



## Caroline Matthews

Date of Birth: 12/04/1973

Residence: Cardiff, UK

Coach: Ben Ettridge

Occupation: Lawyer

Time in Sport: 8 years

Paralympic World Cups Competed In:

2005 – Silver

2006 – Silver

2007

2008 – Bronze

2009



Known simply as “Big Bird” to her fellow wheelchair basketball players because of her 6’ft height, Cardiff’s Caroline Matthews has not only mastered the art of the basketball court, but also that of the courtroom.

A qualified solicitor practicing in public law, Caroline has been representing Great Britain since 2002 in the game she describes herself as “being addicted to” and has learnt to strike a perfect balance between her profession and her passion.

35-year-old Caroline was a keen basketball player before being diagnosed with severe arthritis in both knees in 1999, forcing her to give up “the running game” of basketball. However her passion for sport never wavered and by 2002 she had been selected for the GB wheelchair basketball squad after only six months in a game that she describes as “more difficult in terms of skill” than the running version she enjoyed as a youngster.

A regular centre-court player for Cardiff CELTS, Caroline has also competed for Bristol Pirates, London Force and Oldham Owls. She played in the European Championships in Hamburg in 2003, where Team GB qualified for the Athens Paralympics by winning the bronze medal. Caroline went on to score the opening basket in their first match which to this day is one of her most memorable on-court achievements.

Four years later and Caroline returned to Paralympic action in Beijing. In a hotly contested tournament, Team GB matched their efforts from Athens and finished eighth.

Caroline will be making her sixth appearance at this year’s BT Paralympic World Cup in an event she clearly cherishes:

“It’s so important for us to gain as much international experience as we can in order to become better players and a better team. The BT Paralympic World Cup does just that as it offers elite competition and the added element of pressure that comes with those games.”

“It’s amazing to represent Great Britain in this fantastic international tournament on home soil. I am so proud to be there representing GB and the support the crowd give us is fantastic.”