ESU MOTION FACT FILE

This House Believes That media coverage of the Paralympics should focus on the performance of the athletes, and not the “inspirational” aspect of their stories

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Some background information

During the Paralympics, the media often focuses on the ways in which athletes have overcome their disability. They say that their achievements are impressive because of what they have overcome. This inevitably leads to less focus on the athletic achievements. Do you think the media should focus more on the athletic achievement?

Starter questions

Are the inspirational stories valuable? Who for?

How does this make the athletes feel? Are they being treated as primarily athletes, or primarily people with disabilities?

Should the media aim to treat people with disabilities exactly as they treat other athletes?