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p5



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p3



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p12



April 3, 2026 • Vol. 7, Issue 310/311 • \$5.99

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THE WEEK Junior



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Redefining his sport

Paralympian Mike Schultz is shaping the world of adaptive snowboarding.

Snowboarder Mike Schultz competed in his third and final Games at the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Paralympics, which recently ended. He leaves behind a legacy defined not only by his medals but by the prosthetics he designed. At this year's Games, they were used by 29 competing athletes, including the entire US Paralympic snowboard team.

Schultz grew up in Minnesota and was involved in sports from a young age, starting with snowmobile racing. In 2008, he was injured in a snowmobile crash and had his left leg amputated above the knee. After his recovery, he explored adaptive sports and was drawn to snowboarding.

As he trained and competed, Schultz found that most prosthetics did not meet the demands of high-impact sports. In 2010, he

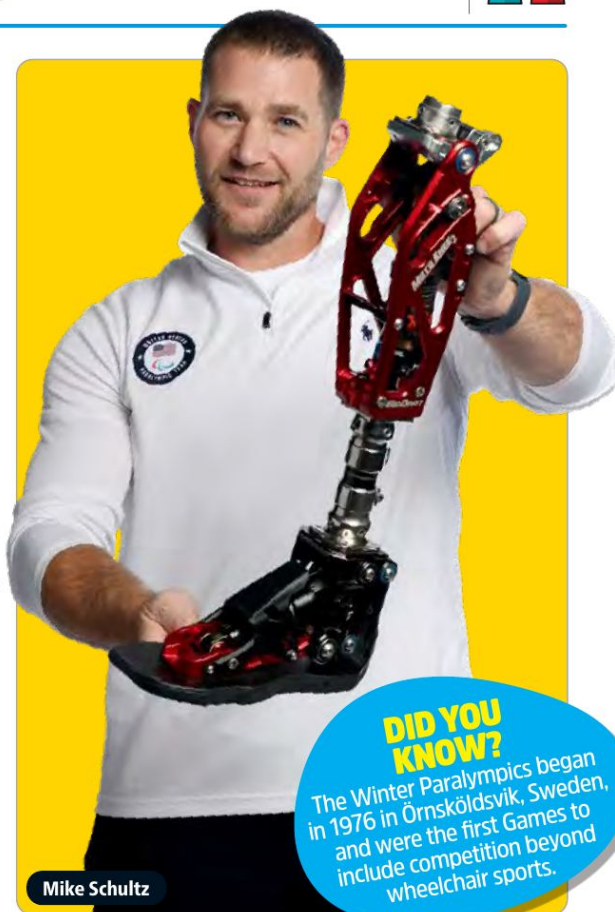
built his own prosthetic leg and founded his company BioDapt. He went on to become a three-time Paralympic medalist, winning gold in snowboard cross and silver in banked slalom in 2018 and a silver medal in snowboard cross in 2022.

At the 2026 Games, Schultz earned bronze in the men's banked slalom. He shared the podium with teammate Noah Elliott, who won gold using one of Schultz's BioDapt prosthetics. Schultz said it was a "perfect run" to complete his 12-year Paralympic career.

Now retired, Schultz plans to focus on developing new technology with BioDapt. He told *The Week Junior* that he encourages young athletes to grow from both success and setbacks. "Sport is a great way to learn what you're capable of—both mentally and physically," Schultz said.



At the 2026 Winter Paralympics



Mike Schultz

DID YOU KNOW?

The Winter Paralympics began in 1976 in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, and were the first Games to include competition beyond wheelchair sports.

A new writing role

Comedian and writer Amber Ruffin is known for her work on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*—she is the first Black woman to write for a late-night talk show in the US. She's now in the theater spotlight with her first original show, the off-Broadway comedy *Bigfoot! The Musical*. Co-written with Kevin Sciretta, it follows a gentle 8-foot-tall creature who longs for community as an evil mayor tries to trick the townspeople against him. Ruffin says *Bigfoot* is a symbol for anyone who's ever been treated unfairly. The show runs through April 26.



Amber Ruffin



Tanaka Chonyera

Launching dreams

Tanaka Chonyera, an engineer, is inspiring the next generation of innovators with his rocket boot camp in Indianapolis, Indiana. Chonyera fell in love with rocketry as a teen in Botswana and earned a degree in aerospace engineering from Michigan State University. At the camp, which is free to attend, students build and launch their own rockets while they learn engineering and teamwork. He hopes to help make the city a rocketry hub. "Space is the limit," Chonyera said. "And there is no limit in space."

OVERHEARD

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"If I can laugh, I can get through anything."

Legendary actress and singer Liza Minnelli, who recently released her first memoir, on her greatest life lesson