

## BCWBS TEAM OFF TO SHINING START IN NWBA DIVISION 1 TOURNAMENT

The NWBA rolled into Vancouver as part of the HSBC Basketball Classic December 8-10, 2006 and the Team from BC was pleased to produce a 3 – 0 record in this their first showing in the NWBA Division 1 league. The BC Team's ability to go deep into their bench, offensive production from all players and great team defence proved difficult for all other teams to match. BC has a strong core of national team players filling out the roster. Current National Team players Pat Anderson, Jaimie Borisoff and Richard Peter are joined by national pool players Ross MacDonald and Robert Hedges. The team followed up with a strong showing at the next tournament stops in Denver and Milwaukee, losing 1 game to Dallas. The 4 teams competing in the league include the Dallas Wheelchair Mavericks, Denver Rolling Nuggets, Milwaukee Wheelchair Bucks and the Team from British Columbia.



**NWBA Picture:** Erik Hagreen and Patrick Anderson of Team BC pressure Adam Lancia of the Denver Rolling Nuggets.

The BC Team's participation in the NWBA is made possible through the generous support of The Rick Hansen Foundation who are supporting the team in its inaugural year.

### TOURNAMENT SCORES:

#### December 8-10, Vancouver Game Scores:

British Columbia 99 – Dallas 79

Milwaukee 59 – British Columbia 82

British Columbia 79 – Denver 62

#### January 26-28, Denver Game Scores:

British Columbia 71 – Dallas 78

Milwaukee 57 – British Columbia 72

British Columbia 83 – Denver 63

#### February 23-25, Milwaukee Game Scores:

British Columbia 87 – Dallas 74

Milwaukee 78 – British Columbia 93

British Columbia 110 – Denver 91

#### Remaining Division 1 Tournament Dates:

Dallas, Texas Baylor Institute/American

Airlines Invitational: March 9-11, 2007

NWBA Finals in Lexington, Kentucky:

March 30 – April 1, 2007

credit: Bogetti-Smith Photography



**NWBA Team Picture**

BC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL  
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT:



Suite 224 - 1367 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9  
604 737 3138 **phone**  
604 737 6043 **fax**  
info@bcwbs.ca **email**  
www.bcwbs.ca **website**

**Managing Director** *Carrie Linegar*  
**Provincial Coach** *Marni Abbott-Peter*

**2006-07 Board of Directors**

**President** *Dean Brokop*  
**Vice-President** *Chris Samis*  
**Secretary** *MJ Boudreault*  
**Treasurer** *Aaron Wilson*  
**Director at Large** *Ross MacDonald*  
**Director at Large** *Michelle Stilwell*  
**Director at Large** *Sarah Sugiyama*

*Canadian Mail Publications  
Agreement #40562516*

# TEAM BC READY FOR 2007 CANADA WINTER GAMES

WHITEHORSE  
2 0 0 7



—JEUX DU—  
CANADA  
—GAMES—

The Canada Games are a national multi-sport competition with participation from every province and territory in Canada and wheelchair basketball is part of this great event! Set in Whitehorse, Yukon, the 2007 Canada Winter Games (February 24 to March 10, 2007) will celebrate the athletic experience and determination of Canada's finest amateur athletes while showcasing the frontier spirit, cultures and traditions of the people in the North. Over 3,600 athletes, coaches and managers will gather in Whitehorse to compete for a total of 1,122 medals in 22 sports. Wheelchair Basketball will be taking place during Week 2 of the Games, from March 2-10, at Porter Creek Secondary School.

Cheer on Team BC and stay up to date with all the score and action through the Team BC website and the "Wave" Team BC daily newsletter. You can sign up to receive an electronic version of the Wave at [www.teambc.org](http://www.teambc.org). It contains all sorts of tidbits of information about teams, team members, results, upcoming events and activities. Friends, family and fans can send good luck messages to their Team BC athletes and coaches through the Team BC website. Go to [www.teambc.org](http://www.teambc.org) and hit "Contact an Athlete" on the left hand side menu. Messages will be delivered to coaches and athletes on a daily basis beginning February 22, 2007. For more information on the Canada Games you can also visit: [www.2007canadagames.ca](http://www.2007canadagames.ca) or visit the BCWBS website at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca).

**Team BC – Wheelchair Basketball:**

Adam Bishop, Shawnigan Lake  
Avril Harris, Prince George  
Deion Green, Victoria  
Erik Vliegenthart, Quesnel  
Jessica DesMazes, Burnaby  
Jon Vliegenthart, Quesnel

Mark Saunders, Nanaimo  
Mike Morris, Mill Bay  
Nick Konishi, Richmond  
Peter Won, North Vancouver  
Richard Poon, Vancouver  
Sunera Samarakoon, Burnaby

**Coaching Staff:**

Kevin Bowie, Vancouver

Marni Abbott-Peter, Vancouver  
Pat Harris, Prince George

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Marni Abbott-Peter and Rick Hansen Inducted into Hall of fame**

BC Wheelchair Basketball Society would like to congratulate Marni Abbott-Peter and Rick Hansen who have both been inducted as athletes into the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. The official induction ceremony will be held at the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre on May 31st, 2007.

As a member of BC's Women's Provincial Wheelchair Basketball Team, and the Canadian Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team, Marni has proven time and again that she is one of the world's leaders in wheelchair basketball, both on and off the basketball court. It's no wonder that BCWSA named Marni its female athlete of the century. As an outstanding wheelchair basketball player with three straight Paralympic and world championship gold medals to her credit, she has certainly earned the honour.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 2007

- 4 - 10 2007 Canada Winter Games  
Whitehorse, Yukon
- 9 - 11 NWBA Division 1 Tournament  
Dallas, Texas
- 16 - 18 BC CWBL Finals  
Prince George, BC
- 24/25 Western Mini-Basket Festival  
Sullivan Heights, Surrey BC
- 30 - 1 NWBT Finals  
April Lexington, Kentucky

### APRIL 2007

- 6 - 8 2007 CWBL Finals  
Québec City, QC
- 14/15 Rollers Women's Tournament  
Calgary, AB,
- 21 Hoopfest 2007  
Cambie School, Richmond BC
- 21/22 Best of the West Tournafest  
Saskatoon, SK
- 27 - 29 Defi Sportif  
Montreal, QC

### MAY 2007

- 5/6 Inferno Women's Tournament  
Edmonton, AB
- 18 - 20 2007 Men's and Women's  
National Championships  
Winnipeg, MB

### JUNE 2007

- 10 Rick Hansen Wheels in  
Motion Events

# 2006-07 BC-CWBL LEAGUE INFORMATION

In celebration of their 25th anniversary, we are looking forward to bringing the BC-CWBL Finals to Prince George March 16-18, 2007. In Division 1 the race for top spot is close with the Prince George Titans holding a 5 – 3 record, Douglas College Royals an even 4 – 4 split and the Douglas College Dingos close at hand with a 3 – 5 record. After the final 3 round robin games in Prince George, teams will play off to earn the right to represent BC at the CWBL Finals in Quebec City April 6-8, 2007. In division 2 the race is equally as tight with the Canada Games team entering the finals in top spot and getting stronger with every game they play. We look forward to a great final tournament in Prince George in March.

## BC-CWBL TOURNAMENT SCORES:

### DIVISION 1

#### December 2/3, 2006 at Douglas College:

Titans 63 – Royals 56  
Royals 52 – Dingos 49  
Titans 72 – Dingos 48  
Royals 48 – Dingos 40  
Titans 72 – Dingos 66  
Titans 60 – Royals 66

#### January 13/14, 2007 at Douglas College:

Royals 60 – Dingos 73  
Titans 65 – Royals 68  
Titans 62 – Dingos 71  
Titans 76 – Royals 49  
Titans 76 – Dingos 51  
Royals 57 – Dingos 66

### DIVISION 2

#### November 25/26, 2006 at Douglas College:

Okanagan 48 – Oceanside 35  
Canada Games 58 – Vancouver 46  
Oceanside 51 – Hooligans 28  
Okanagan 47 – Vancouver 37  
Canada Games 50 – Hooligans 58  
Hooligans 52 – Vancouver 25  
Oceanside 52 – Vancouver 41  
Oceanside 46 – Canada Games 49  
Canada Games 49 – Okanagan 42  
Okanagan 49 – Hooligan 33

#### February 17/18, 2007 at Douglas College:

Okanagan 42 – Oceanside 24  
Canada Games 42 – Vancouver 23  
Oceanside 26 – Hooligans 41  
Okanagan 62 – Vancouver 32  
Canada Games 60 – Hooligans 31  
Hooligans 60 – Vancouver 39  
Oceanside 41 – Vancouver 52  
Oceanside 47 – Canada Games 53  
Canada Games 61 – Okanagan 32  
Okanagan 40 – Hooligans 58

## BC BREAKERS INVITATIONAL WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

### February 10/11, 2007 in Richmond, BC

BC vs Calgary 50 – 53  
Edmonton vs BC/East 69 – 70  
BC/East vs Calgary 59 – 34  
BC vs Edmonton 40 – 70  
BC vs BC/East 41 – 58  
Edmonton vs Calgary 76 – 34  
3rd vs 4th (BC vs Calgary) 40 – 41  
1st vs 2nd (BC/East vs Edmonton) 57 – 66

# CONGRATULATIONS TO...

cont from pg 2

While Rick Hansen is best known for his amazing World Tour, many of us may not be aware that he built an impressive resume of international athletic achievements, including 19 international wheelchair marathons wins. He also competed nationally and provincially in wheelchair basketball, racquetball, volleyball, and tennis. May 2007 marks the 20th Anniversary of the completion of Rick's phenomenal Man In Motion World Tour.

### **Richard Peter – BCWBS athlete, featured on current SportsFunder Homegrown Heroes Ticket**

National & Provincial Wheelchair Basketball Team Member, Richard Peter, is currently featured on the SportsFunder instant win Homegrown Heroes ticket. SportsFunder lottery products were introduced to help strengthen BC's amateur sport system and celebrate the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. Visit your local BC Lottery supplier today to pick up a ticket and support amateur sports in BC!

### **Tim Frick – awarded Petro Canada Coaching Excellence Award**

Women's National Wheelchair Basketball Team Coach, Tim Frick, received a Petro-Canada Coaching Excellence Award at the 2006 Sport Leadership Conference in Vancouver. Petro-Canada recog-

nizes coaches whose athletes have won medals in open world championships, at an Olympic Games, at a Special Olympics World Games, or at a Paralympic Games.

### **Ross MacDonald & Michelle Stilwell receive Premier's Athletic Awards**

The Premier's Athletic Awards recognize top female and male athletes in each of the sports participating in the 2005/06 BC Athlete Assistance Program. BCWBS athlete Ross MacDonald was selected as the male recipient from the BC Wheelchair Sports Community. Past wheelchair basketball athlete and BCWBS Board Member Michelle Stilwell received the female award for her accomplishments in wheelchair athletics last season.

### **Kathy Newman named to CAAWS 2006 Most Influential Women in Sport and Physical Activity**

BC Wheelchair Sports Association Executive Director Kathy Newman has been named to the 2006 edition of CAAWS' list of the Most Influential Canadian Women in Sport and Physical Activity. The list recognizes women who have made a significant impact as athletes, administrators, advocates, board members, coaches, executives, officials, policy makers and volunteers.

---

## JUNIORS

# BC THUNDER AND STORM TAKE TOP SPOTS AT 2006 JUNIOR WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHALLENGE



After a week of stormy weather in BC, the BC Thunder and Storm teams were the overall winners in the 10 ft and 8 1/2 ft divisions of the 2006 Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge. The tournament took place Nov. 18/19 at McRoberts Secondary School, with

over 70 players, 25 volunteer McRoberts Leadership students and a gym full of enthusiastic parents and coaches watching the games.

Participants included players from across BC as well as the Seattle Wheelchair Sonics and Alberta Northern Lights Team from Edmonton. The BC Storm composed of players from the weekly Surrey, Nanaimo and Prince George program went undefeated in 4 games. Storm players included Ben Garrett, Stephanie Park, Nathan Bragg, Ben Dooley, Sergio Carbraro, Jessica Clark, Drake Britt, Andrew Townsend and James Robinson. 10 ft champs, the BC Thunder players, included Nick Konishi, Erik Vliegenthart, Sam Piercey, Jesse Partridge, Nico Demur, Anthony Townsend, Richard Poon, and Derek Zimich.

Special thanks to the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion – Richmond Event, the Hamber Foundation, Province of BC, Save On Foods, Holiday Inn Express, Panago Pizza, and the McRoberts Leadership Class for making the 7th Annual Junior tournament possible!

## INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS INCLUDED:

### **8 1/2 FT DIVISION:**

**Sharp Shooter** *Ben Tumack, Alberta & Theo Tricky, North Vancouver*

**#1 Hustle** *Balraj Zimich, Richmond*

**Most Enthusiastic** *Ben Garrett, Surrey*

**Best Chair Skills** *Matt Steinbring, Alberta*

**Fairplay** *Eric King, Alberta*

**Most Improved** *Natalie Imbeau, North Vancouver*

**Defensive** *Christine Higgins, Delta*

**Leadership** *Nathan Bragg, Maple Ridge & Drake Britt, Nanaimo*

### **10 FT DIVISION:**

**Sharp Shooter** *Doug Strate, Seattle*

**Top Female Player** *Felicia McKinnon, Richmond*

**Defensive** *Zac Meyer, Seattle*

**Playmaker** *Deion Green, Victoria*

**Speedy Gonzales** *Avril Harris, Prince George*

**Best Chair Skills** *Sunera Samarakoon, Burnaby*

**Fairplay** *Steven Ferreira, Seattle*

**Most Improved** *Derek Zimich, Surrey*

**Leadership** *Adam Bishop, Shawnigan Lake*

# WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PROGRAMS AROUND BC

CITY	LOCATION	DAY/TIME	CONTACT	COMMENTS*
Abbotsford	Rick Hansen Secondary	Thurs 7:00-8:30pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Recreational March 29 (8 weeks)
Burnaby	Byrne Creek	Tues 7:00 – 9:30pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	City League
Kamloops	Kay Bingham School	Tues 7:00-9:00pm	Bob Thorpe 250-377-7502	Adult Program
Kelowna	Parkinson Rec Centre	Sun 10:00am-12:00pm	Tracey Ficocelli 250-764-1854	Recreational
	Quigley Elementary	Wed 7:45-9:45pm	Tracey Ficocelli 250-764-1854	Okanagan Thunder
New Westminster	Douglas College	Mon & Wed 2:30-4:30pm	Marni Abbott-Peter 604-737-3138	Skill Development Drop-In
	Douglas College	Mon 6:30-8:30pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	High Performance Group
	Douglas College	Wed 6:30-10:00pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	High Performance Training Group
	New West Secondary	Fri 7:00-9:00pm	Gaby Gasztonyi 604-290-7450	Adult Drop-In
Nanaimo	Coal Tyee Elementary	Thurs 7:00-8:30pm	Bert Abbott 250-741-9889	Jr. Program (ends at Spring Break)
North Vancouver	Carisbrooke Elementary	Thurs 7:00-8:30pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Jr. Program (ends at Spring Break)
Parksville	Oceanside Middle School	Mon 7:00-9:00pm	Bert Abbott 250-741-9889	Adult Program
Prince George	Kinsmen Complex	Mon 5:30-7:00pm	Pat Harris 250-563-6942	Recreational Drop-In
	Kinsmen Complex	Wed 5:30-7:00pm	Pat Harris 250-563-6942	Recreational Drop-In
Quesnel	Correliou Secondary	tbc	Jodie Vliegenthart 250-249-5581	Mixed Jr & Adult
Richmond	Steveston Comm. Ctr.	Thurs 6:45-8:00pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Mixed Jr & Adult (ends at Spring Break)
Surrey	Guilford Rec Centre	Tues 5:45 – 7:15pm	Rec Centre 604-502-6360	\$3.00 drop-in fee
	Surrey Family YMCA	Fri 5:30 – 7:00pm	BCWBS 604-737-3138	Jr. Program (ends at Spring Break)
Victoria	Central Baptist Church	Mon 6:00-7:30pm	Marilyn LaPointe	Jr. Program
	Stelley's High School	Thur 7:00-9:00pm	Shaun Kennett 250-652-0357	Adult Program

\* Please note if program time is for juniors, adults or a mixed group in the comments column

## CANADIAN KID'S FITNESS TAX CREDIT: PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY ESTABLISHED

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, released guidelines on the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, which was scheduled to become effective on January 1, 2007. The Minister confirmed that as recommended by the Expert Panel for the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, the definition of eligible programs will support children's participation in all programs that significantly contribute to their fitness. In addition, the Minister indicated that substantial additional support would be provided to children eligible for the disability tax credit to recognize the unique barriers they face in becoming more active. Minister Flaherty noted that he would soon introduce regulatory changes that would define an eligible program for the purposes of the credit and amendments to the Income Tax Act to implement the proposed enhancements for children with disabilities.

Recognizing the particular challenges that children with disabilities face, the Income Tax Act will be amended to raise the age limit for disability tax credit (DTC)-eligible children from under 16 to under 18 years of age for the purposes of the Children's Fitness Tax Credit. The Act will also be amended to introduce a separate \$500 non-refundable amount for DTC-eligible children subject to spending a minimum of \$100 on registration fees for an eligible program. This additional non-itemizable amount provides general recognition of the extra costs that children with disabilities encounter in becoming involved in programs of physical activity, notably with regard to specialized equipment, transportation and attendant care. For more information visit the Canada Revenue Agency Website at [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/fitness-e.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/whatsnew/fitness-e.html).

### JUNIORS

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2007 JUNIOR MINI-BASKET FESTIVAL

**Sullivan Heights Secondary School,  
Surrey BC – March 24/25, 2007**

The Mini-Basket Festival is a new event focused on providing junior players with a positive competition & skill development experience just for them. The Mini-Basket program is for youth born January 1, 1990 or later and is played on the lowered 8 1/2 ft basketball hoop height. The premiere Mini-Basket Festival is being held in BC at Sullivan Heights Secondary School, March 24/25, 2007 and BCWBS is inviting mini-basket aged juniors from across BC and Western Canada to participate. The festival will include individual skill development and classification sessions, and of course, a ton of fun & games!

The tournament registration fee is \$50 per player and includes your lunch both days, a playing jersey, coaching and instruction, and prizes. A registration package can be found on our website at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca). BCWBS Members can also apply for travel subsidy for this event through the Sportsfunder Travel Grant Program. The application form can be found on-line at: [www.bcwheelchairsports.com](http://www.bcwheelchairsports.com).

The Mini-Basket Festival is being made possible through the support of CWBA, the Hamber Foundation, 4imprint One by One Program, and BCWBS. Please contact the BCWBS office for more information – we look forward to seeing you there!



### RICK HANSEN, SILKEN LAUMANN & THE HONOURABLE TONY CLEMENT ENJOY WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL WITH BCWBS JUNIORS

BCWBS was pleased to have Provincial and National Team athlete Richard Peter, with local junior athletes Natalie Imbeau, Benjamin Garrett, Balraj Zimich and Nathan Bragg, put on a special demonstration at the Strathcona Community Centre January 2, 2007. Celebrating physical activity and healthy living for youth, Rick Hansen, Silken Laumann and the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, joined our BCWBS members for some fun playing wheelchair basketball.

### SPORT WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

BCWBS has a limited number of sport wheelchairs available for rental. The program requires you to sign a one-year loan agreement and submit a \$100/year or \$10/month rental fee.

If you are interested please visit [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca), click 'For Athletes' and then 'Wheelchair Loan Program', and fill out the application form on-line.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### SUPPORT BC'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ATHLETES AT HOOPFEST 2007

Saturday, April 21st at Cambie Secondary School in Richmond

#### HOOPFEST 2007

It's Hoopfest time again...the 14th Annual. Join us for an opportunity to play wheelchair basketball! We'll supply the wheelchairs, coaching, food and prizes – you just come and have fun! Hoopfest is BC Wheelchair Basketball's biggest fundraising event. At this event a variety of corporate and community organizations participate in a one-day wheelchair basketball tournament to raise funds in support of wheelchair basketball programs across BC. The \$1,000 registration fee covers your team entry for up to 10 participants, t-shirts, and lunch. The help of our BCWBS membership is always appreciated for team recruitment, donations and prizing for our silent auction and team awards and volunteers to help coach teams, score keep, referee, etc. Call BCWBS at (604)737-3138 for more information, or register your team on-line at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca).

### JOIN US FOR THE 2007 RICK HANSEN WHEELS IN MOTION EVENT

On Sunday, June 10th, 2007, people of all ages and abilities can come out to wheel or walk with friends and family along a designated route in their community, or participate in a fun and challenging wheelchair relay to raise funds and make a difference. So save the date and get involved! Join us in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Man In Motion World Tour by participating in a Wheels In Motion event in your community.

For info on Wheels in Motion events throughout BC and across the country call 1-866-60-WHEEL (1-866-609-4335), or email [wheels@rickhansen.com](mailto:wheels@rickhansen.com).

### ABBOTSFORD WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PROGRAM

BCWBS is excited to be offering another 8 week wheelchair basketball development session at Rick Hansen Secondary School in Abbotsford this spring. Join us Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:30 pm on March 29, April 5, 12, 19, and May 10, 17, 24 & 31. This program is open to both new and experienced players. A limited number of sport wheelchairs are available for use at the program. If you require a sports wheelchair please contact BC Wheelchair Basketball at 604-737-3138. Special thanks to Rick Hansen Secondary School and the Abbotsford Community Foundation for your support of this program

### JEFF DUNBRACK JOINS CWBA

The Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association (CWBA) is pleased to announce that Jeff Dunbrack has joined the CWBA as Program Coordinator. As Program Coordinator, Jeff will be responsible for coordinating and administrating all activities related to the domestic programs of the CWBA. This includes working closely with host clubs and communities coordinating our domestic championships including our National Championships and CWBL Finals, assisting with the coordination of CWBA events and special projects, working with clubs and provincial associations to create and implement their development plans. Jeff may be reached at [jeff@cwba.ca](mailto:jeff@cwba.ca).

### SUPPORT BCWBS AT CANADA HELPS



BC Wheelchair Basketball Society is a non-profit organization and registered charity. To that extent many of our services are made possible only by the generosity of individuals who donate to our cause. If you would like to make a one-time donation or sign up for a monthly giving program to BCWBS, please visit Canada Helps at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). Thank you for your support!

### Special thanks to the following BCWBS supporters:

**Coach Mike Frogley** for sharing his technical expertise and passion for wheelchair basketball at our high performance coaching seminar & athlete development camp in January. We hope to see you back in BC soon!

**Abbotsford Community Foundation** and the **Vancouver Foundation** for your contribution of a \$500 LEAD grant to support the development of a new wheelchair basketball program at Rick Hansen Secondary School in Abbotsford.



**Rick Hansen  
MAN IN MOTION  
FOUNDATION**

**Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation** for your continued support through the BC Community Neurotrauma Grant; NWBA Program Funding Grant; and the Wheels in Motion community grants for Prince George, Burnaby, and Richmond for the purchase of a sport wheelchair, support for the Winter City League session and provincial team equipment, and the Fall Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge, respectively.

**4imprint** for your support of the 2007 Mini-Basket Festival through the One by One Program Grant

**Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge Supporters:** the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion – Richmond Event, the Hamber Foundation, Province of BC, Save On Foods, Holiday Inn Express, Panago Pizza, and the McRoberts Leadership Class

**Douglas College** – for your continued support of BC Wheelchair Basketball Programs

Our many individual donors and companies for their continued support of BCWBS.

**Stay connected to all BCWBS news & events at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca)**

# BCWBS COACH UPDATES

### **Greater Vancouver – Mike Prescott**

Wheelchair basketball in the Lower Mainland has been very busy the past quarter kicking off winter programs and hosting a number of events. Local developmental programs in Surrey, Richmond and North Vancouver are in full swing. The fourth installment of the City League is thriving with a mix of wily veterans and a cadre of first time participants. The second tournament of the season for CWBL Division 2 at Douglas College sets the stage for an exciting Championship in Prince George later in March.

The BC Wheelchair Basketball Society kicked off the year with Coach Mike Frogley, former head coach of Canada's men's national team, putting on a coaching clinic and helped lead the junior team prepare for the upcoming Canada Games in Whitehorse. The team is destined for success in the Klondike after such lofty and wise guidance. This event also strengthened our ties with our neighbours to the south. The Ah-Fooks joined us from the Seattle region and gained more than just basketball— they can count on us as friends and partners as they build their fledgling program. This is a portent of the growing number of partnerships we are building in the Lower Mainland.

As if this wasn't enough, we were also entertained by the best players in the world as Vancouver hosted an NWBA tournament. The local team promptly swept their competition in front of large, enthusiastic crowds. Our recent addition to the basketball scene, Patrick Anderson, was prominently featured in the Vancouver Sun prior to the tournament and additional media coverage was encouraging. It will be difficult to top this past quarter but the Canada Games in March is a great way to start! Good luck to the participants and continued success to all the local programs.

### **Okanagan – Joe Higgins**

Congratulations to Okanagan players Matthew Ficocelli and Bryan Shore for attending the High Performance Camp in January and for being selected to the inaugural Provincial "B" team which will be travelling to Montreal in April for Defi Sportif. Two skill development camps and an open game night have taken place in Kelowna since the new year with a few new players coming out and trying the sport. We also conducted a demo for the PacificSport after school program which introduced eleven kids to our great sport. We are working on expanding the number of wheelchairs in the region for new programming. A grant application has been submitted for wheelchairs (thank you Pat Ryan for representing us) and we are beginning to build inventory of demo chairs for the area. More camps and opportunities to come.... stay tuned.

### **Northern BC – Pat Harris and Elisha Williams**

There has been lots of activity over the course of the last few months up in the North. Mini-hoops was successful once again this year. The program ran from September to December with all the kids having a great time. Our Wednesday night drop-ins have seen a couple of "new" players to wheelchair basketball as well. Regional Coach Pat Harris and Avril Harris have conducted a number of wheelchair demos in the last couple of months. McBride hosted a wheelchair bball demo, with a total of four demos held in one day

with 200 people participating overall. The YMCA and other after school care programs have benefited from wheelchair basketball demos as well. We have been pursuing various schools in the district to incorporate wheelchair basketball into the physical education curriculum. There is much interest in this, and six schools have confirmed intent to proceed with this initiative.

Wheelchair basketball continues to partner with Pacific Sport and Multi Sport Days. This program has been successful at introducing new people to our sport and is very popular with school district #57 students. We have been involved in two Multi Sport Days with 40 students participating. Plans are well underway to host this year's CWBL Finals in Prince George. This will be the 25th anniversary of wheelchair basketball in the North. We have invited all of the Prince George Alumni to attend the banquet and take in some of the basketball games over the weekend. The organizing committee has been working hard to make this a great tournament for everyone. See you at the Finals!

### **Provincial Coach - Marni Abbott-Peter**

A unique opportunity currently exists in British Columbia in the form of the Integrated Performance System (IPS) for sport development in BC. This plan has been in place for almost a full year and has already greatly impacted the development of wheelchair basketball. This is a vertically integrated system of paid coaches and program support at the regional, provincial and national team level. The goal of the IPS is to have a system in BC that develops more BC athletes on national teams with the potential to reach the podium and win medals for Canada.

Several new initiatives have been implemented here in BC to assist in the identification and development of athletes who are on track for the 2008 and 2012 Paralympic teams. The Lower Mainland City Leagues have given newly injured participants, juniors, and women a recreational competitive league to start to learn the game and develop their skills. The CWBA Centres for Performance have held ID camps in the North, Okanagan, Lower Mainland and on the Island. Approximately 30 athletes have been identified for this prestigious new program offered by our National Wheelchair Basketball Association. Both the men's and women's provincial teams are training and preparing for the 2007 Nationals in Winnipeg. Both teams have some rookie players this year that will gain valuable experiences by playing with these veteran provincial stars. The men's program has expanded to include an elite team who play in the esteemed NWBA league in the United States. Also this year for the first time the men will have an opportunity to play on a BC Men's B squad, and will travel to the Defi tournament in Quebec later this spring.

Our junior programs are in full swing around the province and depending on their ages players are gearing up for Canada games or the first ever Mini-Basket Festival later this spring.

Coaches have had many great professional development and networking opportunities provided by the IPS group. The success of this is reflected in the quality of our programs and the improvement of the athletes we are working with. By continuing to work together in support of the IPS goals we will certainly see more of our BC wheelchair basketball players in the podium in the future!