

Athlete Profile

Tyler Hall – Focus On Ability

Tyler Hall, a 25-year-old Army veteran from Wasilla, Alaska, enlisted for military service on September 11, 1999, two years to the day before the attacks on the World Trade Center.

“I have always been interested in serving in the military,” Hall said. “It’s probably because I have a family history of people who served before me.” Hall was stationed in Baumberg, Germany for two years as a combat engineer before being deployed to Iraq. While serving there, an improvised explosive device exploded under his vehicle. The explosion left him severely injured and doctors were forced to amputate his left leg below the knee.

During his rehabilitation and before being fitted with a prosthesis, Hall used a wheelchair regularly. When he was first introduced to wheelchair sports, he demonstrated his true Alaskan spirit of adventure. He thought of it as fun, and a good way to learn a new skill and still be competitive.

For Hall, sports are a way for everybody to get together both mentally and physically, to learn from each other and help improve activities of everyday life. He has attended the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic since 2004, where he has gone snowboarding on the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. This year, he is also signed up to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for the first time, being held in his native Alaska in July 2006.

Although Hall gets around with his prosthesis most of the time, he still needs a wheelchair to compete in some sports and will be using one in the bowling, air guns and swimming events at the Games in Anchorage. He is excited to experience his first time at the Wheelchair Games in Alaska, and is anxious for the opportunity to show his fellow Iraqi War veterans the beauty of his home state. He encourages people to come to the Games as spectators to see the veterans showcase their talents, and learn what people with disabilities can do.

Tyler Hall maintains the ultimate positive attitude, saying, “It’s the ability, not the disability.” This young hero is a living example of how to demonstrate – and live up to – one’s true potential.