

**USA**

## Dave Newkirk

I began my journey playing standing volleyball after being discovered by Dennis Lee (USA standing team member) while playing volleyball as a varsity athlete in high school in 1990. I originally started playing the sport in high school with several friends, and with my height and athleticism, I became a featured player for the US men's team very quickly. The "why" I started playing, and subsequently fell in love with the game is that it provided a sport that combined the mixture of speed, power, and athleticism with the nuances of strategy and teamwork that I could play at a very high level.

There are many people who have impacted me within the sport, however, I believe John Kessel had the greatest influence on me. From the day we met, John very directly challenged me to get better at the game. He has always stressed game-like instead of drill-oriented practices. John has a very cerebral nature when it comes to the game, and I always learn something when we've talked. The practice of approaching training as game-like has allowed me to be very successful continuing my playing career through to today's Standing Beach at its highest level.

#### Events at which I represented USA:

1990-2004 USA Men's standing team member  
1997-2000 Captain – USA Men's standing team  
1992 Paralympic Games – 4th place  
1995 US Olympic festival – Gold Medalist  
1996 Paralympic Games – 4th place  
1997 Pan-AM Open – Gold Medalist  
1998 World Championship – 4th place – Olsztyn, Poland  
1999 Pan-Am Open – Silver Medalist  
2000 Paralympic Games – 4th place  
2002 World Championships – Wisla, Poland  
2003 World Championships – Rhodes, Greece  
Retired from standing in 2004

#### Awards received:

1997 – Pan-AM open All-tournament team  
1999 – Pan-AM open – best receiver

