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Wright State University Honoring Paralympic Gold Medalist

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Grace Norman, a two-time medalist at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, will be honored by Wright State University on Friday, Feb. 24. The ceremony, which begins at 7:15 pm, takes place minutes before the Raiders host Valparaiso University in men's basketball. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 pm.

Norman will interact with fans at the game, pose for photos and sign autographs on the concourse at halftime.

Norman is a freshman majoring in nursing at Cedarville University. She won the gold medal in the triathlon and just 36 hours later, she won a bronze medal in the 400-meter race. As the youngest triathlon athlete at the Paralympics, and for her inspirational accomplishment, she gained the respect and adoration of Americans.

"Cedarville has been a huge support to me throughout the Paralympic Games," said Norman upon her return from Rio. "The love and support I received from Cedarville and people throughout the Dayton region has been incredible. I am so grateful."

Jeff Giles, associate director of athletics at Wright State University, says the university's athletic department wanted to recognize Norman, not just for her success, but for her persistence and hard work in overcoming obstacles.

"This is a great way to recognize Grace's athletic achievements," said Giles. "But it's also an opportunity for Wright State to showcase our history of helping those with disabilities."

Leading up to the Paralympic Games, Norman endured 10 months of intense training. Her work paid off in many ways, including learning valuable lessons about life and helping others.

"One of the things I learned during the games was how to look at a challenge in a positive light," explained Norman. "I was so sore and tired from competing in the triathlon that there was no way I could've done what I did in the 400-meter dash if it wasn't for the strength of God running through me."

But hearing the national anthem of the United States of America helped to ease the pain.

"I will never forget the moment I stood on the medal podium with my hand over my heart and heard our national anthem," said Norman. "When I started singing and the tears started to come, pride in my country and an overwhelming amount of emotion came up as I realized what I had just accomplished."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.