

Patrick Ivison

On September 14, 1995, Patrick Ivison amazingly survived being backed over by a Ford Escort in a parking lot when he was 14-months-old in San Diego, CA. Patrick and his mother, Jennifer Kayler, were walking through a parking lot when the driver of a car backed up suddenly. He was arguing with his girlfriend at the time. Patrick was pinned beneath the car.

When Jennifer was finally able to free him, he had no pulse and was not breathing. A passerby who witnessed the incident ran over and immediately began CPR. He had had an infant CPR refresher course the week before. After several rounds Patrick started crying very weakly. He was LifeFlighted to Children's Hospital San Diego where he spent three weeks in the ICU and another several weeks in their Rehabilitation Unit.

Patrick suffered a C4-C5 incomplete spinal cord injury that day. He was diagnosed as a quadriplegic and has been in a wheelchair most of his life. With a tremendous amount of determination he has overcome great odds and accomplished many things. Patrick is now a freshman attending the University of Southern California and living independently of his mother's care.

The only difference between Patrick and other teens is that Patrick Ivison needs a wheelchair—and that's it, or so he says. But to others, Ivison's determination and ability to inspire others at an early age is what sets him apart.

Patrick has an amazing life filled with wheelchair sports like Rugby, Basketball, Soccer and his absolute favorite... surfing! He knows how to ski, kayak, play tennis, and the list goes on. However, his life is filled with the challenge of not being able to dress himself, do day-to-day activities independently, and so on.

Ivison is the ambassador for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Life Rolls On, a group devoted to improving the quality of life for those affected by spinal cord injuries. He has participated in the U.S. Open of Surfing for the past five years. Patrick is also a motivational speaker. He has appeared on a number of TV shows and in a movie titled *Charlie Don't Surf*.

Ivison, who says he is inspired by his mother, claims his biggest accomplishment is advocating for the rear visibility standard so that drivers can see what is behind them when backing up. In March of 2011, Patrick and his mother traveled to Washington, DC to the public hearing on the rear visibility standard where Patrick testified. A video of Patrick's testimony can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BDwwwArltM>

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