runner up.

ITF3 Event: Draw of 16: 120 points for winning/85 for runner up.

ITF2 Event: Draw of 24: 220 points for winning/154 for runner up.

ITF1 Event: Draw of 24: 325 points for winning/228 for runner up.

SS Event: Draw of 24: 650 points for winning/456 for runner up.

There's a tour in Australia coming up in January that might be a possibility, but the time frame is very pressing — applications have to be in by mid December and then there's the expense and planning time... one way or the other, the journey begins and how exciting!

Chris Howard is a USPTA Tennis Professional with over 50 years in the racquet and fitness industry. He can be reached at 928-642-6775 or choward4541@gmail.com.