

## Jessica Galli

Jessica Galli is a 2002 graduate of Hillsborough High School and was a member of the HHS Track and Field team.

As a high school athlete, Jessica was a member of the track team from 1999-2002. During that time, she set, and still holds, the Outdoor State Championship record in the 100m (0:17.93), the 400m (1:02.45), the 800m (2:03.73) and the 1600m (4:23.64).

After leaving HHS, Jessica attended the University of Illinois where she received four varsity letters in track and field and was awarded the George Huff Award for scholar-athletes in her sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Jessica's greatest achievements have come on the world stage. She has amassed many professional accomplishments which span from 1998 until present day. She has been a member of the U.S. Paralympic Track & Field team since 1998 and has won a startling number of medals:

in 1998, at the IPC (International Paralympic Championships) World Championships in Birmingham, England, she won the bronze medal in both the 100m and the 400m; in 2000, at the Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia, Jessica took the silver medal in the 800m; in 2002 at the IPC World Championships in Lille, France, she won the gold medal in the 800m and 400m, and the silver medal in the 100m; in 2004 at the Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece, she took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 400m and the 800m, 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 100m, and 8<sup>th</sup> place in the 1500m. In 2006, at the Visa Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, England, she won the gold in both the 100m and the 800m; at the IPC World Championships in Assen, Netherlands, she won the gold in both the 100m and the 400m, silver in the 200m and bronze in the 800m. Finally, in 2007, which was her most productive year, Jessica earned 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1500m at the IAAF World Championships in Athletics, in Osaka, Japan. In June, at the European Wheelchair Championships in Switzerland, Jessica set a new world record in the 400m. Three weeks later, at the Meet in the Heat in Atlanta, Jessica again broke her own world record in the 400m by .40 seconds and also set new world records in the 200m and 800m events.

Jessica is currently the world record holder in the T53 class 200, 400, and 800 meters and is ranked No.1 in the world by the International Paralympic Committee in the 100, 200, 400, and 800m (the IPC separates wheelchair athletes into classes 51-54, depending on the extent of their spinal-cord injury). Finally, and possibly most importantly, in January of 2008 Jessica was recently selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the Paralympian of the Year for 2007.

The HHS Hall of Fame Committee is proud to induct Jessica into the 2008 class of the HHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

