



## **Athlete Profile (Local)**

### **John Scott – Let the Chips Fall Where They May**

John Scott, 42, an Air Force veteran from Crescent, Iowa, was seriously injured in an automobile accident in October 1988. A quadriplegic, he will compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games for the first time this summer. The 28<sup>th</sup> annual event is taking place in nearby Omaha from July 25-29, 2008, and at that time, John Scott will become a bona fide wheelchair athlete.

At the upcoming national program, Scott plans to compete in the air guns, weightlifting and bowling events. "Working out has allowed me to get back into a little bit better shape and keeps me more active," he says. "It also allows me to keep up with my kids a little better."

Before his injury, Scott enjoyed the outdoors as much as possible with activities such as hunting and fishing, and he still likes to get out and fish whenever possible. He also competed in a bass fishing tournament in Spirit Lake, Iowa last May and plans on attending this year as well. Scott credits several of his friends, along with the president of the Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) local chapter in Omaha, Mark Lindquist, with encouraging him to register for and participate in the upcoming Wheelchair Games. To prepare, he has been training with fellow members of the local PVA chapter, which is co-hosting the 2008 event with the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in Omaha.

Although Scott's auto accident was nearly 20 years ago and admittedly changed his life a lot, he said, "I have always had great support from family and friends, which has made a big difference in the way I deal with challenges. I have been married for 18 years and have a great job. Life right now couldn't be much better."

Never having competed in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games before, Scott is challenged when it comes to defining his goals for the competition. "Participating in the Games is a whole new experience for me and I'm not sure what to expect, so I am going to go out have some fun and let the chips fall where they may," he said. "I am expecting it to be a great learning experience and a great time. Things are changing for me and I am ready to build more friendships. I believe that the Games are a great opportunity, because they give athletes a chance to go out and compete with other individuals with similar abilities."

Raised on a farm near Irwin, Iowa, Scott graduated from high school there in 1984. From 1986 to 1988, he served as an aircraft fuel systems mechanic in South Korea and Alaska. Married to his wife, Lori, since 1990, the couple has two children, twins A.J. and Amanda, who are nearly six years old. He has been employed for the past ten years by CSG Systems, Inc., where works as an IT Project Manager. After this summer, he may also be a medal winner from the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. But if not, he'll still have the experience of competing and will definitely have had "some fun."