

BC TAKES GOLD AND BRONZE AT 2007 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 18 – 20, 2007 Winnipeg Manitoba

The BC Men's team entered this year's Nationals with a clear goal to take home Gold – the first time since 2001. In the round robin BC saw convincing wins over Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia on the first day, but had a wake-up call in their early morning game against Manitoba losing 74 – 59 to finish pool play. On the bright side the team realized what they had to do to be successful and rebounded back to win their semi-final against Quebec 71 – 52. In the final the team was able keep their hustle and drive from the semi-final but add the finesse and finish they needed to outplay Manitoba for a 69 – 59 gold medal win. The team played solid the whole way through and got easier looks at the basket than their opponents due to strong defensive play. BC saw a variety of line-ups enter the game and keep up the strong pace on both offence and defence even with Canadian national team star Richard Peter sitting out most of the 2nd quarter in foul trouble. High scorers for BC were Erik Hagreen with 21 points and Ross MacDonald with 17. Richard Peter was recognized with a tournament all-star award. BC and National Team veteran Jaimie Borisoff although sidelined throughout the tournament with an injury was awarded the CWBA Male Athlete of the Year for 2006 at the Awards Banquet.

The BC Breakers Women's team includes:

Marni Abbott-Peter (Vancouver), Jessica DesMazes (Burnaby), MJ Boudreault (Vancouver), Nancy Lafleche (Vancouver), Trish Nicholson (Richmond), Misty Thomas (Vancouver), Arley McNeney (New Westminster), and Elisha Williams (Prince George). The team is coached by Tim Frick (Port Coquitlam) and Bruce Enns.

On the women's side of the draw the BC Breakers had a rough start to the tournament which saw a much improved Quebec team win 48 – 34 as the Breakers seem to have a tough time handling the speed and press of their opponents. The team saw two more tough losses against the Calgary Rollers 50 – 49 and the Edmonton Inferno 66 – 49. The Breakers played strong against the Manitoba/Saskatchewan combo team and claimed their first win 69 – 36. The team rebounded well and came through with a big game against Quebec to win the bronze medal 52 – 31 in their last game of the weekend with a game high 28 points from Misty Thomas. Misty was recognized with a tournament all-star and also awarded the CWBA Female Athlete of the Year for 2006.



The BC Men's team includes:

Richard Peter, Erik Hagreen, Richard Poon, Brian McLennon, Jaimie Borisoff, Kevin Bowie (all from Vancouver), Roberto Molina, Ross MacDonald, Sunera Samarakoon, Don Turner (all from Burnaby), Nick Konishi (Richmond), Bo Hedges (Prince George) and Coach Peter Taylor (Surrey) and Bruce Enns.

BC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING
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BC SETTLES FOR RUNNER UP AT NWBT CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Dallas Mavericks won both the Division I and Division II National Championships at the 2007 National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. The Dallas Wheelchair Mavericks defeated Team British Columbia, 91-88, in overtime, to win their third consecutive title.

British Columbia looked like a team on a mission to start the Division I title game. They paired a balanced offensive game with excellent defense to take a 36-27 lead into half time. BC held Dallas to 33% shooting and allowed Mavs standout Paul Schulte only one point in the half. Coming out of the break, Patrick Anderson took control and seemingly put the BC team on the road to victory. Anderson scored 24 of his game-high 37 points in the third quarter and helped B.C. to a commanding 66-52 lead heading into the final frame. It seemed as though Dallas would be faced with more of the same in the fourth as Anderson opened the period with another of his four 3-point field goals. But, just 37 seconds into the fourth Anderson was whistled for his sixth foul on a questionable call that could have easily gone against Dallas' Willie Hernandez. Anderson took to the bench with 11:23 left in the game and his team leading 69-52.

Dallas immediately put on the press to try to rattle BC and the team struggled a bit with the pressure, but managed to continue to get the ball down the floor and score some baskets while playing significantly under points with 12 and then 10 on the floor compared to Dallas' 16. While Dallas had closed the gap, BC still held on to a solid 11 point lead with 5:30 to go. As the quarter wound down, the Mavericks successfully continued to extend and pressure BC on defense and on the offensive end. Raul Ortega hit back-to-back jumpers to get Dallas within one, 81-80, and just 32 seconds remaining. Richard Peter countered with a transition lay-up for a three point BC lead and only 21 seconds left. On the next possession, Dallas' Jason Van Beek picked up the hoop and the harm and knocked down the free throw to tie the score at 83 and send the game into overtime.

The teams traded baskets for most of the overtime period and with 1:33 to go, BC's Ross MacDonald hit a long jumper to tie the game. Glasbrenner was then fouled with 20 seconds left in overtime and he hit one of his two free throws to give Dallas the slim 89-88 advantage. BC got the ball back for a final shot and though they were able to attempt four shots from in the lane, none would fall and Dallas would win its third consecutive title, 89-88. High Scorers for BC were Patrick Anderson with 37 points following by Richard Peter with 26.

Team BC was recognized for their outstanding play as Patrick Anderson was awarded the D1 MVP, Richard Peter was named a 1st team all-star and Jaimie Borisoff and Brian McLennon were named to the 2nd all-star team. Congratulations to the entire team for an outstanding season and making us all so proud!

Our sincere thanks goes out to the Rick Hansen Foundation for funding this team in its inaugural season and providing an excellent competitive opportunity for our BC athletes.



PRINCE GEORGE TITANS WIN SILVER MEDAL AT 2007 CWBL OPEN FINALS

The Prince George Titans lost 69-59 to Variety Village to take the silver medal at the 2007 Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Finals at Laval University, Québec City April 6-8. The first quarter ended very close with Variety Village holding a close edge with a 17-16 score. At half-time, they increased their margin leading 33-29. At the end of the third quarter, Variety Village held the lead at 53-46 but the Titans tried to close the gap in the fourth quarter. Each time they did, Variety Village was equal to the task. In the end, it came down to crucial missed baskets by the Titans who fell behind and couldn't recover.

The Titans made their way to the final championship game by placing first in their pool defeating the Burlington Vipers, Saint John Mavericks and Moncton Magic and then easily downing the Quebec Bulldogs in the semi-final match-up. Patrick Anderson was named Most Valuable

Player and Bo Hedges a tournament All-star. Prince George Titans team members included: Avril Harris, Pat Harris, Curtis Brownmiller, Patrick Anderson, Bo Hedges, Elisha Williams, and MJ Boudreault.

Round Robin Game Scores:

- Prince George Titans 88 – Burlington Vipers 47 (Avril Harris 27 points)
- Prince George Titans 73 – Saint John Mavericks 63 (Patrick Anderson 28 points)
- Prince George Titans 78 – Moncton Magic 69 (Patrick Anderson 43 points)
- Semi Final: Prince George Titans 83 – Québec Bulldogs 55
- Final: Variety Village 69 – Prince George Titans 59

PRINCE GEORGE TITANS CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY AS BC-CWBL DIV 1 CHAMPS



The Prince George Titans hosted the BC-CWBL Finals March 17-18 at Kelly Road Secondary School. Spectators were treated to some outstanding wheelchair basketball in Division 1 and 2 of the provincial league as well as a mini-hoops competition with local junior players. The tournament also provided an opportunity for the wheelchair basketball community to celebrate the Prince George Titans 25th anniversary of their club.

Division 1 proved to be fiercely competitive with the 3 participating teams each vying for top spot in the league. After the conclusion of the pre-season with games on Saturday, the Douglas College Royals narrowly defeated the Douglas College Dingos in an exciting semi-final overtime 96-91 win in a bid to meet the top ranked Titans in the final. A great team effort by both teams saw Ross MacDonald and Richard Peter score 27 points each and Misty Thomas and Kevin Bowie chip in 21 a piece for the Royals, while Erik Hagreen lead the Dingos with 32 points followed by Brian McLennon with 28 and John Lundie with 25 points. Having come off a great semi-final win the Royals were primed to put the Titans to the test in the battle for the D1 championship. The lead changed hands numerous times throughout the game but the score remained close until the last few minutes of play. Lead by a strong 41 point game by Patrick Anderson, the Titans pulled out 71- 66 victory in front of their home town crowd.

Division 2 saw the BC Canada Games squad face off against the Vancouver Blue-dawgs over the weekend as the Oceanside Tsunami team was forced to stay at home due to the last minute cancellation of their flight. The series featured some great games included a 59-50 overtime win by the Canada



Games squad Sunday morning and in the final game of the weekend the Canada Games team claimed top spot by a score of 50 – 21.

Our sincere thanks goes out the Nancy Harris and the Prince George Titans for being such great hosts with the support of the Kinsmen Club of Prince George, the City of Prince George, Medi-Chair Northern BC, Canadian Springs, the Province of BC, Dunkley Forest Products, Fraternal Order of Eagles 3318, Porter McMillan Insurance, North Central Group, Evergreen Pharmacy, Home Hardware Austin Road, Barrick Gold Inc., Community Futures, and Sweet Bite Bake Shop.

BC-CWBL TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Division 1

MVP: Patrick Anderson
All-stars: Richard Peter, Ross MacDonald, Roberto Molina, Erik Hagreen, Misty Thomas

Division 2

MVP: Jon Vliegenthart
All-stars: Sunera Samarakoon, Richard Poon, Shaun Mills, Nancy LaFleche, Deion Green

BC-CWBL LEAGUE AWARDS

Fairplay Award: Div 1 – Mike Morris
Div 2 – Scott Allen
Most Improved Player: Div 1 – Roberto Molina
Div 2 – Avril Harris
Rookie of the Year: Div 1 – Richard Poon
Div 2 – Nancy LaFleche

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2007

- 10 Rick Hansen Wheels
in Motion Events
Communities across Canada
visit www.rickhansen.com

JULY 2007

- 11-12 Junior Wheelchair
Basketball Camp
Yarrow Community School, BC
- 21 Steve Nash Foundation
Charity Classic
Vancouver, BC

AUGUST 2007

- 3-6 Spitfire Challenge
Toronto, ON
- 12-18 Para PanAmerican Games
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
- 18-26 International Coaching School
University of Victoria
- 19-24 CWBA Junior Development
Camp
Toronto, ON

BURNABY FIRE FIGHTERS CHAMPIONS AT 14TH ANNUAL HOOPFEST EVENT



BC Wheelchair Basketball Society (BCWBS) was pleased to host the 14th annual Hoopfest fundraising event on Saturday April 21st at Cambie Secondary School in Richmond raising over \$9,000 to support wheelchair basketball programs across BC. BCWBS would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the participating teams, volunteers, and supporters of this great event. BCWBS athletes assumed the roles of coach, official and scorekeepers to host our participants – some returning Hoopfest veterans and others participating for the 1st time. We hope you all had a fantastic experience!

After a great day of games, fabulous food including Panago Pizza, the Original Cakerie, Starbucks coffee, and a great silent auction - the Burnaby Fire Fighters were the overall champs of this year's event. The Burnaby Fire Fighters coached by BCWBS regional coach Joe Higgins went undefeated for the day and beat out Vancouver Fire & Rescue 26 – 16 for top spot. In third place the community team of Blood, Sweat and Gears took 3rd spot with a win over last year's champs the Surrey Fire Fighters. Thank you to all of our teams including the Burnaby, Surrey, Delta and Vancouver Fire Fighters, Cambie School, Blood Sweat and Gears, and our BCWBS players the Bumping Maniacs.

Panago Pizza, Starbucks Coffee, The Original Cakerie, Shell Canada Limited, Vancouver Canucks, Vancouver Canadians Baseball Club, Vancouver White Caps Football Club, Peller Estates Winery, Basketball BC, Annemar Apparel, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Vancouver Aquarium, Harbour Cruises & Events, Greater Vancouver Zoo, AAA Horse & Carriage in Stanley Park, HR MacMillan Space Centre, The Westin Grand Vancouver, Trafalgar's Bistro and Sweet Obsession Cakes, The Fish House in Stanley Park, The Keg Steakhouse & Bar, Grouse Mountain, Holiday Inn International Vancouver Airport, Holiday Inn Express Richmond, Vancouver Art Gallery, Big Kahuna, New Westminster Inn at the Quay, Capilano Suspension Bridge, Bard on the Beach, The Spaghetti Factory, Splashdown Park, Initial Tropical Plants Canada Limited, & EA Sports, & Hyak Wilderness Adventures.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

GET READY FOR THE 2008 BC WINTER GAMES IN KIMBERLEY-CRANBROOK



February 21-24, 2008

Since 1978, the BC Games Society has been staging the BC Summer and Winter Games. These Games give young, developing athletes the opportunity to improve their skills, while learning to deal with the excitement, triumphs and defeats of participating in a major sporting event. The BC Games Society works in conjunction with the host community

to arrange the Games. BC Wheelchair Basketball Society facilitates the tournament organization through a local sport chair and assists with the selection and registration of athletes through zone reps. The Games Society pays for and organizes charter transportation, accommodation in the school district, meals, and entertainment, all for a registration fee of \$150. Competitors must also be current members of BC Wheelchair Basketball Society. A small zone try-out fee may also be charged to each participant leading up to the games.

For more information please contact BCWBS or check out our website at www.bcwbs.ca or the BC Games website at www.bcgames.org for more information.

Who can participate?

- Athletes must turn 13 – 21 years of age in 2008 to be eligible to participate (athletes born January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1995).
 - 8 players per zone team plus one coach and one manager per team, both male and female athletes are eligible (zone try-outs will be held)
- Contact your zone rep listed below as soon as possible if you are interested in participating, as there is a minimum amount of players needed to form a team for each zone. Your zone rep can then inform you as to when your zone try-out takes place (tentatively summer - fall 2007).

Zone Sport Representatives:

- Zone 2: Thompson/Okanagan: Tracy Ficocelli
tel. (250) 764-4179 or email: trymatt@telus.net
- Zone 3: Fraser Valley: Emily Herd
tel. (604) 584-3330 or email: emme_02@hotmail.com
- Zone 4: Fraser River/Delta: Mike Prescott
tel. (604) 271-9363 or email: mike@bcwbs.ca
- Zone 5: Vancouver/Squamish: Mike Prescott
tel. (604) 271-9363 or email: mike@bcwbs.ca
- Zone 6: Vancouver Island/Central Coast: Pat Bishop
tel. (250) 743-7458 or email: pbishopbc@shaw.ca
- Zone 8: Cariboo/North East: Nancy Harris
tel. (250) 967-4665 or email: pgtitans@hotmail.com

BCWBS NAMES AWARD WINNERS FOR 2006



On Saturday, March 17th at the BC-CWBL Finals Awards Banquet in Prince George, BCWBS was pleased to announce the recipients of the 2006 BCWBS Annual Awards.

Female Athlete of the Year – Misty Thomas

Misty Thomas, in just her second year of competing, continued to improve and excel in wheelchair basketball. Misty was named Most Improved Player and an All-star at the 2006 BC-CWBL Finals and she was also part of the BC Breakers silver medal performance at the 2006 Nationals Championships. Misty Thomas also became the only female basketball player to play on Canada's national team for both the wheelchair and stand up versions of basketball, having represented Canada as an Olympian and at the international level for many years. Misty traveled with the Women's National Team to Amsterdam and contributed to the women's 4th consecutive World Championship Gold Medal playing key roles throughout the tournament.

Male athlete of the Year – Jaimie Borisoff

In 2006 Jaimie Borisoff, in his 16th year of playing wheelchair basketball, had an outstanding year on the basketball court. His Personal and Team awards in 2006 include the following:

- MVP & National Team wins Gold Medal at the Osaka Cup in Japan
- MVP & 1st place with Douglas College Dingos, at the 2006 BC-CWBL Provincial League
- All-Star with the gold medal winning team the Douglas College Dingos at the 2006 CWBL Finals in New Brunswick
- All-Star with the silver medal winning team from British Columbia at the National Championships
- Gold Medal at the Paralympic World Cup, Manchester, England
- & lastly a Gold Medal at the World Wheelchair Basketball Championships in Amsterdam with Team Canada

Junior Athlete of the Year – Deion Green

Deion had a fantastic 2005/06 season. He set his sights on making the 2007 Canada Games team and worked hard to achieve that goal. He participated in the Victoria program and played in the CWBL league. Deion attended his first BC Winter Games and led his Zone 6 team to a silver medal. Over the summer, he was one of a select few to go to a junior high performance camp in Toronto, where he was identified as a great candidate for the Junior National team program. Deion has improved significantly in the past year and has a great future ahead of him!

Coach of the Year – Tim Frick

The women's national team won Gold at the 2006 World Championships under the leadership of Canada's most decorated wheelchair basketball coach, Tim Frick. Coach Frick demonstrated his excellent preparation and game coaching skills as he guided the team through the tough tournament and managed his extensive support staff. He also led the BC Breakers Women's Team to a silver medal at the 2006 National Championships in Kitchener, ON. Coach Frick continues to be on the cutting edge of technology and uses every resource he can in order to get the best out of his players. He is also working on several other initiatives for CWBA including completion of the new NCCP program and the development of the Long Term Athlete Development model for wheelchair basketball.

Official of the Year – Fred Gunn

Fred Gunn began officiating wheelchair basketball 7 years ago. An active official in the high school, college and university leagues Fred has also dedicated his time to also officiate and learn the game of wheelchair basketball. In 2006 Fred took a step forward in his development having attended the CWBL Finals in New Brunswick and the National Championships in Ontario. In December of 2006 Fred also officiated at the Vancouver Division 1 NWBA tournament, his first NWBA experience and a great challenge with the high caliber of teams and players in this league. Lastly, Fred was also selected to attend the 2007 Canada Games.

Outstanding Community Support Award - Kinsmen Club of Prince George

For over 20 years, the Kinsmen, the Kinettes and the Kinsmen Community Complex have supported the Prince George Titans and its Wheelchair Basketball program. Unsurpassed with hundreds of hours of donated gym time, fundraising support and volunteerism they have been instrumental in the development and continuation that has allowed Wheelchair basketball to thrive through out our northern communities. As well we would like to thank the Kinsmen for their support of the 2007 BC Finals.

Volunteer of the Year – Nancy Harris

Nancy has been a key volunteer with the Prince George Wheelchair Basketball Club for many years. She is the vice-president of the club and is responsible for coordinating fundraising events, writing grant applications, as well as marketing and PR. She always makes herself available for the team assisting with scorekeeping, running errands, organizing the equipment and wheelchairs, managing finances, applying for grants, as well as being a director with the club. Nancy also took on the main organizing role for the 2007 BC-CWBL Finals in celebration of the Prince George Titans 25th anniversary of the club.

JUNIORS

TEAM BC FINISHED CANADA GAMES WITH A WIN OVER TEAM ALBERTA



On the final day of competition at the 2007 Canada Winter Games, Team BC played a strong team game and pulled out a 51 - 45 win over Team Alberta. Coach Abbott-Peter commented on the team's victory saying the team played their best in this their final game of the tournament lead by the strong play of Deion Green, Richard Poon and Avril Harris. Deion Green of Victoria was high scorer netting 10 points followed by Avril Harris with 9 points. After this game, the team lay in a 3 way tie for 5th place with Manitoba and Alberta. Using the IWBF ruling for tie

breakers, Team BC found themselves on the short end of the calculations and had to settle for 7th place at the Games. Throughout the tournament the young BC team, consisting of 9 rookies played very well. They executed the game plans and worked very hard defensively, holding some of the top scorers in the tournament to limited opportunities. Their high paced transition offense gave BC many good shot opportunities however nerves and inexperience were evident in the low shooting percentages.

In the championship game of the tournament, Quebec pulled out a gold medal victory with a 63-62 win over Team Ontario. Team Saskatchewan overpowered New Brunswick with a 63-55 win for the bronze medal. Our congratulations to all the teams on your performances!

The entire team thoroughly enjoyed their Canada games experience and their thanks go out to the 2007 Canada Games Host Society and volunteers, the hard working Mission Staff of Team BC, and the CWBA Technical Staff at the Games for all their hard work and support!

Team BC - Wheelchair Basketball

- Adam Bishop, Shawnigan Lake
- Avril Harris, Prince George
- Richard Poon, Vancouver
- 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
- Sunera Samarakoon, Burnaby

Coaching Staff

- Marni Abbott-Peter, Vancouver
- Pat Harris, Prince George
- Kevin Bowie, Vancouver

Team BC Final Game Scores

- BC 36 - Ontario 68
- Newfoundland 25 - BC 46
- BC 46 - Manitoba 57
- New Brunswick 60 - BC 35
- PEI 33 - BC 54
- Alberta 45 - BC 51



Special thanks to the Sportsfunder Program Support for Team BC through the BC Lottery Corporation.

BC JUNIORS SHINE AT 2007 MINI-BASKET FESTIVAL

1st Junior Mini-Basket Festival held at Sullivan Heights School in Surrey, BC March 24/25th



The Mini-Basket Festival is a new event focused on providing junior players with a positive competition and skill development experience just for them. The festival featured 28 participants taking part in 8 ½ ft mini-basket games, skill development sessions, an introduction to classification, plus lunch, prizes and a ton of fun. Players came from all across BC including Nanaimo, Powell River, Prince George, Yarrow, Chilliwack, Maple Ridge, Langley, Richmond, Surrey, Ladner, North Vancouver, and Rosedale to join together and form the self named teams the Shockwaves, Mavs and Flaming Jerseys. Six fantastic games were played over the weekend, including an exciting overtime finish. The event also provided the first competitive tournament experience for Justin Emery, Justin Larsen, Ben Hagkull, Sierra and Quintin Sulin, James Robsinson, Devon Olson, and Cole Saunders. We hope you all had a great time!

Special thanks to the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association, 4imprint One to One Program and the Hamber Foundation for your financial support of this event. A huge thanks must also go out to our fantastic coaches Joe Higgins, Mike Prescott, Emily Herd, Elisha Williams and Marni Abbott for making this event such a positive experience for every participant!



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 visit Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org - Thank you for your support.

SPORT WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

BCWBS has a limited number of sport wheelchairs available for rental. If you are interested please read our policy and fill out a wheelchair loan application form on-line at www.bcwbs.ca and click 'For Athletes' and then 'Wheelchair Loan Program.'

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Rick Hansen on the 20th Anniversary of his return from the Man in Motion World Tour

In 1985, Rick Hansen pushed his wheelchair out of Vancouver, BC and set out on a journey that would make history. His legendary Man in Motion World Tour spanned more than 40,000 km through 34 countries; took over two years to complete; and raised more than \$26 million for spinal cord injury. His courage and determination inspired us to believe in the possibility of a fully accessible and inclusive society, and a cure for spinal cord injury.

Rick has also had a significant involvement in shaping wheelchair basketball in BC. In 1983 he was one of the founders of the Maple Leaf Wheelchair Basketball Society which later changed its name to the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society (BCWBS) and also helped establish the Stan Stronge Wheelchair Basketball Foundation. He continues to financially assist BCWBS and its members clubs with special projects and Wheels in Motion Quality of Life Grants. As an athlete he was a member of the BC Cable Cars and Men's Provincial wheelchair basketball team from 1976-1982 which won the Canadian National Championships 6 times and was a member of the Canadian National Wheelchair Basketball Team from 1977-1983. In fact for all of his outstanding athletic accomplishments he is being inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame along side Marni Abbott-Peter on May 31, 2007. Looking back at the last 20 years we congratulate Rick on and the Rick Hansen Foundation for all they have accomplished.

Arley McNeney – BCWBS Athlete who has just published her first book entitled “Post”

“Post” follows Nolan Taylor, a 13-year veteran of the Canadian wheelchair basketball national team who retires from competitive sport to undergo a hip replacement and start a family with her partner, Quinn McLeod. Unable to forge a post-retirement identity, however, she retreats to the memory of her first year on the national team and the relationship she had with her much-older mentor, Darren Steward. Witty, multi-layered and lyrical, “Post” is about the obsessive nature of memory, identity and what it means to become “un-disabled.” It is available online at amazon.ca, or chapters.com or in local bookstores.

BC Wheelchair Basketball Athletes Richard Peter, Robert Hedges, Misty Thomas, Jennifer Krempien, MJ Boudreault and Arley McNeney, who were selected to their respective Canadian National Teams and will represent Canada at the upcoming Para Panamerican Games in Rio this August as a qualifier for the 2008 Paralympics

BC Wheelchair Sports Association Annual Awards Winners: Deion Green, Junior Athlete of the Year; Jaimie Borisoff, Male Athlete of the Year; and Kinsmen Club of Prince George Community Support Award

Misty Thomas and Jaimie Borisoff: who were named Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association Female and Male Athlete of the Year in this the inaugural year of the CWBA Awards.

The Prince George Titans Celebrating 25 Years as a Wheelchair Basketball Club.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- Abbotsford Community Foundation and Rick Hansen Secondary School for your support of the Abbotsford Recreational Program held last fall and spring
- Regional District of Central Okanagan for providing a Grant in Aid in the amount of \$8,901 for the purchase of wheelchairs in the Okanagan
- Douglas College – for your continued support of BC Wheelchair Basketball Programs
- To the Coaches Association of Canada and the Investors Group for your support of our Investors Group Community Coaching Conference held in January and the Investors Group Volunteer Sport Administrator Award awarded to Bert Abbott of Qualicum Beach.

BC PLACES 1ST IN D1 AT DEFI SPORTIF

Team BC easily defeated the Variety Village Ontario team by a score of 64-46 in the final of Defi Sportif Division 1 after going undefeated in the round robin. “A” squad members include: Roberto Molina (Burnaby), Don Turner (Burnaby), Ross MacDonald (Burnaby), Robert Hedges (Prince George), Brian McLennon (Vancouver), Erik Hagreen (Vancouver), Richard Peter (Vancouver), coached by Peter Taylor. In Division 2, Coach Mike Prescott did a great job over the weekend in giving all Team BC players equal opportunity to learn and improve their basketball skills. The team did not grab a victory in the competition but greatly improved their personal and team play throughout the course of the weekend. “B” squad members include: Tony Golston (Victoria), Avril Harris (Prince George), Bryan Shore (Kelowna), Matt Ficocelli (Kelowna), Richard Poon (Vancouver), Kevin Bowie (Vancouver), Scott Allen (Vancouver), Nick Konishi (Richmond), Sunera Samarakoon (Burnaby), coached by Vancouver Regional Coach Mike Prescott.

FIRST EVER WOMEN ONLY CITY LEAGUE



BCWBS partnered with ProMOTION Plus to offer BC girls and women the first women only wheelchair basketball league. We had an excellent response and were able to get a number of women

active and participating in the program. Here are some of the success stories from the program:

- We motivated 12 women and girls to get active, and over 57% of participants were trying the sport for the first time
- Everyone had a very positive experience and were keen to come out again to a similar program
- Excellent program value and benefits at a very low cost to the participants
- First time for a BCWBS developmental program specifically for women and girls
- Great opportunity to promote both organizations and to create a successful partnership between ProMOTION Plus and BCWBS
- Resulted in a visit to one of the younger participant's school for a wheelchair basketball demo

We are hoping to offer this program again later this year, so stay tuned to the BCWBS website and newsletter for more information.

2008 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDED TO BCWBS

Organizing Committee Members and Volunteers Needed

BC Wheelchair Basketball Society is pleased to announce that we will play host to the 2008 National Wheelchair Basketball Championships. The event will take place in May 16-18 at the Pinetree Community Centre in Port Coquitlam, BC. The National Wheelchair Basketball Championships features men's provincial teams and women's club teams vying for their respective national titles. The Annual Hall of Fame ceremony and awards banquet will take place on Sunday May, 18th wrapping up the events for the weekend.

The BCWBS is eager to see this event return to BC in recognition of their 25th anniversary and to provide a first class event to wheelchair basketball participants across Canada. BCWBS Managing Director Carrie Linegar stated, "As we approach 2008, BCWBS looks to celebrate where we've come from in the past 25 years and where we hope to go in the future and would like to engage the wheelchair basketball community across Canada in this celebration by hosting the 2008 National Wheelchair Basketball Championships."

Individuals wishing to share their skills and enthusiasm as an event organizing committee member of volunteer should contact Carrie at BCWBS at carrie@bcwbs.ca or 604-737-3138.

COACHES CORNER

Every month Provincial Coach Marni Abbott-Peter publishes the BCWBS Coach Chronicle. These monthly updates are sent out to many of our coaches and members around BC and Canada. Archives of the BCWBS Coach Chronicle are available on the BCWBS website at www.bcwbs.ca/coaches.

If you would like to be added to the monthly email list or have some information you would like published in the Chronicle please contact Marni at marni@bcwbs.ca

BCWBS Coach Updates

Greater Vancouver – Mike Prescott

The past 3 months saw the wrapping up of a number of leagues and programs. The City League at Byrne Creek ended with an exciting best-of-five championship series. The contests went back and forth before the Blue Rays came back from a 10 point deficit in Game 5 to be crowned champions. Award winners like Mike Nestorak, Dave Partridge, Nick Toplass and Lisette Ruano are City League rookies that helped make the season a success. This program was made possible through the generous support of a Rick Hansen Quality of Life Grant from the Burnaby Wheels in Motion event and the BC Wheelchair Sports Bridging the Gap Program. Special thanks must also go out to our great volunteer Alex Lee for all his assistance!

Elsewhere, our developmental programs in Surrey, Abbotsford, Richmond and North Vancouver wrapped up with many participants already looking forward to the fall session! Some of these great athletes took part in the Mini Hoops Festival in Surrey where kids from all over the Lower Mainland received instruction and faced off against each other on the hard court. If the smiles on their faces were any indication, the event was a huge success.

In other action, Vancouver's entry in the CWBL Division 2 Championships took on the BC Junior Team (just returning from a great effort in Whitehorse at the Canada Games). The Juniors turned out to be too much for the spirited Vancouver team but there were some personal best performances from athletes like Shaun Mills and Nancy Lafleche. Nancy is a rising athlete that represented BC at the Canadian National Championships in Winnipeg. The Division 1 side of the slate was amazing. Where else but in BC could you have 5 or 6 of the greatest basketball players in the world at a provincial tournament? The Prince George pulled out a great victory in the end.

Lastly, a big thanks to the folks in Saskatchewan and Coach Tim Frick. BC players who attended included Wendy Jansen from Kelowna, and Nancy LaFleche, Janet McLachlan, and MJ Boudreault from Vancouver.

This is a superb example of how the wheelchair basketball family in Canada supports each other - helping to make the game in Canada and globally the best it can be. Congratulations to all!!

Okanagan – Joe Higgins

The last few months of the regular season provided an opportunity to host a few skill development camps and a game night in the Okanagan for both new and current players and it was great to see so many faces out at these events. We will look to continuing these camps next season. Congratulations must also go out to both Bryan Shore and Matt Ficocelli for representing the Okanagan with the provincial B squad at Defi Sportif in Québec.

We are now in the planning stages for an Okanagan City League and BC Winter Games Zone 2 team. We would like to see a local 8 week league developed in the early fall and in the in term host a few game days in the summer to keep people in shape and re-introduce some local referees to the program. We are currently planning a BC Winter Games Training/ ID Camp in the near future to confirm the number of individuals in zone 2 interested in participating at these Games.

Fundraising for wheelchairs is necessary to continue to build the equipment available for the Okanagan region to allow us to introduce new participants and programs to the region. We are pleased to confirm that the Regional District of the Central Okanagan has provided us with a Grant in Aid to purchase wheelchairs. If you have any ideas or contacts in this area please feel free to contact me. So stay tuned for more details.

Northern BC – Pat Harris and Mark Cormack

Well it was a busy year for the PG Titans. After a few years playing in Div 2 and having a great time in this division, the Titans played in Div 1 this past year. The team was principally made up of northerners, residents/former residents of Prince George and Quesnel. We were also extremely pleased to have International superstar Pat Anderson wear our colours this year. Our club team had a very successful year winning the BC-CWBL club team championship hosted in Prince George and winning the bid to represent BC at the CWBL National Championship in Quebec City. We did very well winning all of our round robin games and played in the Final against Variety Village in a tight battle but eventually came out with the silver medal. Avril Harris had a busy year with the BC Team and Canada Games program and Elisha Williams was also busy playing with the PG club and BC Breakers Women's Team. We wrapped up the season hosting the CWBL Finals in Prince George. Thanks to the organizing committee for doing such a great job with the event.

Of special note, Mark Cormack has taken on the position of Assistant Regional Coach and will be developing wheelchair basketball programs in Vanderhoof and assisting with other basketball demos and programming in the North. Welcome Mark. We look forward to another great year and look forward to seeing you all "on the court".