

# Team USA Wheelchair Rugby

## - Staff Profile -

### Wendy Gumbert

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Assistant Coach

Hometown: Wimberley, Texas

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I got involved in Rugby in 1991 through my first job in San Antonio, Texas with the Warm Springs Wheelchair Sports Program. I was hired straight out of school to start a community based wheelchair sport program. The only sport started at the time I was hired was Quad Rugby. There were 4 athletes practicing in the hospital parking lot. I answer yes, during my interview, to the question have you hear of Quad Rugby, stating I have been to a clinic. We'll that clinic was a one hour clinic. Luckily, I got to learn from former USQRA superstar, Stephen Scott. With my basketball background, I caught on fast. The team won no games in it's first year. By the second year we had a 500 record. Then the third year we found ourselves at the USQRA National Championships with a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish. I kept that team in the USQRA's top 10 for the next 2 years. Unfortunately, I left Warm Springs Wheelchair Sports after 5 years of building. In my departure the program saw 19 sports serving over 400 athletes.

In 1996 that job change brought me to Atlanta, Georgia. I then was asked to coach the Atlanta Rolling Thunder. A team that had not been to a National Championship or sectional playoff in 7 years. I took that team to the the USQRA's top ten that first year and kept them there for 3 years. In the fourth year a change of old to new athletes occurred and we are building back to the elite level.

Along with coach the Rolling Thunder out of Atlanta, I am also the Program Supervisor of the Roosevelt Sports Training Program at the Roosevelt Institute for Rehabilitation in Warm Springs, Georgia. I coordinate first time training camps through pre-Paralympic training camps for all nations. The Training Center sees over 2000 disabled athletes each year, coming from 8 different nations representing 10 different sports. Additionally, I conduct personal training for numerous Paralympic Track athletes.

### **Coaching Experience**

- **Personal Trainer (1999-Present)** – Individual training for elite wheelchair track athletes (Saul Mendoza # 1 W/C Racer in the world for 800 M - 10000 M and #2 for Marathons, Bert Burns – USA Paralympic Track Team Member, top 5 T2 Quad Racer)
- **1998 USA World Championship Team** (Toronto, Canada) – Assistant Coach
- **1997 USA International Quad Rugby Team** (Australia Nationals and New Zealand Series) - *Team Leader and Assistant Coach* - Team captured the Australia National Championship and defeated the New Zealand Wheelblacks. In addition to

coaching, I organized day tours for the team and staff for sight seeing on non competition days.

- **Atlanta Rolling Thunder** - *Head Coach and Team Manager* (1996-Present) - Took unorganized team from a 1995-96 17th place finish to being a very well respected team and a 7<sup>th</sup> place National finish in 1997, 6<sup>th</sup> place in 1998, and 11<sup>th</sup> in 1999.
- **1996 USA International Quad Rugby Team** (New Zealand Tour) - *Head Coach and Team Leader* - Assisted with clinics throughout the country and took the team to the Pacific Cup Championship.
- **San Antonio Scorchers** - *Head Coach/Team Manager* (1991-96) - Started team from the ground up and in just two years the team qualified for the National Championships finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in 1993-94, 6<sup>th</sup> in 1994-95, and 10<sup>th</sup> in 1995-96.
- **Texas Lutheran College Women's Basketball** - *Assistant Coach* (1990-1991).
- **Westside High School Women's Basketball** - *Assistant Coach* (1989-1990).

### **Other Rugby Experience**

- *USQRA Vice President* – 1998- Present
- *Inaugural USQRA Division II National Championships* – Tournament Director
- *Three USQRA Play-off tournaments* (1998-2000) – Tournament Director
- *Two Georgia Based Quad Rugby Clinics (98-2000)* – Event Coordinator and Instructor
- *Shepherd Showdown (1996)* – Tournament Director
- *USQRA Regional Assistant Commissioner* -1992-1998
- *USQRA Referee* (1995-Present) - Current Certification -level B
- *USQRA Arizona Rugby Clinic* (1997) - Clinic Instructor and assisted with material development
- *USQRA New Zealand Rugby Clinic Tour* (1996) - Assisted with clinic instruction in Christ Church and Hamilton
- *Warm Spring Winter Classic* (1993-1996) - Tournament Director
- *National Veterans Wheelchair Games Officials Committee* (1993-Present)
- *Texas Recreation and Parks Society Conference* (1995): Quad Rugby, Water Skiing and Basketball Presentation
- *Texas Referee Clinics* (1993-1995) - Clinic Coordinator
- *Lone Star State Quad Rugby Conference* - Chairperson (1992-95)
- *USQRA San Antonio Rugby Clinic* (1994) - Clinic Coordinator and assisted with clinic instruction
- *USQRA Virginia Rugby Clinic* (1994) - Top End equipment representative and assisted with instruction
- *Seven local Texas rugby tournaments* (1992-1994) - Tournament Director
- *National Veterans Games* (San Antonio-1993) - Quad Rugby Event Coordinator
- *San Antonio classification clinic and local tournament* (1992) - Event Coordinator
- *USQRA Corpus Christi Rugby Clinic* (1992) - Event Coordinator and Instructor

### **USOC Involvement**

**1993 Unites States Olympic Festival** - San Antonio, Texas

*Local Sports Coordinator for Disabled Sports* - Responsibilities included coordination with USOC-NGB director on games schedule, transportation, meals, uniforms, housing, and credentialing of the athletes with disabilities. Attended all United States Olympic Festival administrative meetings and coordinated all task with disabled sports NGB. Responsible for all miscellaneous activities related to the operation of the festival and positive image of the athletes with disabilities.

**1996 Paralympic Games** - Atlanta, Georgia

*Coach, Fan, and Quad Rugby team video recorder* - I had three local athletes competing in the track and field competition. Attended all USA Quad Rugby games as a faithful fan and assisted with team video tapping.

**Other Accomplishments and Appointments**

- Competition Coordinator for International Roosevelt Cup and Roosevelt World Basketball Challenge (1998- Present)
  - Wheelchair Sports, USA – Board Member (1999-Present)
  - United States Disabled Athletes Fund, Inc – Advisory Board Member (1998-Present)
  - Dixie Wheelchair Athletic Association – Board Member (1998-Present)
  - Southwest Wheelchair Athletics Association - Vice President/Board Member (1994-1996)
  - San Antonio Sports Foundation - Local Sports Coordinator for Disabled Sports (1993-1996)
  - 1993 United States Olympic Festival; San Antonio, Texas - Local Sports Coordinator for Disabled Sports
- Collegiate Basketball Scholarship - Texas Lutheran University (1985-1989)