

Celine van Till (born 20 June 1991)^[1] is a Swiss para-athlete. She competed in the [2016 Paralympic Games](#) in [Rio de Janeiro](#) as a para-dressage rider. In 2023, she became time trial world champion in the T2 category at the [Para-cycling Road World Championships](#) in [Glasgow](#). Van Till is also an author, speaker and sits on the [Grand Council of Geneva](#) for [The Liberals](#).



Early life and injury

When she was 6 years old, van Till started horse riding.^[2] At 15, she finished 5th in the Swiss Junior Championships and was accepted into the junior national dressage team.^[2] In 2008, she suffered a serious riding accident during training in Germany. Her horse reared up, fell, and buried van Till under it. She was in a coma for a month with a severe traumatic brain injury.^[1] She had to learn everything again: speaking, eating, walking. In the months she spent in hospital, she fell into a deep depression. She tried to take her own life twice.^[3]

Van Till got back on her feet and gradually found her way in her new life. Impairments remained: her left field of vision is restricted, her vision is double and two-dimensional, her coordination and balance are impaired.^[1] Her mother had encouraged her to ride again.^[3]

Sporting career

In 2010, van Till competed in international competitions again. At the World Championships in Kentucky, she came 4th (freestyle) and 6th (individual) in para-dressage. In 2014, she competed in the World Championships again, and a year later she also competed in the European Championships. In 2016, she fulfilled a big dream: she took part in the [Paralympics in Rio](#).^[1] A year later, she competed again in the European Championships,^[3] but soon she turned to a new sport.

In 2018, van Till started para-athletics. As a sprinter, she qualified for the [2020 Summer Paralympics](#). But in 2021, she fell on her head at a meeting in [Tunis](#). For months, she was again plagued by severe headaches and dizziness. She decided to put an end to her sporting career.^[3]

However, van Till couldn't get away from it. She took part in some fun runs and the Geneva triathlon. For this, she looked for a bicycle.^[1] Van Till got on a Paralympic racing bike with three wheels. In 2022, she announced her return to the sport and won gold in the individual time trial and road race at the [European Championships](#).^[3]

At the 2023 [Para-cycling Road World Championships](#) in Glasgow, she became world champion in the time trial and won a silver medal in the road race.^[3] A week later, she was crowned European champion in both disciplines at the European Championships in Rotterdam.^[4]

Political career

In 2021, van Till also began her political career. She was a board member of the Geneva branch of [The Liberals](#) for two years before being elected to the [Grand Council](#) in April 2023.^{[5][3]}

Personal life

Van Till has written two books about her way back to life. "Pas à Pas. Histoire d'un accident et d'une résurrection" and "Tout est possible. D'une situation de l'autre" was published in 2011 and 2021 respectively.^[6] In 2017, the film "Bucéphale" was released, which also tells her story. It won several awards.^[7] She is an ambassador for people with disabilities.^[8] In 2017, she founded the "Tout est possible" foundation, which supports disabled athletes.^[9]

Van Till has a bachelor's degree in marketing and also works as a speaker.^{[2][10]}

References

- ¹ [^] [Jump up to:^{a b c d e} "Celine van Till - Swiss Paralympic - Biografie - Resultate"](#). *Swiss Paralympic (in German)*. Retrieved 28 November 2023.
- ² [^] [Jump up to:^{a b c} "Bio"](#). *celinevantill.ch (in French)*. Retrieved 28 November 2023.
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- ⁴ [^] ["RÉSULTATS"](#). *celinevantill.ch (in French)*. Retrieved 28 November 2023.
- ⁵ [^] ["CONFÉRENCES"](#). *celinevantill.ch (in French)*. Retrieved 28 November 2023.
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- ⁸ [^] ["Celine van Till"](#) (in German). Retrieved 28 November 2023.
- ⁹ [^] ["Home"](#). *Association Tout est possible*. Retrieved 28 November 2023.
- ¹⁰ [^] ["Grand Conseil de Genève - Députés"](#). Retrieved 28 November 2023.