

**USA**

Joe Sullivan

I was first introduced to the US standing volleyball team during a camp that was held in Richmond, Virginia 1994. Friend and US Standing assistant coach David Lawrence gave me an invite to train and meet the team. I was soon after invited to go to the Worlds in Bottrop, Germany as an athlete. Being a lifetime amputee due to cancer, as an athlete growing up it was always a dream of mine to play on a competitive team with a group of athletes that have experienced similar life challenges and overcome them. Growing up wearing a prosthetic, I always felt the need to prove to the abled body community that I could compete at their level with success while bringing awareness of our capabilities as athletes with physical challenges. This was a great opportunity to break stereotypes and hopefully build up others dealing with similar situations in their communities. I also felt it was important to empower others with disabilities motivating them to achieve great things if given the opportunity and resources to do so. I love our country and having the opportunity to represent the United States as an athlete was a dream come true. It was important to me to represent our disabled community in a positive light.

David Lawrence had the greatest influence on me and my development. He was a Physical Therapist that specializes working with amputees and sports. He was the assistant coach of the US Standing team and introduced me to Volleyball as well as trained me in Richmond to prepare me for our sport. We made a great team working together professionally in the rehab field as well. We applied his expertise as a Physical Therapist understanding gait coupled with my expertise as an ABC Certified Prosthetist. We were able to apply that expertise with our growing knowledge of volleyball and the biomechanics needed for proper technique. The time we spent in the gym meshing volleyball and prosthetics was invaluable to my development as a better prosthetic practitioner, stronger volleyball player, and improved young volleyball coach at the time.

As a player for USA I participated in the following events:

2003-Fifth place, World Championships, Rhodes, Greece

2002-Fifth place, World Games, Wisla, Poland

2000- Fourth place, Paralympic Games, Sydney Australia

1999- Amputee Summer Games, George Mason University, Va





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1999- Silver Medalist, Pan Am Championships, Montreal, Canada
1998- Amputee Summer Games, George Mason University, Va
1998 - Named Captain of the United States Mens Paralympic team
1998- Fourth place, World Games, Poland
1997- Gold Medalist, Canadian Championships, Montreal, Canada
1997- Amputee Summer Games, Springfield College, Mass
1996- U.S. Olympic Festival, Boulder, Co
1996- Fourth place, Paralympic Games, Atlanta, Ga
1995- Amputee Summer Games, Towson State University, Md
1994- Eighth place, World Games, Bottrop, Germany

Awards received:

1998-2002 USA Standing Team Captain, 1995 Named USA Standing Teams most improved player

