

Team USA Wheelchair Rugby

★ Athlete Profile ★

Dean Maccabe #7

Class 2.5

Hometown: Garden Grove, California

Birthdate: June 7, 1963

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Personal Information

I grew up in Orange County, California surfing the beaches, and snow skiing on the local mountains. I played football and water polo, and was on the wrestling, swimming and diving teams in high school. I have always been active in sports. I did a lot of cliff diving until the day of my injury. At the time I was 18 years old and working as an auto mechanic. I did my rehabilitation at Casa Colina rehab center in Pomona, California. There I met Dave Kiley, an old family friend. Dave introduced me to wheelchair sports, and showed me the difference it could make in my life. Just because I was in a wheelchair did not mean that I couldn't have an active lifestyle. He taught me that I would again be able to enjoy sports and the competitive lifestyle that I had once enjoyed.

This year I married my high school sweetheart of 19 years. With the support of her, my family and friends, I've been able to lead a productive life. I work as a sales representative for Crown Therapeutics, Inc., one of the leading wheelchair cushion distributors in the country. I also work closely with the disabled population not only promoting our products, but also touting the benefits of an active lifestyle. I am firm believer in seeing people with disabilities get back into the workforce and becoming independent and self-sufficient. I truly believe that you can live a productive and meaningful lifestyle with a disability. Not only do I manage to juggle a full time career, relationship, family and friends, but also find time to devote to the sport I love - wheelchair rugby.

Athletic Accomplishments

2000 USQRA National Championships, 5th Place
Conveen/Action Invitational, All Tournament Team

1999 USQRA National Championships, 2nd Place, Sportsmanship Award
Conveen/Action Invitational, All Tournament Team
TIRR Open Invitational, All Tournament Team

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Athletic Accomplishments - Continued

1998 World Championships, Gold Medal Team USA
USQRA National Championships, 1st Place

1997 Team USA Australian National Championships, Gold Medal, Team Captain
USQRA National Championships, All Tournament Team
Western Sectionals, MVP All Tournament Team
Southwest Regionals, All Tournament Team
Warm Springs Classic, All Tournament Team
Best Of The West, All Tournament Team

1996 Team USA Paralympics, Alternate
Team USA Toronto Invitational, 1st Place