

# Interview



Photo: Facebook

## Kenny Verbraekel

Kenny Verbraekel is definitely one of the best known persons of the international EWH. He works as a secretary for the ICEWH (International Committee of Electric Wheelchair Hockey) and belongs to the starting line-up of the Belgium national side for years. In the interview with [EWH2014.com](http://EWH2014.com) he speaks about the “death group A” of WC 2014, the meaning of Björn Sarrazyn for Team Belgium and his assessment of the new classification system.

[EWH2014.com](#): WC 2014 is getting closer, the tension increases. Mr. Verbraekel, are you looking forward to this event and what is your expectation concerning the organization?

*Kenny Verbraekel: I’m definitely looking forward to it. It is the most important tournament you can have in our sport. You work two years towards this moment, so the tension is there. Every organization wants to do better than the previous one, so I’m convinced that the German organization will do the same and is able to achieve this.*

[EWH2014.com](#): Belgium will face Italy, host Germany and bronze medalist Finland in group A. What was your first thought about that drawing and what do you think now?

*Kenny Verbraekel: The group of death! If one of these four will win the tournament, one can say they are the true winners! Not that I’m implying that the other group is easy, let’s make this clear! Nothing is easy when you play at the WC, but group A has the numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5 from the World ranking list. That speaks from it selves.*

EWH2014.com: Belgium gained the silver medal at the last European Championships 2012 in Finland, the biggest success ever in Belgium EWH history. What is the goal of the Belgium squad for WC 2014?

*Kenny Verbraekel: Do at least as good as at the European Championships 2012 in Finland.*

EWH2014.com: Björn Sarrazyn is the star of your national side, a player who scorers almost every goal for your team. Many people say Sarrazyn is just a one man show. Why is that not true in your opinion?

*Kenny Verbraekel: I wouldn't say he is the star of our team, but a major key player. If the others aren't doing their job properly for him, Björn will not be able to do his. We play a team sport and as I say: there is no I in TEAM. Together Everyone Achieve More.*

EWH2014.com: Everyone is talking about the new classification system. Do you think it's introduction has a deep impact to the game and which nations could benefit from this? Belgium seems like the biggest winner...

*Kenny Verbraekel: It will definitely have an impact on the game. The game will be played more tactically and not the power play we used to have. With the classification system every class has a chance of playing. You can see it as an extension on the rules of introducing and obliging a T-stick player into the field.*

*I don't know who would be benefitting the most out of it. I think almost every nation as during the Sport Assembly, every nation except The Netherlands, agreed to this classification system.*

*My opinion is that the speed limit, and the punishment for speeding, will have a bigger impact than the classification system!*

EWH2014.com: Last question: Who is going to win this tournament?

*Kenny Verbraekel (smiles): Belgium! Who else?*



Kenny Verbraekel at the World Championships 2010 in Italy (Photo: Wolfram Wroz)