

NEWS RELEASE

DARDA SALES

- Born in London, Ontario on September 1, 1982 as Darda Geiger
- Raised in London and Sarnia by her mother with weekend and holiday visits to her father's farm located just outside of Zurich
- Attended elementary schools in London and Sarnia and St. Clair Secondary School, Sarnia.
- In 1985 at age 2 she lost her right leg above the knee in a farm accident
- At age 9 at suggestion of her physiotherapist at the Rotary Children's Place in Sarnia she took up swimming and 6 months later entered world of competitive swimming
- Met 3 athletes who were training for the 1992 Barcelona Summer Paralympics who inspired her to become a Paralympian
- At the 2000 Sydney Summer Paralympics she won a gold medal in world-record time as part of the 4x100 medley relay team
- In 2002 she won a gold medal in the same event at the IPC Swimming World Championships and a silver at the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens
- At the 2006 IPC World Championships she won a silver medal in the 4X100m freestyle relay, and bronze medals in the 100 m freestyle and 400 m freestyle events
- At the 2007 Para Pan Am Games she won 2 gold (100 metre freestyle and 4X100m freestyle relay) and 3 silver medals (50m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 100m backstroke)
- At the 2008 Beijing Summer Paralympics she competed in the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle and the 100m backstroke events, finishing 7th in the 100m backstroke and 8th in the 100m freestyle
- In 2010 due to a chronic injury, she retired from competitive swimming and started playing wheelchair basketball, playing for Team Ontario at the national championships. In 2014 she was selected to the national team
- She was part of the team that won a gold medal at the 2014 Women's World Wheelchair Basketball Championships held in Toronto and a silver at the 2015 Para Pan American Games in 2015
- Retired from basketball team in May 2017
- Holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in kinesiology from Western (2006), a post-graduate certification in Therapeutic Recreation from Georgian College (2006), a Masters degree in Health Studies Education and Promotion from the University of Alabama (2017) and a PHD in Philosophy in Kinesiology Leadership and Management from Western (2013)
- Co-owner of Co. Education and Consulting Inc., a firm which provides consulting services to sports organizations looking to enhance their adapted sports programming
- Was appointed Manager of Athlete Services for the Canadian Paralympic Committee in December of 2024
- Is an assistant coach with the London Aquatic Club where she heads up the Introduction to Para swimming program, which introduces children with disabilities to swimming, no matter their prior experience or skill
- Mother of 3
- Favorite quote is: Never grow a wishbone, daughter, where a backbone out to be."
- Inducted into Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame in 2022
- Honoured on London Aquatic Club Wall of Fame, alongside her husband, Brad Sales