

Rio 2013

Meet our cover star, Rio Woolf



One of the lucky youngsters who came along to watch and learn at LimbPower's Junior Amputee Games in September enjoyed a dream come true when he not only met, but trained with Paralympic legend Jonnie Peacock

"Rio," says his mum, Juliette, "was born with a similar condition to Oscar Pistorius, with fibular hemimelia – a missing or partially formed fibula – requiring a below-knee amputation. Rio's condition is a

one-in-a-million – tibial hemimelia/aplasia [absence of tibia, knee and ankle joint] – necessitating a through-knee amputation at 14 months. He was given his first prosthetic leg at 17 months and finally learned to walk exactly a year after his operation, at two

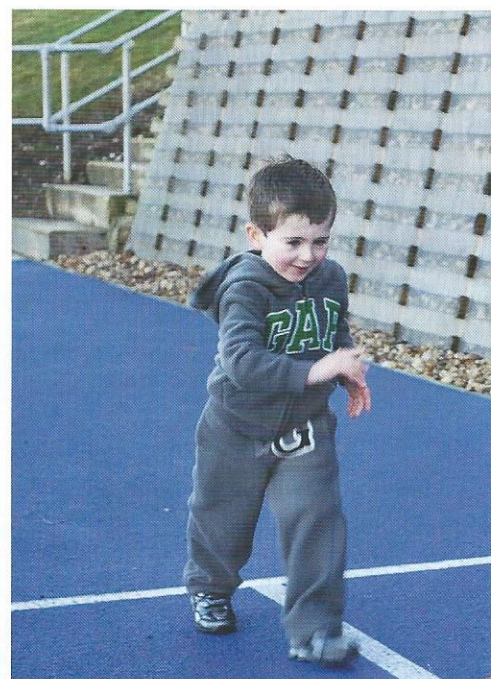
years, three months. He is now 4½ years old and loves sport – especially running! He was so inspired by the Paralympics, which came at just the right time, as he was feeling very negative earlier in the summer about his ability to run, saying he couldn't keep up with the other children. But after watching his Paralympic heroes – Jonnie [Peacock], Oscar [Pistorius] and Richard [Whitehead] – he was so motivated and filled with a new-found confidence!

"We took him to the LimbPower Junior and Primary Amputee Games at Stoke Mandeville in September, after I heard about them at the Greatest Team Parade. Kiera Roche very kindly invited him to join in, even though he was two years younger than the minimum age, and he was immediately hooked on Para/Disability Sport."

Rio is sports mad and was thrilled to meet his idol, Jonnie Peacock, there. They had great fun racing on the track together and Jonnie also kindly signed Rio's Paralympic souvenirs and poster.

"Jonnie is such a lovely, humble, friendly guy," says Juliette. "He was so sweet with Rio, who was initially very shy with him (and uncharacteristically speechless!), but was soon showing off his 'special leg' to Jonnie and Jonnie showed him his."

The Amputee Games were launched in



Rio with coach Lincoln Asquith at the Junior Amputee Games. On your marks... Get set...