

**USA**

Chris Seilkop

In 1995, I discovered the US Disabled Volleyball team from an article in a magazine. I had played a little recreation volleyball but never on a coached team, but I thought I could help the team. I contacted the coach and was told that the next month the team was playing in an able body tournament near me. So I drove 7 hrs to try out for the team. At the time, there was an A and B team and they placed me on the B team. At the next tournament my B team beat the A team. After that, they placed me as a starter on the A team where I stayed for the next 10 years.

I was drawn to volleyball after watching Karch Kiraly at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics. When I made the US Disabled Team, I bought his book about the fundamentals of the game and it made a big impression on me. But the person who had the greatest in-person influence on me was John Kessel.

Events in which I was involved with the USA standing team included:

- 1996 Paralympics, Atlanta – Starting Middle Blocker
- 1997 Pan Am Open, Montreal – Starting Middle Blocker
- 1998 World Championship, Olsztyn, Poland – Starting Middle Blocker
- 1999 Pan Am Open, Laval, Canada – Starting Middle Blocker
- 2000 Paralympics, Sydney – Starting Middle Blocker & Primary Passer
- 2002 World Championship - Wisla, Poland - Starting Middle Blocker & Primary Passer
- 2003 Rhodes, Greece – Starting Middle Blocker & Primary Passer
- 2005 The Netherlands – Starting Middle Blocker & Primary Passer

Awards received:

- 1997 Pan American Open – All Tournament Team
- 1998 World Championship – Best Blocker
- 1999 Pan American Open – Best Blocker

