

Meet Pydiramu Kottinti, Senior Consultant Insights and Data (I&D) and a para-athlete

Pydiramu with post-polio residual paralysis of both lower limbs and a wheelchair user, since he was 11 months old. He lost his father when he was 11 years old and his mother worked very hard for up-bringing of him along with his 4-brothers.

He was sent to a government hostel due to his disability and attended a regular school which was a few meters away from hostel. There was no transport facility to the school, so he had to crawl to get to school every day. What disappointed him most in school was when he was not able to get involved in sports. But being the leader of leaders, Pydiramu got all children with disability together and formed teams to play Cricket and Kabbadi.

He went on to do a diploma in computer science & Engineering in Mysore. However, due to financial problems, he took up a part-time job as data entry operator for Rs. 800, as after college programme. There he learnt a few software applications and in his free time he learnt AutoCAD and Artificial Intelligence programming language and used the skills to freelance.

He got his first job after much perseverance and hard work. While he worked on his English language skills, very importantly to impress his colleagues to start with. He spent his first salary in giving his wardrobe a makeover. *"The confidence you get from giving your personality a makeover is immeasurable and helps in the long run."* – says Pydiramu. Soon he won an award for the Most Valued Peer in the organisation. He was also the first person among 80 people in the department to complete a product certification and this earned him a lot of respect at his then workplace. *"I was respected for the person I was and not for the disabled body I had."* – says Pydiramu.

Out of all the sports he has played, he loved table tennis. Every Friday night, he would carry about 100 ping pong balls and practise after work. On Saturdays, he would visit a nearby sports club to practice. This determination led him to win a bronze medal at the iWAS World Championship conducted in 2009 and then there was no stopping. *"I loved table tennis and a wheelchair was not going to hold me back."* – says Pydiramu. Later he got an injury on the left shoulder in Jordan, during the semi-final match against Kuwait. Upon his return the doctors advised to stop playing table tennis. Upon recovery is co-players encouraged him to come back and he started his 2nd innings in 2013 and chose Discus throw and Club Throw. He moved from state level to national and then international levels with his determination and focus.

Awards and recognition

1. National Level - more than 25 medals won at state and national levels spanning several years.
2. Asian Level - Won a Bronze Medal for India in the Asia Oceania Athletics Championship Dubai, UAE in 2016
3. International Level - Bronze Medal at the 10th FAZZA International Athletic Championship Dubai 2018
4. Silver Medal in Discus Throw at the 1st Indian Open Athletics Championship Bengaluru in 2018
5. Bronze Medal in Club Throw at the 1st Indian Open Athletics Championship Bengaluru in 2018

6. Gold Medal in Discus Throw at the Senior Para Athletics Championship NEPAL 2017
7. KREEDA BHUSHAN - STATE AWARD for promoting Sports culture in 2017
8. KREEDA RATHNA - State Award in recognition of exceptional performance in Sports in 2017
9. BHIVRUDHI RATNA - State Award in recognition of EXCELLANCE & continued achievement's in SPORTS 2017
10. IT CHAMPION FINALIST – in the category of "Risk Taking" in 2014

11. Bronze Medal in the 6th AL-WATANI Table Tennis Championship Jordan 2013
12. Bronze Medal in Table Tennis (Singles & Doubles) at PTT Thailand Open 2011
13. Bronze Medal in Table Tennis (Doubles) at iWAS WORLD GAMES Bengaluru 2009
14. MOST VALUEED PEER AWARD in 2006

Upon asking his greatest achievement, Pydiramu says – *"My most memorable moment so far would be my first wheelchair race at Kantaveera Stadium, Bangalore. I bagged the silver medal that year."*

Today, Pydiramu is at 19th Rank in the World in Club Throw and has been selected to represent India at the iWAS World Games 2020 going to be held in Nakhon Rachsimha, THAILAND on 2nd April 2020. He will be representing India in Club Throw and Discus Throw. The Insights and Data Leadership and BU and the Diversity and Inclusion team have supported him for this championship. *"Dreams are vision to the future" – says Pydiramu*

With his achievement, K Pydiramu has shown us all that humility is an essential attitude for success. After all as Scott Hamilton puts it, "The only disability in life is bad attitude."

Please join us in wishing him best for the upcoming game season.