

A swimmer is shown from the chest up, swimming in a pool of clear blue water. The swimmer is wearing a black swim cap and goggles, and is wearing a purple wristband on their left wrist. The water is splashing around the swimmer's head and arms. The background is a solid blue color.

INTRODUCING SHELBY NEWKIRK

CLASSROOM
CHAMPIONS
how better gets better and better





Growing up doing a wide variety of sports, Shelby Newkirk has always loved being active and working towards her goals. In 2013, life changed for Shelby as she was diagnosed with generalized dystonia (a progressive neurological movement disorder) and as a result was no longer able to do the sports that she had previously loved. Looking for a new way to stay active and find a new outlet for her competitive spirit, Shelby found para swimming.

Shelby is now a member of Team Canada and competed in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. In her first Paralympics, she swam to a 4th place finish in the backstroke and set Canadian records in every event she competed in. Most recently, she won gold in the 100m backstroke at the 2022 World Para Swimming Championships. She currently holds 26 Canadian Records and a World Record. Outside of the pool, Shelby works part time as a swim coach and is working towards completing her Bachelors of Education with the goal of making schools more accessible for all students and increase the presence and availability of para sport opportunities in schools.

Performance Stats:

2022 - 100m Backstroke Gold Medalist at the World Para Swimming Championships

2020 - Backstroke 4th place finish at the Tokyo Paralympic Games

2019 - Silver 100m Backstroke at the Para Swimming World Championships

2019 World Record 100m and 200m Backstroke
Gold and Bronze - 100m Backstroke and 100m Freestyle



FUN FACT!

Shelby holds 26 Canadian records and she loves doing crafty and creative projects like crocheting, painting and wood carving which she channels into her small business!