

SUMMER 2010

BC BREAKERS WIN FIRST NATIONAL TITLE



The BC Wheelchair Basketball Society has a long history steeped in the glory of its founders, athletes and coaches, and Marni 'Moose' Abbott-Peter embodies all the things that the BCWBS holds dear: hard work, commitment, and a dedication to the sport that is unequalled. Marni returned to the courts in Saskatoon this past May after a three year absence to complete her collection of championships with the only one that had eluded her: a CWBL Women's Club National Championship.

Marni returned to an experienced and talented team comprised of the following BC athletes: Shira Standfield, Stephanie Park, Janet McLachlan, Wendy Jansen, Makiko Harada, Jessica Vliegenthart, Elisha Williams and Nancy LaFleche. Their weekend started off with a game against the newly minted Novatario, a group of young and eager athletes. BC prevailed 82 - 38 after four players scored in double figures: Janet McLachlan, Shira Standfield, Nancy LaFleche and Elisha Williams.

The second game pitted the Breakers against the Calgary Rollers, a team they hadn't beaten all year. In a game that never felt comfortable, Janet McLachlan again led the scorers with 30, while her national teammate Jessica Vliegenthart had 11 points to help BC win the game by a score of 59 - 47. This win set them up for a crossover in the semi-finals against a quick and talented Quebec team.

Quebec brought the press early, and BC struggled to get their timing right in the press break. National team stalwart Chantal Benoit kept Quebec close with 14 points at the half, giving BC only a small one point lead. The second half was much the same, as Quebec continued to press, but BC equalled the task with their own stifling defence, and that's what ended up helping them to the win with 63 - 56. BC held their opponents to a paltry 39% shooting percentage, while they shot a stellar 50% from the floor.

The final was played in front of a great crowd in the University of Saskatchewan's PAC facility against an impressive Edmonton Inferno team that was the defending and six time national champions. Once again, the opponent deployed their best defence against BC, this time specifically targeting McLachlan, double teaming her full court. The first quarter was a comedy of errors for both teams as they tested the waters with different offensive schemes, and it ended in a 10 - 6 advantage for Edmonton. The second quarter was fruitful for BC, as they embraced the game plan and torched the Inferno for 21 points, coming out with a seven point lead at halftime. The second half was a nail biter as the lead changed hands numerous times, crucial shots were missed, and turnovers abound. With Edmonton still trying to keep Janet out of the offensive game, Elisha Williams kept pace for the Breakers

BC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING
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BC MEN'S TEAM FOUR-PEATS AT THE NATIONALS

The B.C. Men's Basketball team headed off to the Canadian National Wheelchair Basketball Championships in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in search of their fourth successive title. The team started the tournament with decisive wins over Alberta and Manitoba.

After finishing first in Pool A, B.C. played the second place team in Pool B, Quebec in the Semi Final. B.C. had played Quebec in the last two National Championships games and they knew this Semi Final would continue to keep this strong rivalry alive. At the end of the first quarter B.C. held a slim 14 to 13 lead. The second quarter saw B.C. starting to take control of the game with Richard Peter's strong full court defence. This led to easy transition baskets for B.C. and they held a 22 point lead with the scores being 54 - 22 at half time. B.C. was able to maintain their lead during the second half and eventually won the game with a 77 - 60 scoreline.

The final game saw B.C. face tournament number 3 seed, Ontario in the final. B.C. established an early lead and were up by 6 points at the end of the first quarter 15 - 9. B.C. was able to maintain their six point lead at half time and led 27 - 21. The third quarter saw Ontario's offence catch on fire and they were able to score 22 points in the quarter. At the end of the third quarter scores were tied 43 a piece. The fourth quarter saw B.C.'s veteran players take control of the game. Erik Hagreen and Richard Peter were able to play strong offence and defence. B.C. was able to score 25 points for the quarter while holding their opponents to only 13. B.C. was able to secure their fourth National Title in a row by defeating Ontario 68 - 56. Erik Hagreen was the games top scorer with 21 points and he recorded another double - double with 13 rebounds. Richard Peter was not far behind Erik on the scoresheet and finished with 20 points. Ross MacDonald rounded out the scoring with 15 points in only 23 minutes of playing time. Once again the key to Team B.C.'s fourth national title was a well rounded team effort. Richard Peter also received a tournament All Star for his great play during the tournament.

The 2010 B.C. Men's Team consisted of Richard Peter (a member of the 2010 German and European League Champions - Lahn Dill), Bo Hedges, Ross MacDonald, Jaimie Borisoff, Roberto Molina, Kevin Bowie, Bryan Shore, Avril Harris, Anthony Purcell and Erik Hagreen. The team was coached by Peter Taylor and Joe Higgins. Congratulations to all!

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with 13 points, as did Marni who hit a couple of big shots down the way. In the end, BC's defence held strong, forcing Edmonton into a paltry 32% shooting percentage, while tournament MVP Janet McLachlan iced the game from the line, going 7/8 in the fourth quarter.

BC's seven point win prevented the Inferno's seventh championship, and will go down in the history books as the Breakers first CWBL Women's Club National Championship! Congratulations to the team on a great game, and to All Star Jessica Vliegthart and MVP Janet McLachlan.

DOUGLAS COLLEGE LIONS WIN 2010 CWBL OPEN FINALS



BC Wheelchair Basketball Society (BCWBS), Douglas College, and Wheelchair Basketball Canada hosted CWBL Open Finals in Coquitlam & New Westminster, BC, April 2-4, 2010, which saw three local Douglas College teams participated. Special thanks to our tournament supporters: 49 Bespoke, MEDiChair and the province of BC.

One of the BC teams, the Douglas College Lions defeated Variety Village 58-52 at the Final to remain undefeated (4-0) and claim gold. Tournament MVP Pat Anderson (Vancouver) set the pace for the Lions with a game-high 32 points, 20 rebounds and 6 assists to ensure a club team from British Columbia won the tournament for the third straight year.

Variety Village led by as much as 10 points in the first half thanks in part to the efforts of tournament all star Dayton

Sopha who last played in the tournament in 2007 - the last time Variety Village won the tournament. He finished the game with 18 points, 18 rebounds, and 8 assists. The Lions closed the gap in final minutes of the second quarter and trailed by a single basket heading into the break. The veterans on the Lions seemed to get better as the intensity picked up in the final two frames. Vancouver's Jaimie Borisoff and Elisha Williams (Team Canada Women) helped to stifle Variety Village defensively - they held them to just 6 points in the fourth quarter to secure the win.

Williams pitched-in offensively with 14 points, while Derek Lundie and Bryan Shore rounded out the scoring for the Lions with 10 and 2 points respectively. Variety Village's Abdi Fatah Dini (Team Canada Men) and Michael Broughton finished second in team scoring with 12 points apiece.

Tournament All Stars

MVP: Pat Anderson (Douglas College Lions)
 All Stars: Dayton Sopha (Variety Village)
 David Eng (Gladiateurs de Laval)
 Bo Hedges (Douglas College Royals)
 Abdi Fatah Dini (Variety Village)
 Jaimie Borisoff (Douglas College Lions)

Congratulations Douglas Lions and all the BC players for the great season!

BO, AVRIL AND PAT WIN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA ANNUAL AWARDS

Wheelchair Basketball Canada announced the names of its major award winners on May 23 at the 2010 annual awards banquet as part of the 2010 National Championship in Saskatoon, SK. We are pleased to announce that BCWBS member Robert (Bo) Hedges was named Male Athlete of the

Year, Avril Harris was awarded the Junior Athlete of the year, while Pat Harris was honoured with Leadership Excellence Award. Congratulations to all! Please visit BCWBS website and WBC website to read more about their accomplishments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

7-17 World Championships
Birmingham, GB

17 Dolphin Park Basketball
Tournament - Demo
Thompson Community Center,
Richmond

AUGUST

27-29 Canada Games/Junior Skills Camp
Douglas College, New West

SEPTEMBER

1 BC-CWBL Division 1 Draft
Application Deadline

TBD Fall Tim Frick City League Starts

15 BC-CWBL Division 1 Draft

16 2010 BC Sports Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony
Vancouver, BC

17-27 World Wheelchair Rugby
Championships
Olympic Oval, Richmond

OCTOBER

1 BCWBS Grant Applications
Deadline

MEN WIN SILVER IN DEFI SPORTIF

The B.C. Men's Provincial Team attended the 2010 addition of Defi Sportif in Montreal, Quebec from April 30th to May 2nd as a tune-up for the Canadian Championships in Saskatoon, SK.

After flying all day the team played their first game against the Maritime Wheelchair Basketball Association. B.C. took control of the game early and led 9 to 6 at quarter time and 23 to 19 at half time. B.C. increased their lead by scoring 25 points in the 3rd quarter and held a 17 point lead with the scores 49 to 32. The tables were turned in the fourth quarter when Canadian National Team Member, Dave Durepos started to shoot the lights out. Durepos hit 4 - 3 pointers and forced the game into overtime. The Maritimes kept hitting shots in overtime and ran out winners 67 - 63.

B.C. played Ontario in their first game on the second day. B.C. full court press caused problems for Ontario and was able to maintain their lead throughout the game eventually running out winners 67 - 51. Next up Team B.C. played Team Blue and White, which was a team of players from across Canada put together by wheelchair basketball legend, Reg McClellan. B.C. resident, Patrick Anderson was one of the big recruits on Reg's team. Team Blue and White took control of the game early and they were able to run out comfortable winners 66 - 42.

In their third and final game of the day B.C. played their arch rival Quebec. A win guarantee a place in the gold medal game against Team Blue and White. B.C. held a slender 1 point lead at quarter time with the scores being 14 to 13. At half time Quebec held a 1 point lead with the scores being 29 to 28. The lead changed hands again at the end of the third quarter this time in B.C. favour 44 - 39. B.C. was able to maintain their lead during the fourth quarter and ran out winners 60 - 55.

The B.C. team took their 2 and 2 record into the gold medal final, re-match against Team Blue and White. Team Blue and White took control of the game early and run out comfortable winners 81 - 50. Erik Hagreen led all scorers with 28 points, Bo Hedges had 8 and Ross MacDonald finished with 6. B.C. finished with a silver medal and a few things to work on at practice prior to the Canadian Nationals.

The team that made the trip to Montreal is as follows. Erik Hagreen, Derek Lundie, Kevin Bowie, Ross MacDonald, Anthony Purcell, Bo Hedges, Roberto Molina, Jaimie Borisoff. They team was coached by Peter Taylor and Joe Higgins.

WHEELCHAIR ATHLETES CAN NOW REGISTER AS ALUMNI



Wheelchair Basketball Canada is currently in the planning stages of a new Alumni program that will be dedicated to the many individuals that have participated in wheelchair basketball across Canada. The organization is very excited by the opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to the countless people whose efforts are responsible for the ongoing growth and success of our sport. The Alumni program will provide the opportunity for the larger wheelchair basketball community to connect, celebrate, and share in the excitement of competitions past and present. To learn more and register, visit Wheelchair Basketball Canada website at www.wheelchairbasketball.ca.

RECREATIONAL

TRINITY WESTERN WRAP UP FOR 2010



From September 2009 to April 2010 Trinity Western University's intramural program in Langley participated in wheelchair basketball. This pilot project was a unique initiative where students and staff had the opportunity to try playing and

developing the skills of wheelchair basketball. Patrick Anderson and Joe Higgins shared the sport and put these athletes through a mixture of fun games and skill development. The Trinity players took part in many of our program opportunities throughout the year, highlighted by hosting two tournaments at TWU, participating in our Junior Challenge, having a Trinity Basketball half-time demonstration, and sharing the sport with some of our local members.

It was great to work with such supportive sport partners at Trinity Western. This partnership has worked out very well for our Society and the students seem to have had a great time. Thanks to all the people behind the scenes that have made this such a success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Canada Games Camp - August 27-29

BCWBS, in conjunction with Douglas College and Wheelchair Basketball Canada will be hosting a Canada Games focused camp on August 27, 28, and 29th. The camp will be held at Douglas College in New Westminster, and will be by invitation to a select group of mini and junior athletes that are Canada Games age eligible (under 25). For more info, please contact Cheryl Corrigan at cheryl@bcwbs.ca.

Check Out BC Athletes Competing in Gold Cup 2010

2010 Gold Cup, the Wheelchair Basketball World Championships, will be held in Birmingham, England from July 5-17. BC's players Richard Peter, Bo Hedges, Marni Abbott-Peter, Janet McLachlan, Nancy LaFleche, Jessica Vliegthart, and

Elisha Williams will be competing with the National Team in pursuit of the gold medal. Both Women and Men are the defending World Champions. All the games are scheduled to be webcasted. Stay connected at WBC website at www.wheelchair-basketball.ca.



Are you Ready? – 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships

This September, the world's top wheelchair rugby players from 12 countries will be coming to Richmond / Vancouver, Canada to battle for gold at the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Originally called "Murderball" by its Canadian inventors, it has evolved into one of the most exhilarating sports at the Paralympic Games. Come be part of the excitement! Visit www.2010wwrc.com for more info.

THANK YOU... to the BCWBS Regional Club Reps and Volunteers: Bert Abbott, Karen Townsend, Jean Luc Lagan, Tony Golston, Bryan Shore, Tyler Tingle, Karin Kratz, Lindsay Peake, Brad Hagkull, Avril Harris, Nancy Harris, Peter Taylor, Anthony Purcell, Cheryl Corrigan, Joe Higgins, and Bo Hedges – for your time and effort for your club/team/league throughout the season!

SPORT WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

BCWBS has a limited number of sport wheelchairs available for rental through the Wheelchair Loan Program for BCWBS members wishing to participate in on-going programs. 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 and click "for athletes" and then "wheelchair loan program".

REGIONAL REPORTS

KELOWNA JAMBOREE 2010



The second annual Kelowna Jamboree saw players arrive from Alberta and throughout BC. There were over 30 players who participated in a variety of themed games where the players were divided into two levels, each group having the opportunity to have new team mates and opponents. Some of the highlights of the weekend included the “old vs. young” game where the old fogies triumphed over the young whipper-snappers, and a rousing game of Ultimate Frisbee. This year’s Jamboree saw an increased number of past and present National team members from both the men’s and women’s programs.

The Jamboree participants were divided into two tier groupings: Tier 1 was comprised of players who play nationally or internationally or play the sport at a high level of competitiveness and skill; Tier 2 included those participants that mix playing and skill development and whose primary goal is to enjoy

playing the game as well as up-and-coming junior players who are the future of the game. Many of the Tier 2 players were excited to have the opportunity to play for or against national and international caliber players.

After the games were completed on Saturday, all players, referees, and organizers congregated for an entertaining banquet, featuring a silent auction, locally sponsored door prizes, a slide show of game photos taken by Ian Hoare, and some great local wine and beer.

The tournament concluded Sunday with many innovative games such as “jambalaya” which consisted of high performance players and city leaguers mixing to form teams and playing in a fast-moving round robin. The “class vs. no-class” game (and probably “no defense”) saw the score go into the 90s for both teams. Wow, what a display!

Paul Clark and his crew did an awesome job of this year’s event highlighted by the great local coverage from newspaper and television. The Jamboree was a resounding success, in no small part because of the enthusiasm and effort of many partners working together: the City of Kelowna, BC Wheelchair Basketball, local Kelowna players and high school student volunteers, Calgary Grizzlies and Rollers, our officials, and all our participants. Kelowna is already planning for the next Jamboree. It had a great recipe of off-court and on-court unique experiences. And I am sure the next jamboree will be bigger and better.

HOOPFEST 2010 RAISES OVER \$7K



Hoopfest 2010 was held on Saturday April 24th at Cambie Secondary School in Richmond and was a great success, raising over \$7,000 to support wheelchair basketball programs across BC. Firefighters from municipalities across the Lower Mainland once again were the primary participants and the first police officers team joined in Hoopfest as well. Teams representing Burnaby Firefighters, Vancouver Firefighters, Surrey Firefighters, Delta Firefighters, Coquitlam Firefighters,

Vancouver Police, Team 8, and the host school Cambie Secondary battled throughout the day.

After a great day of games, fabulous food and prizes, the defending Champion Burnaby Firefighters were the overall champions of our 17th annual event. The day also included a fantastic silent auction and a demo game by BC high performance athletes that officiated and coached the enthusiastic participants all day.

We would like to thank all the sponsors and the participants for their generous support. We would also like to thank BC high performance athletes as well as community volunteers working hard all day. Special thanks go to Paula Brown, Dilpreet Ghtaura, and the leadership class at Cambie secondary school for co-hosting this successful event.

Thank you for your support of Hoopfest 2010:
Bosa Foods, Cambie Secondary School, Canadian Freestyle Ski Association, The Vancouver Canadians, Costco, Panago Pizza, The PNE, Richmond Center, Salt Spring Coffee Company, Judy McKissock Designs, Shopper Drug Mart Denman St, Team BC, Kids Sport, The Vancouver Curling Club, Vanessa Lambert, The Vancouver Whitecaps, Joe Higgins, Misty Thomas.

JUNIOR

FUTURE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL STARS



Juniors came from all over the coast to demonstrate their skills and enthusiasm for the sport of wheelchair basketball at the 2010 Mini Basketball Festival. Through the years, we've seen great growth in the development of our mini-fest participants, and their abilities were on display the May 15th & 16th weekend at Alex Hope Elementary School in Langley.

Over the weekend, they took part in skill sessions, video sessions, and of course some exciting games of wheelchair basketball. This continued Sunday with more games, skills, and a fabulous presentation by Bo Hedges on how to maintain your game chair. The video sessions offered the participants a new opportunity to see themselves as athletes in a game and to evaluate their individual and team play on TV. They also had the chance to observe how our elite National athletes perform the same elements of play in a tense game, this one being the

Gold Medal Game in Beijing, China at the 2008 Paralympics. Then these future stars went out onto the court to put into practice what they had learned through the skill sessions and video review.

Our junior programs continue to grow in different regions of the province. In the 8 ½ foot division, players came from Powell River, Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley, and the Lower Mainland. This division has many players that play weekly in our programs and that is why we see such great improvement in their shooting, passing, and knowledge of the game. These dedicated players were mixed in with new recruits who are giving wheelchair basketball a try for the first time. All of these youngsters received great coaching and encouragement this weekend from the likes of Brad Hagkull, Emily Heard, Cheryl Corrigan, and Joe Higgins.

It's very exciting to see so many players enjoying playing for the love of the game and to watch potential stars of tomorrow setting the foundation for their basketball skill development.

Special thanks go out to all the parents and sponsors including Panago Pizza and Wheelchair Basketball Canada. We would also like to thank Karen Kosterman and Kelly Paddock, Vice Principal at Alex Hope for their help on the weekend.

BC FINISHES 4TH AT JUNIOR NATIONALS



From April 16-18, the BC Junior Provincial team competed at the WBC Junior National Championship in Montreal, QC. With the results being used for the seeding in next year's Canada Games, the competition was fierce. Coming in ranked seventh, BC was matched up in pool play against #2 Ontario, #3 Saskatchewan and #6 Alberta.

The first round robin game was against Saskatchewan, and was a close game that BC ended up winning by a score of 52 – 50. On Saturday, BC faced off against a formidable Ontario team that employed a full court press. Ontario came out with a 65 – 37 win. And in the game of pool play, BC played AB and wound up beating them by a score of 51 – 28.

With the end of the round robin, BC finished second in their pool, and as such, made the playoffs with a semi-final against QC on the last day. It was a tough game, as Quebec also played a full court press on defence, and BC ended up on the losing side of a 73 – 29 score. In the other semi-final, Manitoba fell to Ontario 65 – 36. In the bronze medal game, BC tried their hand at the full court press, but Manitoba handled it well. In a close fought game, Manitoba edged BC 66 – 47.

Congratulations to all the team members that were part of BC's fourth place finish: Konrad Kelz, Natalie Imbeau, Nathan Bragg, Stephanie Park, Erin Higgins, Matthew Ficocelli, Derek Lundie, Erik Vliegenthart and Avril Harris. A special thanks to Assistant Coach Greg Park and Holly Tawse for helping make the weekend go smoothly.

COACHES CORNER

BCWBS Coach Updates

Provincial Coach - Cheryl Corrigan

The past year at BCWBS has held many challenges, events and celebrations. While scheduling around the Olympics and Paralympics was certainly a challenge, athletes and coaches did an admirable job of putting up with the distraction, while lots of them had the fortune to attend the games. In fact, two BCWBS alumni were honored as co-mayors of the Paralympic Village; Marni Abbott-Peter and Patrick Anderson. I'd like to thank Marni for her introduction to coach Don Cherry, and a great day of getting to hang with paralympic royalty at the HBC Superstore and tour of the Paralympic Village. I had a great time!

When the competitive season continued after the Olympics and Paralympics, Div I and II finals were hotly contested. For the second year in a row, the Breakers were upset in the Div II final after dominating the league all year. Congratulations to the Victoria team for their first Div II Championship since 2002. In Division I, Joe Higgin's Douglas College Lions dominated the season, and ended up as the Division I Champions.

Continuing on their hot streak, the Lions played a flawless CWBL Open Finals tournament, coming away with a win in the Championship game over the Variety Village Rebels. This was just the start of BC's sweep...while the rugby provincial team took the National Championship in mid-April, BC prepared for the WBC Nationals and CWBL Women's Club Nationals that were to be held in Saskatoon on the May long weekend.

In a hotly contested final against the six-time defending champion Edmonton Inferno, the Breakers proved to be too much. With national team phenom Janet McLachlan, who led the tournament in scoring with a 32 point per game average coming into the final, being kept out of the play by two Inferno athletes, the rest of the Breakers showed their mettle. The Breakers ended up with their first ever CWBL Women's Club Championship in their 22 year history with a 50 - 43 upset win.

In the ensuing men's final, BC was pitted against long time rival Ontario, coached by senior national women's team assistant Michael Broughton. In search of their fourth consecutive championship, coach Peter Taylor looked to long time starters Richard Peter and Erik Hagreen to bring it home.

Both players answered the call and the game ended in a 68 - 56 advantage for the experienced BC team.

While a big congratulations goes out to all the provincial team athletes, the two national championships are a reflection of all the hard work that our administrators, coaches and athletes put in over the year. All BCWBS members can take pride in these shared championships.

For the summer months, look out for the First Contact (Wednesdays) and Jr Elite CP (Mondays) programs running in July at Douglas College.

I look forward to seeing you all next year!

Regional Coach - Joe Higgins

A Summer of Improvement

The summer months are a great time to improve your sporting skills. There are many ways to become a better wheelchair basketball athlete. The list that follows will hopefully give you some ideas:

- Go shoot on an outdoor court near your home
- Go wheeling on a park trail and time it
- Play another sport (ie; tennis, track and field, swimming)
- Watch wheelchair basketball online (The world championships will be webcast this July)
- Take part in a summer camp
- Do a family fitness challenge
- Eat lots of fruit and veggies in season
- Play catch with your family and friends (Frisbee)
- Tune up your game chair (lots of hair in the front casters, eh?!)
- Try out a new strengthening/weight lifting routine
- Read a book about a famous athlete
- Check out the different websites for wheelchair basketball

Northern Regional Coach - Avril Harris

The PG Titans had a great year, our mini hoopers were dedicated to coming no matter what storm was passing through. We had a great turnout of mini's and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves, from crazy passing drills to pulling each other up and down the court. Our rec group were keen on learning and coming out to work hard and enjoy the fun. This summer if we get positive input, we will be running an outdoor summer league. Thanks everyone for a great 2009-2010 season and hope to see you either during the summer or next season!