



IINAS **World Championships 2014**  
**Electric Wheelchair Hockey**  
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# Interview



Photo: Facebook

## Mattia Muratore

His Ball-handling is unconventional, also his passing or shooting, but after a long time he finally achieved his big goal. Mattia Muratore became an important player of the Italian national side. Even the almost 30-years old forward has not too many caps with the Squadra Azzura, he is one of the most experienced players in a young team. In an exclusive interview with EWH2014.com he talks about the anticipation for his first WC participation, his thoughts about the difficult preliminary round group and passion for EWH.

**EWH2014.com:** There are just days left before the opening ceremony of WC 2014 begins. Mr. Muratore, how much are you looking forward to this event and what is your expectation concerning the organization?

*Mattia Muratore: I'm very excited. For me it will be the first World Cup and I'm very much looking forward to get into the arena. I'm sure the organizers have done a great job and it will be without a doubt a marvelous tournament and an unforgettable experience for everyone.*

**EWH2014.com:** Italy will face European Championships runners-up Belgium, host Germany and bronze medalist Finland in group A. What was your first thought about that drawing and what do you think now?

*Mattia Muratore: As soon as I heard about the groups, I was clearly very worried. Italy will have to face three very strong teams, definitely amongst the best in the world. On the other hand, though, the idea of playing against such strong teams and very talented players is very stimulating. It will be a great show.*

EWH2014.com: Italy belonged to the favorites at the last World and European Championships, but could not win a medal. What is the goal of the Italian squad for WC 2014?

*Mattia Muratore: Let's hope that the National team in this WC could go back to be protagonist. It's a young team, very different from the one of last European Cup 2012. I believe that the right thing to do is to take each game at the time, trying to give our best and do our best. The first target is the one to qualify for the semifinals, then we will see. We really hope the Italian Wheelchair Hockey team will do better than the football one that we saw in the World Cup in Brazil!*

EWH2014.com: You are one of best scorers in the Italian league and a very charismatic person. How would you characterize your game? Please describe your passion for Electric Wheelchair Hockey.

*Mattia Muratore: My way of playing is very particular. I love to be free to invent and look for the right spaces during the game. I have been playing Wheelchair Hockey for 15 years and when I found this sport it was love at first sight. It fascinated me straight away and I immediately fell in love with this wonderful world and with my club, the Monza Sharks. Thanks to the Sharks I grew up both as a man and as a player and I managed to be able to wear the Azzurri jersey. If now I participate in my first World Cup, is mainly thanks to my club.*

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? Will it help Italy to move forward?

*Mattia Muratore: I think that the new classification system will, in one way or the other, influence the balance on the court. On the other hand I believe, though, that wheelchair hockey, like all the team sports, is a discipline where most of all the unity of the group and the ability of the group to play together is paramount. The value of a team, in my opinion, is not based on the talent of its single players but rather on the ability of the group to express an attractive and good way of playing.*

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

*Mattia Muratore: I think that there are many good teams, more or less playing at the same level. Perhaps the team to beat will still be Holland but I think there will be some surprises. We only need to get on to the court and give our best until the last second of every game!*

*All the best to everyone and let the best team win!*



Mattia Muratore at the European Championships 2012 in Finland (Photo: Flickr/FIWH)