



## GRANT BOXALL – Wheelchair Rugby

### STATISTICS



<b>Date of birth</b>	19 July 1976
<b>Sport</b>	Wheelchair rugby
<b>Classification</b>	2.5
<b>Disability</b>	Quadriplegic
<b>How acquired</b>	Surfing accident
<b>Residence</b>	Success, Western Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Sport Development Officer
<b>First time competed for Aust</b>	2001 Oceania Zonal Championships, New Zealand
<b>Sport highlights</b>	Gold at 2001 Oceania Zonal Championships; bronze at 2002 World Championships; 5 <sup>th</sup> at 2004 Paralympic Games; Silver at 2005 Zonal Champs
<b>Paralympic Games experience</b>	Athens 2004
<b>Personal honours/awards</b>	Rookie of the Year 2001; NZ Rookie of the Year 2002; Best in Classification 2005 (NZ), 2006 (3 times, USA), 2006 (twice, Aus); Most Valuable Player 2006 (USA); All Star team 2004, 2005 and 2006
<b>Greatest sporting moment</b>	Making Australian team, Rookie awards
<b>Heroes/role models</b>	Father and Taj Burrow

### BIOGRAPHY

Grant Boxhall, affectionately known as 'Grunter' to his team-mates, became a quadriplegic in 2000 after being dumped by a wave while surfing with friends.

Despite his accident, Grant still surfs. In fact, with professional surfer Taj Burrow, who rescued him after his accident, he opened the South West Disabled Surfers Association in Western Australia in December 2006. Grant is also the face of a surf safety campaign in Western Australia, warning surfers of the dangers of the waves.

Just six months after his accident, Grant competed in wheelchair rugby for the first time. One year later, he became a member of the Australian team, competing at the Oceania Zonal Championships in New Zealand. Grant is a versatile player who is required to be safe with the ball and to defend key opposition threats.

In his short career, he has received numerous accolades. He was named the National Wheelchair Rugby League Rookie of the Year in 2001 and best in classification in both 2005 and 2006. With the aim of giving back to the sport that has given him so much enjoyment, Grant currently works as a sport development officer for Wheelchair Sports Western Australia. In 2007 he completed his first American national league season. Now Grant says that he is ready to make an impact in Beijing.