



The ALS Association
National Office

27001 Agoura Road, Suite 150
Calabasas Hills, CA 91301-5104
(818) 880-9007 FAX (818) 880-9006

Media Advisory

Contact:
The ALS Association
Gary Wosk
(818) 587-2241
gwosk@alsa-national.org

U.S. Sailor with Advanced Form of Lou Gehrig's Disease to Compete in Paralympics Games in Beijing

ALS Association Experts can Provide Primer on the Disease, Discuss Challenges of Competing

WHAT: Sailor Nick Scandone, who is living with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), also referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, will attempt to win a Gold Medal for the United States during the Paralympics Games in Beijing, September 6-15. Scandone, diagnosed with the progressive, neurodegenerative disease in 2002, is an inspirational athlete: he has no movement in his legs, his arms are quite weak and he needs a wheelchair. Competing in the Games is a dream come true for the 42-year-old Scandone, US SAILING's Rolex Yachtsman of the Year in 2006 after winning the 2.4 Metre Open World Championship, and a favorite to win the high-speed Skud 18 (a two-person sailboat) event. On average, people with ALS survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis.

WHO: The Association's Sharon Matland, vice president of Patient Services, can explain the challenges of living with the disease and the challenges of being an ALS athlete competing in Beijing. The Association's Dr. Lucie Bruijn, science director and vice president, can provide an overview of ALS and an update on the state of ALS research. The ALS Association is a leader in the fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease. The mission of the organization is to lead the fight to cure and treat ALS through global, cutting-edge research, and to empower people with Lou Gehrig's Disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support.

###