

# BC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CELEBRATES TWENTY FIVE YEARS

The 2008 National Wheelchair Basketball Championships were the perfect culmination for our year long anniversary celebration for BCWBS, giving us the opportunity to recognize the rich history of the sport which began long before the creation of BCWBS and continued to develop into a community formed from friendships, leadership, and a continued vision of opportunities and excellence. Many alumni were able to come out over the course of the championships, play in our first ever BCWBS alumni game, take in the championship games and cheer on Team BC to two gold medals, and see some old friends. An alumni reception also took place where past players could reminisce over old photo-

graphs and video and re-connect with past teammates prior to the CWBA awards banquet which saw the induction of the 1971-1983 Cable Cars Team and Marni Abbott-Peter. We hope many of you will continue to stay in touch with BCWBS and support the great sport of wheelchair basketball here in BC. The anniversary was not only a chance to reflect on our past however. The weekend also featured a futures game where up and coming wheelchair basketball players got the chance to display their skills and learn some tips from the best players from around the country. Our thanks to Joe Higgins and John Lundie who helped coordinate the alumni program!

## BC TAKES DOUBLE GOLD AT THE 2008 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS May 16–18, Coquitlam BC



2008 Nationals Campions: BC Breakers

British Columbia had an extremely successful weekend on the court, winning double gold medals at the 2008 National Wheelchair Basketball Championships held May 16–18 at Pinetree Community Centre in Coquitlam. The BC Wheelchair Basketball Society is proud to have hosted this prestigious event in conjunction with our 25th anniversary and during the Province's official proclamation of May 2008 as *Wheelchair Basketball Awareness Month*. The event was supported by Gold level supporters the Rick Hansen Foundation, Hosting BC, the Province of BC and Molson Canada; Silver level Douglas College, City of Coquitlam and Shaw Communications; Bronze level BC Rehab Foundation,

Instinct Mobility, Spinerigy Inc., and the Hamber Foundation and many other tournament supporters and volunteers.

The men's team successfully defended their National Championship title with a 67–62 win over Team Quebec. Quebec led through the first three quarters but succumbed to BC's sharp shooting in the fourth, being outscored 23–10 to give up their lead. Richard Peter gave BC their first advantage with less than six minutes remaining with four consecutive points and Ross MacDonald contributed a team high 19 points and nine rebounds.

"We feel very fortunate to have come out with a win against such a strong team from Quebec" said Peter Taylor, head coach of Team BC. "It was a great weekend and we're proud to successfully defend the national title as the host province."

The tournament all-star team featured BC's own Jamie Borisoff, along with Adam Lancia and Chris Stoutenburg from Ontario, and David Eng and Yvon Rouillard from Quebec. Paralympian Richard Peter, from Team BC, captured the title of tournament MVP.

The BC women's team maintained their perfect record throughout the tournament and captured gold, with a 59–52 win also against Team Quebec. BC's high scorer, and tournament MVP, Misty Thomas led the way with 24 points and 12 rebounds, while Elisha

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



**WE MOVED!**  
Our new contact information:

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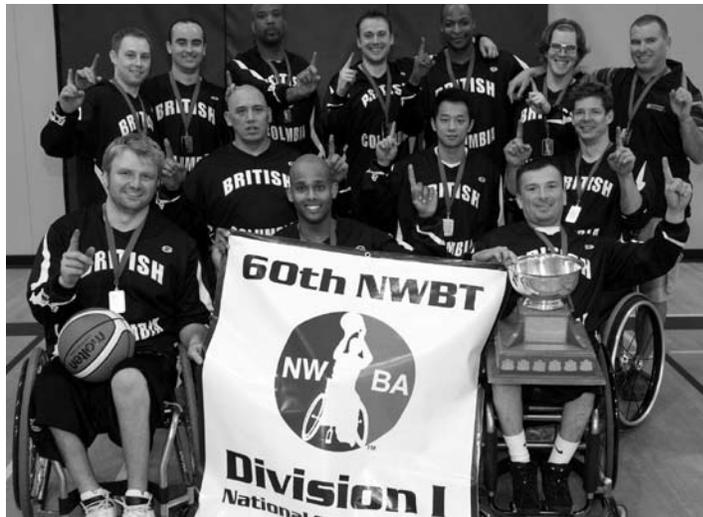
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NWBA Division 1  
Champions:  
BC Cable Cars

# NWBA DIVISION 1 AND 2008 CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The British Columbia Cable Cars became the first Canadian team ever to claim the NWBA Division 1 championship after pulling out a 74–66 win over the back-to-back-to-back champion Dallas Mavericks to win the 2008 title. It took a total team effort to knock off the defending champions but the Cable Cars were up to the task. BC cruised out to a 16-point lead midway through the second quarter behind a sensational effort from Ross McDonald, who put down 13 of his 21 points in the first half. The Mavericks however, would not make it that easy for BC, putting together a 14–7 run to close out the half and head into the break trailing only by nine, 43–34. Dallas continued to close the gap throughout the second half and at the close of the third quarter, narrowed the gap to 56–53. After a series of missed shots by BC the Mavericks claimed their first lead of the game, 57–56, just three minutes into the fourth quarter. The teams played to a 60–60 tie with six minutes to go in the game but back-to-back buckets by Anderson, but the Cable Cars up for good. Anderson led all players with 26 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists in the win.

“I’ve been in a lot of finals with a lot of really good teams,” said BC’s Pat Anderson. “It was nice to win this one with such a great team effort.”

BC’s Ross McDonald was given the Sportsmanship Award while Patrick Anderson was named tournament MVP. BC Players Ross McDonald and Richard Peter were given First Team All-Tournament honours while Brian McLennon was given Second Team mention. For the 2007–08 Season the team used the name the BC Cable Cars in recognition of BCWBS’s 25th Anniversary Celebrations and the Cable Cars powerhouse team in the 70’s and 80s. Congratulations to everyone!

**Rick Hansen  
Foundation**



BC Wheelchair Basketball Society was pleased to participate in Division 1 of the NWBA through the generous support of the Rick Hansen Foundation.

## 2008 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS cont from pg. 1

Williams was a key player offensively and contributed 12 points of her own.

“After 20 years, we’re proud to bring the national title home to BC,” said Marni Abbott-Peter, head coach of Team BC. “The team is made up of a mix of veterans and rookies that really worked hard and deserved to win.”

Lisa Franks of Team Saskatchewan, Chantal Benoit and Cindy Ouellet of Team Quebec, Joanne Kelly of Team Alberta and Team BC’s Shira Golden were name to the Tournament’s All-Star Team. In other tournament action, Team Ontario beat Team Manitoba to capture the Bronze medal with a score of 75-47 and on the women’s side, Team Alberta wheeled away with the bronze medal by defeating Team Saskatchewan 45-44. A complete summary of the weekend’s events and game scores can be found at [www.cwba.ca](http://www.cwba.ca).

## BC'S RICHARD PETER, JENNIFER KREMPIEN, AND PETER TAYLOR TAKE HOME CWBA AWARDS

The Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association announced the 2007-08 Major Award winners on May 18, 2008 in a celebratory banquet following the National tournament held in BC.

BC and National team member Jennifer Krempien was named Female Athlete of the Year after a number of highlights both on and off the court in 2007. The year saw Jennifer claim tournament MVP at the Osaka Cup and claim the BCWSA Stan Stronge Award for Athletic Leadership. Nationally Jennifer was a part of Edmonton Inferno’s CWBL Championship team in 2007 – a title that she has been a part of for four consecutive years. Jennifer was also named as Canada’s flag bearer at the Parapanamerican Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Richard Peter also took home the Male Athlete of the Year Award. In 2007, Richard was a key player in Team BC’s Gold medal win at the 2007 National Championships where he was selected to the All-Star team BC and in Team BC’s silver medal in the NWBA Division 1 Final where he was again selected to the All-Star team. 2007 also saw Richard become a member of Team Visa – a prestigious honour bestowed only to a few athletes today.

Peter Taylor was named the Coach of the Year after another successful campaign at the helm as coach of the BC Men’s Provincial Team which enjoyed a season of success as 2007 National Champions, 2nd place in Division 1 of the NWBA, and champions at Defi Sportif.

Other CWBA award recipients were:

Gregg Johnstone, Saskatchewan – Junior Male Athlete of the Year  
Maude Jacques, Quebec – Junior Female Athlete of the Year  
Kyle Kushnieris, Manitoba – Official of the Year  
Joelle Buckle, Saskatchewan – Volunteer of the Year

## BURNABY FIRE FIGHTERS CHAMPS AT 15TH ANNUAL HOOPFEST



BCWBS was pleased to hold our annual Hoopfest fundraiser on Saturday April 26 2008 at Cambie Secondary School in Richmond. The event was a great success raising over \$8,500 to support wheelchair basketball programs across BC. BCWBS would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the participating teams as well as the volunteers and sponsors who made this event a success.

After a great day of games, fabulous food including Panago Pizza, the Original Cakerie and Starbucks Coffee, the Burnaby

Firefighters were again the overall champs of our 15th annual event. The day also included a fantastic silent auction and prizes from numerous donors listed below and a demonstration from members of the Men’s and Women’s BC Provincial Team at lunch.

Participating teams at Hoopfest included the Rick Hansen Foundation, Burnaby Firefighters x 2, Surrey Firefighters, Delta Firefighters, Vancouver Firefighters Local 18, The Bumping Maniacs and the Andersoffs.

### Our Supporters:

*Panago Pizza, Starbucks Coffee, The Original Cakerie, Shell Canada Limited, Vancouver White Caps Football Club, Paddle Wheeler Boat Cruises, Steve Nash Sports Club, Arrowsmith Bikes, Cineplex Odeum, Lattimer Gallery, The Keg Steakhouse, Sequoia Company of Restaurants, BC Sports Hall of Fame, The Zone Bowling Centre, Playland, Vancouver Playhouse, Safeway, Lululemon, Annemar Apparel, Vancouver Aquarium, Harbour Cruises & Events, Greater Vancouver Zoo, AAA Horse & Carriage in Stanley Park, Trafalgar’s Bistro, The Keg Steakhouse & Bar, Grouse Mountain, Holiday Inn International Vancouver Airport, Big Kahuna, New Westminster Inn at the Quay, Capilano Suspension Bridge, Bard on the Beach, The Old Spaghetti Factory, & EA Sports.*

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY 2008

- 8–14 Easter Seals Camp  
Shawnigan Lake, BC
- 28–30 Junior National Team Selection  
Camp, Toronto, ON
- 29–3 Easter Seals Camp  
Squamish, BC

### AUGUST 2008

- 5–8 BCWSA Junior Sport Camp  
Coquitlam, BC
- 11–15 BCWSA Junior Sport Camp  
Kelowna, BC
- 13–18 Canadian Francophone Games  
Edmonton, AB
- 22 Deadline to register for  
Fall City League, Douglas  
College, New Westminster
- 23–24 Junior Basketball Camp &  
Introductory Coaches Clinic  
Douglas College, New  
Westminster

### SEPTEMBER 2008

- 7–16 2008 Paralympic Games  
Beijing, China
- 8 City League Begins  
Douglas College,  
New Westminster
- 14–20 Junior Programs begin  
in the Lower Mainland

### OCTOBER 2008

- 25–26 BCWBS High Performance  
Camp, Location tbc

### NOVEMBER 2008

- 6–9 Sport Leadership Conference/  
Spin Summit, Calgary, AB

## In Memoriam



### Dylan Mikolajczyk

November 7, 1991 –  
May 29, 2008

Everybody wanted to see Dylan Mikolajczyk defeat the cancer that plagued him since he was a baby, but it wasn't to be. Dylan was a strong, compassionate young man with a wonderful sense of humour. Wheelchair basketball was one of the only competitive sports he could play because of his vision. Though in and out of hospital constantly, legally blind, and with little use of his one arm and later with severe breathing difficulties, Dylan played with the Prince George Titans/Pacers for the last six or seven years.

One of the club's core juniors, he was selected in Zone 8 for the 2006 BC winter games team. Following his last diagnosis in July 2007 when no more could be done, he still practiced and played with the team. During this time he was selected and practiced consistently with the Zone 8, 2008 BC winter games squad. Sadly he has not been able to play due to his declining health. He was the spirit playing with our Zone 8 team, winning gold. In his honor, this medal was buried with him.

### Eugene Reimer

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Eugene Reimer on Sunday, June 8, 2008. At an early age, polio left Eugene a paraplegic. Eugene became a legend in the world of wheelchair sport with an athletic career spanning over 20 years. He excelled in a range of games from weightlifting, archery, swimming, volleyball, basketball and track and field events and was regarded as one of the Province's top all-around athletes. Eugene also played alongside Rick Hansen and Terry Fox on the Vancouver Cable Cars Wheelchair Basketball Team, of which he was a member for 19 years!

Among many honours, in 1972, Eugene was the first athlete with a disability to receive the honour of Canadian Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year, and in 1974, he was awarded the Order of Canada medal for "his inspiring example to the handicapped". Eugene was also inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame in 2000 and BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2002. Beyond athletics, Eugene's impact in his community of Abbotsford was immeasurable, and his leadership undeniable. The Eugene Reimer Middle School was named in September 2002 in Abbotsford BC. Eugene – you will be missed.

### Norm Watt

Norm passed away suddenly and peacefully at home in his sleep on Monday, June 2nd, 2008. A long time volunteer and advocate for people with disabilities he was the coach for BC's first wheelchair basketball team the Dueck Powerglides which formed in 1950. In addition to organizing numerous other charity events, Norm was also a big supporter of the BC Paraplegic Association and was co-chair of the World's Worst Oil Painting Exhibition and Auction for BCPA. Norm is survived by his wife Gail to whom we offer our deepest condolences.

# DOUGLAS COLLEGE ROYALS WIN GOLD MEDAL AT 2008 CWBL OPEN FINALS

*April 11–13, Regina, Saskatchewan*

The CWBL Open Finals, hosted by Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association, garnered the Douglas College Royals from BC as the 2008 Champions. In an exciting final game, the Royals defeated the Gladiateurs de Laval 67 – 51. The Royals were lead by Patrick Anderson who was responsible for 26 points – just ahead of Laval's leader, David Eng with 24. After a tight game in the round robin which saw Laval take the win, the Royals were able to avenge the loss when it mattered most. BC's Jaimie Borisoff was selected to the All-Star team while BC's Patrick Anderson

was voted Tournament MVP. Royals team members included Anderson, Borisoff, Richard Poon, Nick Konishi, Kevin Bowie, John Lundie, Tony Golston and Janet McLachlan. Thank you to the Province of BC for your support of the BC team attending the CWBL Finals annually.

Douglas College Royals Scores:

Royals 87 vs CIVA 44

Royals 76 vs Club '99 58

Royals 58 vs Club Laval 62

Final: Royals 67 vs Laval 51

## MARNI ABBOTT-PETER AND THE VANCOUVER CABLE CARS INDUCTED INTO CWBA HALL OF FAME



On May 18, 2008, Marni-Abbott-Peter and the 1971-1983 Vancouver Cable Cars were inducted into the CWBA Hall of Fame.

Marni first participated in the sport of wheelchair basketball in 1988 and by 1992 she had made her way onto Canada's National team claiming gold at the Paralympics in Barcelona. Marni's success continued as a member of the National Team as they claimed the Gold medal at three consecutive World Championships in '94, '98 '02. A true highlight in Marni's career was being named Canada's flag bearer at the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta, USA. It was here that the team once again claimed gold, and would follow suit again in 2000 in Sydney, Australia. Here in Canada, Marni was an active participant as a member of the BC Breakers and CWBL Open League where she claimed numerous medals. Following the Paralympic Bronze medal in Athens in 2004, Marni

retired from wheelchair basketball as an athlete and her role simply shifted from athlete to builder and coach. She has worked hard to develop our next wave of youth and developing athletes in BC.

The Vancouver Cable Cars attained extraordinary achievement in the sport of wheelchair basketball. The team participated for many years in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association in the United States consistently ranking in the top ten of nearly 180 teams. The Cable Cars also represented British Columbia and became a powerhouse at the national level having won Canada's national championship title eleven times in a thirteen year period in 1971, 1973–1976, and 1978–1983. Thanks to George Boshko and Peter Colistro, the team previously known as the Dueck Powerglides became known as the Cable Cars due to a successful sponsorship with Rogers Cablevision, a relationship that has lasted over 25 years.

From 1971 through 1983, the Cable Cars included players such as Peter Colistro, George Boshko, Eugene Reimer, Rick Hansen, and Terry Fox each of whom have claimed considerable individual recognition and each have made a significant impact through sport. Over the years the Cable Cars also placed numerous players on Canada's National, Pan-American, and Paralympic teams including, Murray Brown, Bill Inskter and Gary Reid. Team Members & Coaching Staff included: Alec Graham, Eugene Reimer, Noor Jamal, Richard Wasnock, Bill Inskter, Kevin Earl, Peter Colistro, Scott DeWolf, John Grant, George Boshko, Rick Hansen, Murraray Brown, Terry Fox, Ken Hinton, Charlie Quinn, Gary Reid, Kirby Rowe, John Vrekik, John Bayko, Mike Takoff, Dan Westley, Ken Anderson, Pat Madsen, Dennis Day, Lenny Marriott, Greg Pelling, Vic Cue, Mel Hamilton, John Murland, Bill Lynes, Stan Stronge, Tim Frick, Wayne Penny – Did we miss anyone? Please let us know.

## JUNIORS

### TEAM BC FINISHES SECOND AT WESTERN JUNIOR NATIONALS

From March 28–30, 2008, BC's best young junior athletes competed in the Western Canadian Junior National Wheelchair Basketball tournament in Winnipeg. The team proved to be best in the west but finished second to the Quebec team after a great final match. Team BC members included Matthew Ficocelli, Erin Higgins, Erik Vliegenthart, Sam Piercey, Alex Kilba, Nathan Bragg, Coti Koski, and Avril Harris. A special thank you goes out to BC coaches Joe Higgins and Emily Herd as well as Donna Piercey who accompanied the players on their trip. Thank you to MWSA as well for hosting us at this great event.

### BC JUNIORS SHINE AT 2008 MINI-BASKET FESTIVAL

On March 22nd and 23rd over 30 junior players from across BC took part in the 2008 Western Mini-Basket Festival at Sullivan Heights Secondary School in Surrey. The Mini Basket Festival is a weekend event aimed at junior players wanting the chance to practice and play at the 8 ½ foot hoop height. The weekend featured a number of skill and information sessions lead by some of the best coaches in the Province. The participants also got the opportunity to play in a number of games and participate in an Easter themed

skill session on Sunday. Another highlight of the weekend was the willingness of some of the parents to improve their coaching skills and become more involved in the sport.

Thank you to the Andrew Mahon Foundation and CWBA who supported this year's event. Also special thanks goes out to all of those that participated and we hope to see you all back next year.

### BC JUNIOR PROGRAMS WRAP UP

Junior Programs have wrapped up for summer and we would like to thank all of the players and parents who made this season a success. A special thanks also goes out to Pat Harris, Mark Cormack, Karen & Anthony Townsend, Mike Saunders, Andre Lapointe, Joe Higgins, Emily Herd, Joe Skillen and George Boshko who coached out Junior Programs this year. North Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Prince George, Nanaimo, Victoria, Vanderhoof and Abbotsford all hosted programs this season and plans are already underway for the 2008–2009 season. Special Highlights of this season included a number of Juniors participating in the BC Winter Games and a select few being chosen to represent BC at the Western Junior Nationals. Steph Park was also named BCWBS Junior Athlete of the Year. If you have any suggestions on improvements that we can make for the upcoming season, please contact BCWBS with your feedback.



2008 BC Mini-Basket Participants, Parents and Coaches

## BRITISH COLUMBIA DEFI SPORTIF 2008

BCWBS was pleased to support the attendance of three BC teams at Defi Sportif in May 2008. Defi Sportif hosted the CWBL Club Finals for Women and the BC Breakers placed 2nd being defeated by the powerhouse Edmonton Inferno who claimed their 5th straight national club championship. The Breakers played very well throughout the weekend in some very close games and had actually defeated the Inferno by one point during the round-robin portion of the tournament.

On the men's side, the BC division 1 team claimed the bronze medal defeating the Saint John Mavericks 60–47. BC went 2–2 in the round robin with losses coming at the hands of Team Kenda and Team Quebec. BCWBS also supported a Division 2 development squad who although went 0–4 over the course of the tournament, had some great moments on the court and in their individual player development.

# UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

## 2008 Junior Wheelchair Basketball Camp

On August 23 & 24 BCWBS will be hosting a junior wheelchair basketball camp at Douglas College in New Westminster. The camp is designed for junior athletes with and without a disability from mini-basket players eight years old and up to our top junior players and is aimed at teaching and improving fundamental wheelchair basketball skills. This is the first step in the path leading toward the ultimate goal of our junior players, Team BC and the Canada Winter Games. Participants will have the opportunity to develop their skills under the guidance of BCWBS Provincial Coaches Cheryl Corrigan and Marni Abbott-Peter as well as BCWBS regional coaches Joe Higgins and Pat Harris. The cost for the camp is \$50 and includes lunch both days and your annual BCWBS membership. For more information, or to register, please contact Marni Abbott-Peter at 604-333-3532 or [marni@bcwbs.ca](mailto:marni@bcwbs.ca) by August 13th.

## 2008 Fall City League Dates Announced

The popular BCWBS City League program will be back in the Lower Mainland for a Fall 2008 session. The league will kick off September 8, 2008 and run Monday nights from 6–8pm until November 9 (excluding October 13). The league will feature a first night skill jamboree to get new players accustomed to the game followed by eight weekly game nights which will feature two games per night with a short skill session in between. Be sure to register by August 11 to qualify for the early bird price of \$65. Late registration is \$75 and closes on August 22. All registration fees include an annual BCWBS membership and a reversible player

jersey for those who do not have one. The lower mainland City League is a rousing nine-week recreational wheelchair basketball league, where new players, juniors, and even some seasoned retirees can develop their game skills and have some competitive fun! Both able bodied and disabled players of all skill levels are welcome to attend. Contact the BCWBS office at 604-333-3530 for more information or to register.

## 2008 Beijing Paralympics, September 7–16

With National Championships now in the rear view mirror, BC's best wheelchair basketball players have now set their sights on the Paralympics in Beijing. BC's players Richard Peter, Patrick Anderson, Jaimie Borisoff, Bo Hedges, Jennifer Krempien, Misty Thomas, and Janet McLachlan have all been training hard with the National Team in pursuit of the ultimate athletic achievement, a Paralympic gold medal for Team Canada. They will be joined by other BC members as part of the coaching staff which will include Tim Frick, Trish Nicholson, Bruce Enns, Cheryl Corrigan, and Laura Goertz (massage therapist). Congratulations to you all. You have made us so proud and we will be cheering you on with your other teammates from across Canada.

The Canadian women, the defending World Champions will be looking to improve on their bronze medal in Athens while the men will be looking for their third consecutive Paralympic gold medal. Competition in Beijing runs from September 7–16, 2008. Track all the scores and action of the teams at [cwba.ca](http://cwba.ca).

## DID YOU KNOW...

BCWBS currently has a membership survey open for feedback from our participants. If you would like to complete this short on-line survey please email [carrie@bcwbs.ca](mailto:carrie@bcwbs.ca) so the link can be sent to you. We would love to hear from you too. To date 50 individuals have responded and provided the following preliminary feedback:

- BCWBS top identified strengths were staffing, offering programs at a variety of levels, level of organization, and friendliness. Top areas identified for improvement were recruitment, regional programming, and more competitive opportunities.
- On average, BCWBS programs were ranked as "Very Good". wheelchair loan, national team support and awards/recognition were ranked excellent and city league, recruitment, coaching and officials development ranked as good.
- The BCWBS logo, website and newsletter as well as BCWBS's overall image in the wheelchair basketball community were ranked "Very Good" by the majority of participants.



## 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](http://www.canadahelps.org). Thank you for your support.

### SPORT WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

BCWBS has a limited number of sport wheelchairs available for rental through the Wheelchair Loan Program. The program requires you to sign a loan agreement one-year in length and submit a \$100/year or \$10/month rental fee. If you are interested please read our policy and fill out a wheelchair loan application form on-line at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca) and click **for athletes** and then **wheelchair loan program**.

# COACHES CORNER

## **Cheryl Corrigan Joins BCWBS**

National Junior Head Coach Cheryl Corrigan has joined the BCWBS staff in the position of Provincial Coach. Cheryl has coached at almost every level in stand-up basketball, most recently in the position of Head Coach for the women's basketball program at Augustana University. She also works with the Alberta division of Canada Basketball's Nike Centres for Performance, a program that has her working with top-notch high school and university coaches. In 2001 she began her wheelchair basketball coaching career and hasn't looked back. After learning the ropes her first few years with the Auroras/Inferno, she was invited to work with the National Program.

Cheryl moved out to BC in May and will take over for former Provincial Coach Marni Abbott-Peter. She is busy assisting in the men's and women's national teams in their preparations for Beijing. Cheryl will also be selecting the Junior national team later this summer and begin their preparations for the 2009 Junior Worlds in Paris next summer. Cheryl can be reached at the office at 604-333-3532 or by email at [cheryl@bcwbs.ca](mailto:cheryl@bcwbs.ca). Please join us in welcoming Cheryl to the BC Wheelchair Basketball Community.

## **BCWBS Coach Updates**

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

BCWBS ended the 07/08 season on a very successful note with both Men's and Women's provincial team winning gold at the National Championships, and the Junior's placing 2nd at the Western Junior Nationals so congratulations to all the players and coaches of these teams.

BCWBS will be hosting a Junior Summer basketball camp and for the first time we will include the mini players as well. The camp will take place at Douglas College in New Westminster August 23/24. This camp is the first step towards the 2011 Canada Winter Games and is very important to the development of our junior athletes across the province. In conjunction with this camp we are going to offer an Introductory Community Initiation Coaching clinic. This course will introduce people to the sport of wheelchair basketball. We will teach the basic rules and skills of the game and provide coaches with a solid understanding of wheelchair basketball fundamentals. It will also include things like planning a practice and running a weekly community program. We will be sending out further information on this camp to each athlete and potential coach in the near future but please do not hesitate to contact the BCWBS office if you or your child are interested in attending this camp/clinic.

We are in the process of finalizing the dates and details for the 2008/09 season and are looking forward to hosting our High Performance camps, CWBL leagues, regional CWBA Centre for

Performance Camps and Junior programs so stay tuned for details.

I will be leaving this position at the end of August and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the athletes, coaches and administrators I have had the pleasure of working with over the last couple of years. This position has been (for the most part) a lot of fun and very rewarding for me. I wish you all the best of luck in your future in this great sport!

### **Regional Coach – Joe Higgins**

Over this past year, it has been very inspiring to see the success that all of the teams in BC have enjoyed. In all of the programs and tournaments that I have been involved in, I was very pleased to see the players from across the province represent BCWBS so well.

With the aim of doing even better next year, I would like to encourage all of our athletes to continue to improve over the summer. This is a great time of year to get out and shoot around on an outdoor hoop or practice getting up your favourite hill. For those of you looking to start a summer improvement program, all of your local coaches would be happy to take the time and develop a training program to prepare you for a busy September. In my role as Regional Coach I will be continuing to support clubs and individual participants across the province in developing programs and helping athletes with their skill development. Please contact me at [joe@bcwbs.ca](mailto:joe@bcwbs.ca) discuss opportunities you would like to see brought to your region.

### **Regional Coach – Pat Harris**

Our regular season ended on March 31, however there has been some activity around the North since then. Pacific Sport hosted three Multisport Camps in March, April and May of which wheelchair basketball was a component. A special thanks to Avril Harris who did a great job as the camp instructor for wheelchair basketball. The Prince George Titans also hosted the College of New Caledonia Open Doors program in April which gave an opportunity for a number of students with disabilities to try out wheelchair basketball. The PG Titans also hosted a three-week drop in program at the end of April for anyone interested in trying out the sport. It was also a busy spring for some of our local athletes. Avril Harris participated with the BC provincial development team at Defi Sportif in May and was joined by Erik Vliegthart at the Junior Nationals later that month.

In addition, Mark Cormack conducted a six-week introduction to wheelchair basketball in Vanderhoof in April. "It was well attended and everyone had a lot of fun" said Coach Cormack. It looks like there will be enough interest to host an adult program in Vanderhoof for the upcoming season. The Vanderhoof Junior program was also very successful with a packed house every week. Have a great summer everyone and see you in the fall!