

# **SPORT INFORMATION PACKAGE**

## **WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL**

**2011 Canada Games**  
**Halifax, Nova Scotia**

# **SPORT INFORMATION PACKAGE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL**

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## A. HISTORY OF SPORT

A historical perspective on wheelchair basketball would not be complete without mention of the second World War (1939-1945). One end result of this global crisis was that society was confronted with an unusual number of people with physical disabilities. These people let the world know that they had needs that had to be met beyond food, clothing and shelter; they had an ego, they were worthwhile, and they belonged!

The philosophy of the day was adaptation of particular sports as viewed through the eyes of rehabilitation staff. Basketball was perceived to be one of the most adaptable team sports, and was played in various parts of the world in the early 1940's.

On the world scene, Sir Ludwig Guttmann was given the task of starting a spinal cord injuries centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. The British Government funded the operation in 1944 with the view of having the second front assist individuals to cope with their disability, regain dignity and independence that may have been lost, and become happy, healthy and respected members of the community. The Stoke Mandeville World Wheelchair Games in 1948 marked the beginning of organized wheelchair sports, and earned Sir Ludwig Guttmann the distinction of becoming recognized as the founder.

In June of 1947, the Deer Lodge Hospital in Manitoba organized an event on the front lawn of their facility. The basketball throw accompanied events like the ring toss, milk bottle pitching, archery, croquet and golf putting. Luci Delucca was one of the organizers of that event and noted that participants included George Dyck, Joe Smithson, and Tony Mann. The events had a rehabilitative flair and were very recreational.

There were a number of municipal or provincial groups involved in wheelchair basketball in Canada from the early 1940's through 1967. Bill Hepburn of the Montreal Wheelchair Wonders and Stan Stronge of the Vancouver Dueck Power Glides were among the most notable. The Montreal team represented Canada in the Stoke Games in 1953, marking our nations' start in world competition, and also represented Canada at the sixth National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in 1954 in New York, N.Y.

In 1963, Al Simpson of Winnipeg, Manitoba, recalled an event organized in Saskatoon which he claims may have been the first inter-provincial wheelchair basketball competition. A team from Winnipeg and Edmonton met in Saskatoon to play in a weekend of wheelchair basketball.

Smithson, Knightingale, Coates, Bagnatto, Wendel, Fertile, Warrior and Marshall were familiar names of the time. Al became the managing director of the Pan American Games held in Winnipeg in August of 1967. He recalled that the operating budget for that event was \$17,148.10 and that there were a total of 128 athletes from 5 nations. The national team was selected using ham radio, and direct results of the number of members and employees of that association participating in various activities. Organizational discussions took place during this event, and finally on September 09, 1967, the CWSA was born and Dr. Robert W. Jackson was elected the Chairman.

The national championships were held in conjunction with all other wheelchair sport championship events from 1968 through 1978. In 1979, wheelchair basketball was organized as an event separate from the rest of wheelchair sports, and the provincial

The Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (CWBL) was founded in 1986. Club teams compete for the national title using FIBA/IWBF rules, 15 point classification system with able bodied athletes classified as 4.5 and quadriplegics as 0.5.

Today, we have over 2000 athletes competing in various city leagues, the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League (men, women, junior, and Mini), and the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (175 teams for men, women, junior, and collegiate players in North America).

Wheelchair basketball in Canada is played in accordance with the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) rules which have been modified from Federation Internationale de Basketball (FIBA).

The basic rules of wheelchair basketball are very similar to standup basketball. (for example the height of the basket, distance to the foul line, three point line, etc., are the same measurements as in the game of stand up basketball), but over time they have evolved as well. In 1964 basic international rules were adopted which included minor adjustments to meet the needs of the game in a wheelchair.

Originally, the participants were primarily individuals who had a spinal cord injury or had developed polio. It was not until the late 70's that the wheelchair basketball community decided to allow and encourage individuals with other disabilities to participate.

## **B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS**

Wheelchair basketball was first contested at the Canada Games in 1995 in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Below are the ranking of the Provinces/Territories since the inaugural games:

	<b>1995</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>
<b>AB</b>	1	4	4	6
<b>BC</b>	2	3	2	7
<b>MB</b>	5	6	5	5
<b>NB</b>	7	5	7	4
<b>NL</b>	-	8	8	9
<b>NWT</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>NS</b>	8	-	-	-
<b>NU</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>ON</b>	3	1	3	2
<b>PEI</b>	-	-	-	8
<b>QC</b>	4	2	1	1
<b>SK</b>	6	7	6	3
<b>YK</b>	-	-	-	-

### **C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM**

Competitors: 12 athletes (male or female)

### **D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY**

IWBF rules shall be followed. The tournament shall be a two pool, round robin competition.

Seeding are based on the results of the 2010 Junior Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Finals and a review by the CWBA Domestic Committee, unless the 2010 Junior Finals are clearly unrepresentative of the teams that will compete at the 2011 Games (as decided by the CWBA Domestic Committee).

Should more than 8 teams register for the Games, a reasonable alternate schedule will be developed by the CWBA Competition Committee and circulated as soon as possible prior to the Games.

A Pool: 1, 4, 5, 8

B Pool: 2, 3, 6, 7

Each team shall play each of the other teams in their pool. Teams shall play-off for final positions as follows:

Semi-Final

Game #1 - 1A vs 2B

Game #2 – 1B vs 2A

Consolation Round

Game #3 – 3A vs 4B

Game #4 – 3B vs 4A

Finals

Winner Games #1 vs Winner Game #2

WINNER - GOLD MEDAL

RUNNER UP - SILVER

Loser Game #1 vs Loser Game #2

WINNER - BRONZE MEDAL

LOSER - 4TH PLACE

Winner Games #3 vs Winner Game #4

WINNER – 5th PLACE

LOSER – 6th PLACE

Loser Game #3 vs Loser Game #4

Winner – 7th PLACE

Loser – 8th PLACE

## **E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY**

One of the attractions to wheelchair basketball is that it is relatively inexpensive because of the lack of required equipment. All players need for this fun team game is a sporty chair and a basketball.

Terminology used in wheelchair basketball is the same as the terms used in basketball.

## **F. ELIGIBILITY**

All athletes must be born on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987

## **G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM**

The team at the end of regulation time with the most points will be awarded two points and the team with the least points will be awarded one point. If a team decides to forfeit a game, the team will not be awarded any points.

Points for the Games Flag will be awarded as follows:

1st place - 10 points	5th place - 6 points
2nd place - 9 points	6th place - 5 points
3rd place - 8 points	7th place - 4 points
4th place - 7 points	8th place - 3 points

## **H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT**

Tie score and extra periods as per IWBF rules.

### Provincial/Territorial Ranking

1. If two teams are tied at the end of pool play, the win-loss results of the game against each other will be used to determine the placings.
2. If more than two teams are tied, the win-loss results of the games between those teams will determine the placing.
3. If the situation is still not resolved, then the goal average of the games between the tied teams will determine the placing.
4. If there is still a tie, then the goal average of all games played by the tied teams will determine the placing.

NOTE: Goal average is determined by dividing the points for by points against. The highest quotient is the winner.

## **I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT**

The majority of chairs used in the sport today are constructed from Titanium or aircraft aluminum and include an additional 5<sup>th</sup> wheel for added stability and mobility. The front bumper is designed so that it will not lock with or be held by the opponent. The angle of the wheel base or "camber" is optimal for each athlete to allow for stability and quick turns. The wheels on the chair often now use cables rather than the traditional steel spokes as the cables are 3 times stronger and 50% lighter than steel.

The design of the chair takes design aspects from equipment used in many other sports to include cycling ( cables and frame design) roller blade and skateboarding ( fifth wheel design) and Snowboard bindings (strap at the waist to hold the athlete in the chair). The high end basketball wheelchairs are expensive and range from \$2500 to \$5000 in price.

## **J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT**

The officials play an important role in wheelchair basketball. They call fouls, monitor the score and ensure all IWBF rules and regulations are enforced.

## **K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

During the 2011 Canada Games, wheelchair basketball will be played at Citadel High School. Citadel High School features a double gymnasium, one for field of play and one for practice.

## **L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE**

Wheelchair Basketball Canada is the national sports governing body responsible for the organization of wheelchair basketball in Canada. It is a non-profit, charitable organization that is the Canadian member to the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF).

Wheelchair Basketball Canada delivers programs and services that strengthen the sport from the grassroots level to high performance athlete's competing in the Paralympic Games. Representatives from the Provinces elect the Board of Directors, which establishes policy and lends guidance to the development of wheelchair basketball in Canada.

Wheelchair Basketball Canada prides itself on its diversity, encouraging individuals with disabilities as well as able-bodied participants of all ages to become active in our sport. The organization promotes growth at the initiation, developmental, competitive and elite levels offering programs for youth, men and women.

There are over 2,500 member athletes, coaches, officials and administrators active in all provinces and territories across the country.

## **M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR**

### **British Columbia:**

Male – Derek Lundie, Avril Harris (Canada Games 2007), Matthew Ficocelli (World Junior Championships 2009), Erik Vliegenthart (Canada Games 2007)

Female -

### **Alberta:**

Male - David Emmerzael

Female – Helaina Cyr, Allie Haak

### **Saskatchewan:**

Male – Nic Goncin (World Junior Championships 2009), Gregg Johnstone (World Junior Championships 2009, Canada Games 2007)

Female – Ashley Baerg (Canada Games 2007), Gabby Roberts-Winter (Canada Games 2007)

**Manitoba:**

Male – Jeff Watson, Aaron Moseley-Williams (World Junior Championships 2009),

Female - Chantelle Horel (Canada Games 2007)

**Ontario:**

Male – Dayton Sopha (Canada Games 2007), Shayne Smith (World Junior Championships 2009, Canada Games 2007), Josh Giles (World Junior Championships 2009)

Female – Jesse McNally (Canada Games 2007)

**Quebec:**

Male – Maxime Poulin (Canada Games 2007), Carl Pelletier (Canada Games 2007), Jonathan Vermette (World Junior Championships 2009, Canada Games - athletics 2009), Philippe Vermette (World Junior Championships 2009, Canada Games - athletics 2009, Canada Games – wheelchair basketball 2007)

Female – Maude Jacques (Canada Games 2007)

**New Brunswick:**

Male – Kyle Smith-Kingsley (Canada Games 2007), Sean Wilson

Female –

**Nova Scotia:**

Male – James Peake, Jon Lohnes (World Junior Championships 2009)

Female – Abby Stubbart (Canada Games 2007), Jamey Jewells

**P.E.I.:**

Male – Adam Loo (Canada Games 2007)

Female –

**N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI**

**Recent Grads:**

**British Columbia:**

2007 - Jessica Vliegenthart (formally Jessica DesMazes – current Senior Women's National Team), Deion Green (World Junior Championships 2009)

**Alberta:**

2007 – Chad Jassman (current Senior Men's National Team)

**Ontario:**

2007 - Corey Smith (current Senior Men's National Team Pool)

**Quebec:**

2007 - Cindy Ouellet (current Senior Women's National Team)

2003/2007 - Mickael Poulin (current Senior Men's National Team)



### Past Grads:

#### **British Columbia:**

2003 – Elisha Williams (current Senior Women's National Team)

2003 – Bo Hedges (current Senior Men's National Team)

1999/2003 – Ross Macdonald (athlete 1999, coach 2003) (current Senior Men's National Team)

1999/2003 – Marni Abbott-Peter (coach) (current Senior Women's National Team)

1995 – Jaimie Borisoff (former Senior Men's National Team)

#### **Alberta:**

1999/2003 - Tara Feser (formally Tara Scade) (current Senior Women's National Team)

1995 Ross Norton (former Senior Men's National Team)

#### **Saskatchewan:**

2003/1999/1997 – (\*1997-athletics) Lisa Franks (current Senior Women's National Team Pool)

#### **Manitoba:**

1995 - Joey Johnson (current Senior Men's National Team)

1995 - Travis Gaertner (former Senior Men's National Team)

#### **Ontario:**

2003 – Bradley Bowden (former Senior Men's National Team)

1999/2003 - Abdi Fatah Dini (current Senior Men's National Team)

1999/2003 – Katie Harnock (current Senior Women's National Team)

1999 - Adam Lancia (current Senior Men's National Team)

1995 - Patrick Anderson (former Senior Men's National Team)

1995 – James Treuer (former Senior Men's National Team)

#### **Quebec:**

2003 - David Eng - Team Quebec (current Senior Men's National Team)

### **O. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS**

**1986** - Canadian Men's Team Win silver at World Championships in Melbourne, Australia

**1988** - Inaugural meetings around formalizing wheelchair basketball in Canada and first wheelchair basketball employee hired by Candian Wheelchair Sport Association (CWSA)

**1989** - Canadian Men win gold at Stoke Manderville World Wheelchair Games in Stoke Manderville, UK

**1990** - Canadian Men's and Women's Teams win bronze in respective World Championships; Canada gets first member on the IWBF Executive Committee; Internal regulations for the IWBF approved

**1991** - Canadian Men's and Women's Teams win gold at the Stoke Manderville World Wheelchair Games in Stoke Manderville, UK

**1992** - Canadian Women's Team win gold at the Paralympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

**1993** - Formation of the CWBA

**1994** - Canadian Women's Team win gold at World Champions in England, UK; Bronze for Men at World Championships in Edmonton, AB; CWBA Incorporates and receives RCAA Status.

**1995** - First Canada Games for wheelchair basketball with eight teams present; Canadian Men capture gold in first Americas Regional Qualification Tournament in Buenos Aires, Argentina

**1996** - Canadian Women's Team win gold at the Paralympic Games in Atlanta, USA (Women's second consecutive Paralympic title)

**1997** – Canada wins inaugural World Junior Wheelchair Basketball Championships held in Edmonton, AB

**1998** – Women's National Team win gold at World Championships in Sydney, Australia (Women's second consecutive World title)

**2000** – Men's and Women's National Teams win gold at Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia (record: women's third consecutive Paralympic title)

**2001** – Junior Men's Team win gold at World Championships in Brazil (Junior Men's second consecutive World title).

**2002** Women's National Team win gold at World Championships in Kitakyushu, Japan; Men win Bronze (Women's third consecutive World title)

**2004** Men's National Team win Gold at the Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece; Women's National Team win Bronze (Men's second consecutive Paralympic title; Women's fourth consecutive podium finish at Paralympic Games)

**2006** – Men's and Women's National Teams win gold at the World Championships in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. (record: Women's fourth consecutive World title)

**2008** – Men's National Team win Silver at the Paralympic Games in Beijing, China

**2010** – Women's National Team win bronze at the World Championships in Birmingham, UK (record: Women's sixth consecutive podium finish at World Championships)

#### **Q. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)**

Quebec and Ontario are the two teams to watch at the Canada Games in 2011. Quebec has the edge going into the tournament as the 2-time defending champions (2003 and 2007) while Ontario is the only province to have reached the podium in all four tournaments wheelchair basketball has participated. The provincial rivals have met in the championship game on two previous occasions. Ontario defeated Quebec in 1999 to claim their only Canada Games title, while in 2007 Quebec defeated Ontario for the

tournament win.

Most recently, Quebec edged Ontario 74-68 in the 2010 Junior National Wheelchair Basketball Finals. They handed Ontario their only loss of the tournament while Quebec remained the only undefeated team.