HAN MIN SU

Country: Republic of Korea
Date of Birth: 6/3/1970
Sport: Para Ice Hockey

Sports Career

Paralympic Games: Bronze at PyeongChang 2018 | 7th place at Sochi 2014 | 6th place at Vancouver 2010

World Championships: Bronze at 2017 Gangneung | 7th at 2013 Goyang | Silver at 2012 Norway | 7th at 2009 Czech Republic

IPC Athletes’ Council ensures that the voices of athletes at all levels and disciplines are represented in a collaborative, professional and effective manner. Throughout my athletic career, I have seen how the IPC Athletes’ Council bridge between the IPC, working very hard for fellow para-athletes and make sure that our voices are heard. I believe that IPC Athletes’ Council has made significant steps forward. At the moment, The IPC Athletes’ Council have committed to four priorities between 2019 and 2022 - Building athlete leaders, supporting athletes’ careers, guiding the progression of the Paralympic Movement and enhancing the unique sporting environment of Paralympic athletes. I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes’ voice and IPC’s decision-making level and reinforce what has been done and create a brighter future.

More personally, sports taught me how to lead my life in more forward-looking way. As I had rheumatoid arthritis in my legs at very young age, sport has been a part of my life. Thanks to sport, through playing the sports, I realized that disability is not a big matter. Then I live with pride and confidence. At age 30 I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, and as a result my left leg was amputated below the knee, but these could not stop my passion for sports. After 6 months of rehabilitation, I met Para Ice Hockey, which became my true passion. I can call myself a Para Ice Hockey pioneer as I was a member of the first Korean Para ice hockey club, the Yonsei Eagles, when it was formed in 2000. As I have stated previously, I through various sports activities and I learned how to live a life disregarding my impairment and learned to be a team player. Finally, I reached my dream with overcoming tough exercises and injuries - claiming bronze in my home soil, at PyeongChang 2018, as a team captain.
It taught me how to live a life without barriers. Although we are all coming from different backgrounds, including culture, language and nationality, we share a common thing that we, Para athletes, have passion for para sports.

At national level, I have seen the Paralympic Movement grow from its humble origins to what it is now as took part in establishing Para Ice Hockey from the scratch. Through these experiences, I may have better understanding what some athletes may face. Once again, I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes' voice and IPC's decision-making level and reinforce what has been done. More specifically, if I elected IPC athletes' council, I would like to inspire younger generation, not just in national level, but for all my fellow athletes in next generation.

I may not be the best athlete, but I am a good listener and team player.

**Why do you wish to run for the IPC Athletes' Council?**

Athletes' Council one of the most effective mechanism by which athletes can influence change and champion athlete rights in high performance sport at the national team level. Throughout my athletic career, I have seen how the IPC Athletes’ Council bridge between the IPC, working very hard for fellow para-athletes and make sure that our voices are heard. I believe that IPC Athletes' Council has made significant steps forward. Because of the new strategy, it has a more proactive approach and stronger to athlete community. Now, I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes' voice and IPC's decision-making level and reinforce what has been done and create a brighter future.

**What special skills, background and expertise will you bring to the IPC Athletes' Council?**

Before I met I participated in various sports which including Wheelchair basketball, Powerlifting and Sitting volleyball. I have involved in both individual and group sports and usually very active in communication among team members despite language barriers. Most importantly, though these various sports, I learned to be a team player.

Also, I have seen the Paralympic Movement grow from its humble origins to what it is now as took part in establishing Para Ice Hockey from the scratch.

Through these experiences, I may have better understanding what some athletes may face.
How has sport impacted your life?

It taught me how to lead my life in more forward-looking way. As I had rheumatoid arthritis in my legs at very young age, sport has been a part of my life. Thanks to sport, through playing the sports, I realized that disability is not a big matter. Then I live with pride and confidence. At age 30 I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, and as a result my left leg was amputated below the knee, but these could not stop my passion for sports. After 6 months of rehabilitation, I met Para Ice Hockey, which became my true passion. I can call myself a Para Ice Hockey pioneer as I was a member of the first Korean Para ice hockey club, the Yonsei Eagles, when it was formed in 2000. As I have stated previously, I through various sports activities and I learned how to live a life disregarding my impairment and learned to be a team player. Finally, I reached my dream with overcoming tough exercises and injuries - claiming bronze in my home soil, at PyeongChang 2018.

It taught me how to live a life without barriers. Although we are all coming from different backgrounds, including culture, language and nationality, we share a common thing that we, Para athletes, have passion for para sports.

What is your vision for the IPC Athletes’ Council?

IPC Athletes’ Council ensures that the voices of athletes at all levels and disciplines are represented in a collaborative, professional and effective manner. At the moment, The IPC Athletes’ Council have committed to four priorities between 2019 and 2022 - Building athlete leaders, supporting athletes’ careers, guiding the progression of the Paralympic Movement and enhancing the unique sporting environment of Paralympic athletes. I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes’ voice and IPC’s decision-making level and reinforce what has been done and create a brighter future.

More specifically, if I elected IPC athletes’ council, I would like to inspire younger generation, not just in national level, but for all my fellow athletes in next generation – and inspire someone yet to be introduced to the Movement.

What is the biggest challenge you have experienced as an athlete? How did you overcome it?

After being a Para athlete, representing my proud nation, I had to overcome many circumstances, but with my passion and clear stance to be involved in the Paralympic Movement, nothing was impossible. As I had rheumatoid arthritis in my legs at very young age, sport has been a part of my life. Thanks to sport, through playing the sports, I realized that disability is not a big matter. Then I live with pride and confidence. At age 30 I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, and as a result my left leg was amputated below the knee, it was another transition of my life as I met Para Ice Hockey after six months of rehabilitation. Especially, preparing and competing PyeongChang 2018 were the most exciting yet
challenging period in my career. I put a lot of pride in my career as a Para Ice Hockey player. Having home soil advantage was the most unforgettable yet nervous moment as I hate to disappoint home fans, but thanks to my teammates, I overcame my nerves. So, my determination and friendship helped me go through difficulties.