



Athlete Profile (National)

Alan Lewis

Combat Army Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom

29 years old

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

As Alan Lewis prepares for his seventh year of competing in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, he looks to earn medals in several different events. In 2009, Lewis won a bronze medal in handcycling. This year, he is preparing to compete in the field events, basketball, table tennis, weightlifting and once again, handcycling.

Lewis, a double amputee, lost both legs in a land mine explosion while on duty in Kuwait in 2003, during the early years of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since his return home, he keeps active by staying involved with other Veterans. Along with the Wheelchair Games, Lewis has attended several National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinics, where he skied down the Rocky Mountains using a specially adapted ski device for amputee skiers. At that event, he also tried snowboarding.

In Denver, Lewis looks forward to the competition and brotherhood that surrounds the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

“When you come home from Iraq, you feel a loss because you lack the camaraderie you once felt with your company,” Lewis said. “At these events, although these men and women aren’t necessarily the ones I fought with, I still feel a sense of camaraderie among Veterans who can relate to my situation. Being competitive at the Games is important, but having fun also makes it even better.”

