

2014 ARMY WARRIOR GAMES ATHLETE

NAME

James Taylor

RANK

Specialist

STATUS

Veteran

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Preparing to begin college,
University of Texas, San Antonio

FORMER WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT

Fort Sam Houston,
Warrior Transition Battalion, Texas

HOMETOWN

Cleveland, Ohio

CURRENT LOCATION

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

SCHOOL(S)

Garfield Heights High School, Ohio;
Colquitt County High School, Georgia

INJURY OR ILLNESS

Back and neck injuries, traumatic
brain injury (TBI) and damage to
ligaments on left side

LOCATION AND DATE OF INJURY OR ILLNESS

Afghanistan, 2012

EVENT(S)

Track and Field, Sitting Volleyball



Retired Spc. **James Taylor** is self-described as “an athlete in every sense of the word.” A former basketball, football and track star, Taylor struggled with recovery at the Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, after sustaining injuries in Afghanistan in 2012, including back and neck injuries, ligament damage and a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Taylor, who was recently scouted and offered a college scholarship for his prowess in track, uses sports as his outlet as he recovers. “When I’m running track, I’m a track star. When I’m doing archery, I’m an archer. Nothing else matters,” he said. “I don’t have to worry—all I have to do is focus on the task.”

For Taylor, “making the Warrior Games team is a dream come true.” After bringing home two gold medals in track events and a bronze in field at the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials, Taylor has a chance to represent the Army again. “Even though I don’t get to wear the uniform anymore, I get to show my country and comrades that I’m still willing to fight,” he said of representing the Army in track and field and sitting volleyball at Warrior Games. “Competing makes me feel like I haven’t given up and that the Army hasn’t given up on me,” he added.

As for future goals, Taylor plans on pursuing a degree in physical therapy. Ultimately, he wants to work with other wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and Veterans. “It would be amazing to work with the military, to coach patients and tell them injury is not the end,” he said.



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