

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



Athlete Profile (National)

Steven McGuire
Combat Navy Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom
32 years old
Williamsburg, Virginia

Steven McGuire is one of the toughest competitors on a quad rugby court, but there is something about him that is stronger than his athleticism. It is his devotion to helping other injured Veterans.

McGuire spends a lot of his time volunteering as a peer counselor at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va. Although the name of the medical center is just a coincidence, he sets a good example there as the youngest peer counselor who can easily relate to other young Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

McGuire's past interest in sports has been the driving force behind staying physically active after a motorcycle accident in 2006 left him with a spinal cord injury. He was a former member of the South Pacific Navy Wrestling Team, but now he is a member of the East Coast Crippleers, a nationally ranked U.S. Quad Rugby Association team.

When McGuire gets to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Denver, where he will compete for a third consecutive year, he will set out to do two things. One is to win on the rugby court, and the second is to reach out to help as many other Veterans as he can.

"The National Veterans Wheelchair Games speak to me on a personal level," said McGuire. "I get to gain experience with so many others who are in my shoes. You can share stories, and experiences, and the fact that you've served makes it like everyone is there for a big family reunion.

