



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2014

By Suzanne Ovel
Madigan Army Medical Center
Public Affairs Office

Army, Air Force to compete in championship sitting volleyball game

West Point, New York — The Army Green team and the Air Force team will move forward to the championship round of sitting volleyball on June 18 at the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trails at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Both teams competed in the first two rounds of a double-elimination bracket held at West Point's Gillis Field House on June 15, playing off against the Army Black team and the Marines team.

In round two of the bracket, the Army Green team squeezed past the Marines to emerge the victor, winning the first and third games of their round, with a final game score of 15-10.

"It was really the first time we got together and played as a team... we kept our heads in the game and pulled it together at the end," said Staff Sgt. Brian Boone, an athlete on the Army Green team.

"The Army Green definitely did a good job of executing the game plan. We had some unexpected things thrown at us, a little bit of adversity, but we managed to stick to the game plan and came out with the win when it mattered," said Army Coach JD Malone.

Boone said, "It felt good; it felt really good" to beat the Marines. He added, "It's a really good competitive camaraderie."

The Army teams started training together for sitting volleyball just last week and are starting to come together, said Retired Army Sgt. Monica Southall; she competed at Warrior Games three times already, earning a silver medal with the Army sitting volleyball team in 2013 and earning several gold medals as an individual in discus and shot put.

"I feel like our Army team has grown a lot, and we played together, and I think we're going to pull out the victory on Wednesday," she said.

Although only one of the two Army teams will advance to the championship round, Malone praised the athleticism of all his Army players.

"We got two good groups of guys, one that is extremely coachable, that can execute and make things happen, and then the other group of guys, extremely athletic, they require a little bit more development but if they're thrown into a tough spot with some senior players, they'll do an excellent job," he said.

The sitting volleyball athletes are excited about the prospect of getting picked up for Warrior Games; the Army Warrior Trails will help determine the athletes who will represent Team Army for the 2014 Warrior Games 2014 slated for Sep. 28-Oct. 4, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"I love the sport. I'm hoping that my hard work will pay off and I'll be one of the players coach picked to participate in the Warrior Games again this year," said Southall.



CUTLINE: WT_PHOTO_Sitting Volleyball_Boone_Brian_15 Jun 14

Staff Sgt. Brian Boone with the Army Green team hits the ball during the sitting volleyball competition at the 2014 U.S. Army Warrior Trials at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., June 15, 2014. The Army Green team beat the Marines team in the first round of competition, and will be playing in the championship game against the Air Force team June 18 here. Boone is from San Antonio, Texas. The Army Warrior Transition Command is hosting the Army Warrior Trials June 15-19, where more than 100 wounded, ill and injured Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Veterans face off in archery, shooting, cycling, track and field, swimming, sitting volleyball, and wheelchair basketball. The Army Warrior Trials help determine the athletes who will represent Team Army in the 2014 Warrior Games slated for Sep. 28-Oct. 4, Colorado Springs, Colorado. (U.S. Army Photo by Suzanne Ovel)

##

Warrior Transition Command (WTC) is a major subordinate command under the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM). WTC's mission is to develop, coordinate and integrate the Army's Warrior Care and Transition Program (WCTP) for wounded, ill and injured soldiers, veterans and their families. For more information on WTC, visit the new WTC website, www.WTC.army.mil, follow on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/armyWTC> or join Facebook at <http://facebook.com/armyWTC>.