



Athlete Profile (National)

Patrick McDonald
Army Veteran
43 years old
Orangevale, Calif.

Patrick McDonald is participating in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for the 12th time. He first competed in the Games in Dayton, Ohio in 1992. During his many years attending, he has earned a collection of medals for his winning efforts, many of them gold.



McDonald was injured in 1991, while traveling in an armored personnel carrier. The vehicle rolled over and resulted in injuries to his mid chest and lower back. During treatment, McDonald says that he flat lined for approximately five minutes as a result of steroids.

“That experience changed my life significantly,” said McDonald. After getting a second chance at life, his main focus turned to athletics, living off the ranch and his 4-year-old son.

McDonald participates in a variety of sports. His two specific athletic goals are to compete for spots on TEAM USA’s table tennis and shooting teams. Accomplishing these goals would place McDonald in competitions with other top world class athletes who have disabilities.

At home, McDonald works with the Bay Area-western chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center. McDonald is currently working with a committee to organize the first celebrity golf outing that will feature many well known celebrities and demonstrate golf as a way to highlight his local PVA chapter

McDonald has been influential in the development of adaptive golf carts and golf clubs that permit golfers with disabilities to compete at their highest level on the golf course.

“I go to the Wheelchair Games because I get to see old friends and make new ones,” McDonald said. “The other wonderful thing about the Games is seeing the faces of the other athletes when they compete; they truly give it their all.”