

Team USA Wheelchair Rugby

- Staff Profile -

John Bishop

Team Leader

Hometown: Lake Worth, Florida

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Occupation: Financial Consultant

Birthdate: March 18, 1957

I was first introduced to Wheelchair Rugby in 1993 after being asked to play on the local South Florida Rattlers team. I resisted their invites to come out and play for about 4 months figuring that the game would probably be pretty lame. After much urging from those on the team, I reluctantly attended my first practice. To my amazement I instantly fell in love with the contact and aggression of the sport, and have been heavily involved on many levels since.

While I still enjoy playing rugby today (I'm a class 2 player), I am nowhere near being a national level athlete. I learned early on that by using my skills as an organizer that I could help my team, and the sport, far beyond what my abilities on the court could do. I serve as my club teams manager and treasurer, and also organize tournaments that we hold. My team has played host for numerous post-season tournaments over the years, as well as for Team USA Rugby tryouts in 1997.

In 1996 I began a website known as www.quadrugby.com as my way to help spread the excitement of wheelchair rugby in the United States. Initially my goal was to provide a central resource where people could find tournament dates and results, as well as occasional stories and photos. Since its inception the website has grown to include team contacts from around the globe, and is probably the most complete website for the sport in the world today. Many late nights are spent adding events and information during the rugby season to keep our millions of fans informed.

In 1997 I was elected to the United States Quad Rugby Association's Board of Directors as Treasurer. I am currently serving in my second term, and feel that I have helped to make our sport and association better as a result of my involvement.

In October of 1999 I served my first role as Team Leader for Team USA Rugby. We traveled to Christchurch, New Zealand with a group of rookie athletes for the World Wheelchair Games and captured the Gold Medal. That experience was one of the proudest moments in my life to date, and has taught me much in my preparations for Sydney.

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My goals as Team Leader are to deal with the teams needs so that our athletes and coaching staff can focus 100% on their jobs on the rugby court. If I do my job well I am confident that Team USA Rugby will do its job well. With the world knocking on our door as defending Champions, preparation will play a crucial role in our success at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney this October.